July Boardman River Dams Implementation Team Meeting

Approved Meeting Notes

Date: Thursday, July 19, 2018 at 1:30 pm
Facilitator: Frank Dituri, City of Traverse City
Notes: Nate Winkler, Conservation Resource Alliance
Location: Traverse City Governmental Center, Commission Chambers

Implementation Team
Grand Traverse County	City of Traverse City
Traverse City Light and Power Department	Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Michigan Department of Natural Resources	Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Grand Traverse Conservation District (Ex officio)	Conservation Resource Alliance (Ex officio)
Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay (Ex officio)	Charter Township of Garfield (Ex officio)
Grand Traverse County Road Commission (Ex officio)

Voting IT Members Present:
Frank Dituri, Marty Colburn (City of Traverse City)
DJ Shook, Brett Fessell (Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians)
Rick Westerhof (US Fish and Wildlife Service)
Dean Bott, Chris Forsyth (Grand Traverse County)
Bob Stuber (Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition)
Heather Hettinger (Michigan Department of Natural Resources)

Non-voting IT Members Present:
Nate Winkler, Amy Beyer (Conservation Resource Alliance)
Joe Slonecki (Grand Traverse County Road Commission)
Christine Crissman (Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay)
Steve Largent, Reb Ratliff (Grand Traverse Conservation District)

Non-IT Members Present:
Dan Zielinski (Great Lakes Fishery Commission)
Paul Powell* (US Army Corps of Engineers)
Dan DeVaun (AECOM)
Charlie Weaver (NMEAC)

* attendance via conference line
1. Welcome and introductions – Introductions were made by those in attendance.

2. Public comment – None.

3. Miscellaneous

Agenda deletions/additions – None.

Review and potential approval of the June IT meeting notes – Approved, no edits.

Draft second quarter (2018) project managers report – Approved, no discussion.

Action item review from the June IT meeting – Reviewed by Winkler; those not complete were noted as owing and placed on the “Pending Action Items” list (at the end of these notes) unless determined to no longer be relevant.

Discussion occurred as follows relating to the following “New” or “Pending” items:

None

4. AECOM update: report and discussion (Dan DeVaun) – DeVaun presented the following updates on the local effort:

Boardman Dam

- Work is underway by Michels on outstanding punchlist items
- The riffle at the lower end of the project reach and above the Cass Road bridge has been completed by lowering the elevation by 1’
- The channel in the project reach is adjusting about as expected
- Haul road ford crossings of newly exposed tributaries are the next priorities for construction
- Approximately two months-worth of dirt work remain
- MDEQ reviewed the request for permit modification to grade a recreation trail on the west side of the Boardman Dam bottomlands between Cass Road bridge and the haul road-MDEQ ultimately decided that they’d prefer that it be permitted separately, as a stand-alone project
- Regarding remaining funds available, there is potential for their use in installing large wood

Sabin Dam

- Equipment has been mobilized to the project site, stage on the east side of the dam
- The dirt contractor (Job Site Services) is in training with the Army Corps for the week
- Construction anticipated to begin the first full week of August

Union Street Dam

- The FishPass final scope is being developed
4. **AECOM update: (cont.)**

Additional discussion included:
Bott related that local farmer Jack Robbins had recently made a complaint to the Grand Traverse County Sheriff’s Department about sediment that had accumulated in Sabin Pond as a result of activities at the Boardman Dam project site. DeVaun reminded the group in attendance that there was an expectation that sediment would be mobilized during the project and that the mobilized sediment would accumulate in Sabin Pond (an estimated 8,000 cubic yards was mobilized and accumulated). DeVaun concluded by pointing out that stricter contractual controls were placed on managing sediment for the Sabin Dam removal project.

DeVaun reported that the Alpers’ access required additional work in the vicinity of the river for completion. Groundwater is seeping at the surface in this location and may need to be mitigated for by having Michels or another contractor (perhaps the outfit working upstream on the eroding bluffs) install a stone-filled trench to intercept and convey the water away. It is also possible the District may be capable of handling as well.

5. **Army Corps update: report (Paul Powell)**

Powell provided the following project updates on behalf of the Corps:

**Boardman Dam**
Nothing to relate in addition to what DeVaun reported with the exception that an RFP was being put together for additional large wood installations.

**Sabin Dam**
- A project kickoff meeting was held the prior week with members of the IT, the Corps, and Job Site Services at the Grand Traverse County Governmental Center. Job Site Services will be in a training with the Corps for approximately a week in Grand Haven and then plan to begin mobilizing to the project site the following week.

**Additional discussion:**
Bott inquired of Powell as to a change in the projected project cost for the Sabin Dam project. Bott’s question was intended ultimately to get clarification on why the projected cost increased by $700,000 which is a major concern given the obligation, per the PPA, of the 35% cost share on the part of the local project team. Powell indicated that it was a result of the amount the bids came in at as well as being based on completion of the 100% design. A follow up to that conversation included a question by Fessel of the Corps as to whether funds were ever refunded to the non-federal sponsor in the event a project resulted in a surplus. Powell replied that there is precedent for that (i.e. Milwaukee project, $50,000 returned to non-federal sponsor).

Winkler reminded the group that the discussion regarding the recent levying of an NOV onto the Boardman Dam removal project by the MDEQ had been allocated to this agenda item. Powell indicated that he was only tangentially aware of the issue and would defer to the local team to lead the discussion. DeVaun picked up the discussion noting the following as they relate to MDEQ’s assessment:
- Michels had failed to file a “notice of coverage” document per the requirements of the MDEQ permit. This was subsequently taken care of to MDEQ’s satisfaction.
5. **Army Corps update: (cont.)**
   **Additional discussion:**
   - Michels had not given much in the way of attention to securing the construction site over the winter which resulted in excess sedimentation in the Boardman River. This currently is being addressed by the Michels and Cardno through mitigation at acute erosion sites and temporary seeding to stabilize slopes.

DeVaun corroborated Beyer’s assertion that stricter contractual language was inserted into the Sabin Dam removal project relating to site security during the winter to pre-empt a repeat by the new contractor. This is particularly important as the contractor expects to be working into late fall which provides a similar scenario as the prior year when construction wrapped up after the growing season had ended. A tool that may be helpful is the requirement of a performance bond so that the soil erosion enforcement has teeth. Forsyth noted that for some reason, the soil erosion bond requirement was waived at the Boardman Dam project. It was agreed that prior to Job Site Services leaving the site for the winter, final grading and slope stabilization must be accomplished. DeVaun concluded by noting that AECOM has no authority over the contractor and is a matter for the Corps to dictate, as was the case at Boardman Dam.

6. **Monitoring and Evaluation Team update: report, discussion (CRA)** – The following updates were given by members of the IT:
   - Fessell reported that Will Harman (Stream Mechanics) would be in town the week of July 30th for a week to initiate geomorphic monitoring of the Boardman Dam removal project. Depending on contractor progress, may be able to install monuments at established cross section locations for future surveys. In addition, a cross-section survey will be made at the USGS stream gage below Beitner Road. Dituri added that this work is being paid for through an MDNR grant and this is the first of three years for the effort which will result in a stream quantification tool.
   - Hettinger provided that MDNR had shocked fish (single-pass) at the Brown Bridge Road bridge site earlier in the week-of interest, 240 brown trout (1”-11”) and 147 brook trout (1”-7”) as well as a black crappie and golden shiner were observed. Also, on August 7 and 8 at Ranch Rudolph the MDNR plans on performing a two-pass electrofishing survey to spawn a population estimate. Also, a lower Boardman River fisheries survey will take place on July 27 (2018).
   - Winkler noted that Au Sable Institute had provided very preliminary data showing a potential decline in NZMS numbers and an increase in EPT numbers, however until all analysis of samples is complete, there will be no definitive report of 2018 results.
   - Dituri reported that a camera had been placed at Union Street Bridge to capture images of paddlers and anglers in an attempt to quantify their level of use and effort in the vicinity of Union Street Dam.

7. **FishPass update: report (Dan Zielinski)** – Zielinski provided the following particulars:
   - Reiterated Dituri’s account of the camera set up at Union Street Bridge which will capture an image every 10 minutes.
   - A draft summary of the angler workshop is currently out for final review by participants, the deadline for submitting comments is the end of the current week.
7. **FishPass update: (cont.)**
   - A draft “FishPass” assessment plan is out for review by the FishPass team and includes discussion regarding the following subjects: radio telemetry monitoring, genetics, sea lamprey management, fish tissue contaminants, and long-term monitoring of fish populations and water quality
   - The GLFC received notice that the FishPass project would be receiving funding from EPA in 2018
   - The final design for the FishPass facility is currently being developed by AECOM and the Corps
   - A tour of the entire Boardman River dams project was being held beginning on July 25 (2018) and will be attended by members of the US State Department, EPA, GLFC, Army Corps, and members of the IT
   - Army Corps received a Michigan SHPO clearance letter relating to Union Street Dam as well as a permit pre-application letter response from MDEQ. The statutory clearances required included Parts 301 (Inland Lakes and Streams), 315 (Dam Safety), and 31 (Floodplain Regulatory Authority). The permit applicant will be the City
   - An introductory conference call will be held by both groups of the FishPass advisory board sometime in August (2018)

8. **Bottomlands update: report, discussion (IT)** – Members of the IT provided the following information:
   - Colburn announced that the project recently was awarded (GLFWRA) funding for additional large wood installation at Brown Bridge
   - Ratliff reported that the District has recently received awards from both the US Forest Service (GLRI) and the GTB/NRCS (EQIP) for bottomlands plantings. 9-10,000 seedlings for the Boardman and Sabin bottomlands (GLRI) and 5-7,000 bare root and live stakes (EQIP). Shook added that an MOU for the EQIP funding is in place and is in the amount of around $120,000. Shook added that he felt the plantings should include a large component of red and jack pine, both species that grow in sandy and relatively dry conditions
   - Ratliff added that the invasive species management contractor (Wildlife and Wetlands Solutions) is currently in the field treating for terrestrial invasive plant species
   - Alec Higgins from the Corps and Ratliff will tour the area around both construction sites to determine trail closures

9. **Communications update: report, discussion (CRA/IT)** – Members of the IT provided the following with regard to communications:
   - Beyer reminded the group in attendance of the importance in following media inquiry protocol (especially through centralization by passing along to Dituri and Fessell)
   - Beyer prepared a brief note of thanks to funders and passed along news of funding via CRA’s “Boardman River Homewaters” distribution list
   - Fessell reported that he’d spoken with Andy Bigford of “The Drake” magazine regarding the overall dam removal project. Hettinger and Winkler also were interviewed by Bigford and the forthcoming article is expected in the fall 2018 issue
9. **Communications update: (cont.)**
   - Fessell reported that the GTB is in communications with the director of the first Boardman River dam removal film to develop a contract to film the Sabin Dam removal project.
   - Fessell noted that the GTB would like to schedule a reverse ribbon cutting ceremony at Sabin Dam in early September (2018). DeVau predicted that the majority of the dam superstructure would still be in place at that point.
   - Winkler reported that he'd been interviewed by Joe VanderMeulen relating to the infestation of the Boardman River by the NZMS. The interview and additional footage of sampling and interviews with Au Sable Institute and MDNR staff will be part of an upcoming “NatureChange” video.
   - DeVau in response to a question by Colburn to the group suggested that more dams currently are being removed than are being built in the US and that websites for the American Rivers and World Fish Migration organizations would be good clearinghouses for such information.

10. **Funding update: report, discussion (CRA/IT)** – Beyer covered the materials related to funding in the meeting packet in addition to giving kudos to Ratliff and Fessell for providing funding information in a very timely manner.

    The agenda item continued with a short discussion regarding the afore-mentioned discrepancy in projected costs for the Sabin Dam removal with Bott indicating he’d need some sort of communique from the Army Corps explaining the discrepancy so he could share it with the County Board of Commissioners. Fessell added that such a communique should also include propositions for a three-way (GTB, County, City) compromise on how to fill any shortfalls.

    A final question of Bott by Beyer related to the imminent Brownfields funding. Bott indicated that according to Scott Howard, the agreement has been finalized and that he’d request Forsyth follow up with Howard to ascertain the next steps.

11. **Open Forum: (IT)** – Dituri noted that nearly the entire IT was currently represented at the meeting.

12. **Meeting Closing**: Meeting action items were reviewed and clarified by Winkler.

**Public Comment**: Charlie Weaver asked of the group whether or not there’s ever been a proposal to place a sea lamprey barrier at the mouth of Kid’s Creek? Westerhof asserted that he’d make an enquiry of USFWS Sea Lamprey Control to find out and would report the answer.

**Adjournment**: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.
Action Items

New:
- **Winkler** to distribute draft July IT meeting notes for review
- **Winkler** to have approved June IT meeting notes posted to the project website
- **Fessell** to forward Stream Mechanics stream quantification tool to **Winkler**
- **Winkler** to share FishPass angler workshop summary with **IT** when finalized
- **Zielinski** to forward SHPO letter to **Winkler** for inclusion in project file
- **Winkler** to give **Alec Higgins** the heads up on any media activity related to the NOV
- **Winkler** to contact **Jack Robbins** regarding his complaint relating to sedimentation at Sabin Dam
- **Winkler** to provide **NOV** talking points to the rest of the IT when complete
- **DeVaun** to provide **Winkler** a finalized schedule for the Sabin Dam project for distribution to the IT
- **Beyer** to forward **Dituri** a blank form for reporting project funding
- **Fessell, Colburn, Bott, Beyer, and Powell** to confab on how to mitigate increase in projected Sabin Dam project cost
- **Bott** to have **Forsyth** get up with **Scott Howard** on Brownfields status
- **Fessell** to send out a note serving as a date placeholder for the reverse ribbon cutting at Sabin Dam
- **Westerhof** to inquire of USFWS regarding sea lamprey barrier at the mouth of Kid’s Creek

Pending:
- **Dituri** to provide SEP final report to **CRA** for IT distribution
- **Shook** to distribute to **IT** (via **Winkler**) Brown Bridge large wood installation report once complete
**Acronyms, Abbreviations, and Definitions**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AECOM</td>
<td>Overall project engineer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brownfield</td>
<td>Funding program to redevelop industrial sites</td>
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<td>Cardno</td>
<td>Bottomlands restoration and large wood installation contractor</td>
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<tr>
<td>City</td>
<td>City of Traverse City</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corps or Army Corps</td>
<td>United States Army Corps of Engineers</td>
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<td>CRA</td>
<td>Conservation Resource Alliance</td>
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<tr>
<td>District</td>
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<tr>
<td>EPA</td>
<td>Environmental Protection Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>EPT</td>
<td>Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera, and Trichoptera (mayflies, stoneflies, and caddisflies, resp.)</td>
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<td>EQIP</td>
<td>Environmental Quality Incentives Program</td>
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<td>FishPass</td>
<td>Fish passage exploration project at Union Street Dam</td>
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<td>GLFC</td>
<td>Great Lakes Fishery Commission</td>
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<td>GLFWRA</td>
<td>Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act</td>
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<td>Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians</td>
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<td>Job Site Services</td>
<td>Sabin Dam project dirt contractor</td>
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<td>Michigan Department of Environmental Quality</td>
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<td>MDNR</td>
<td>Michigan Department of Natural Resources</td>
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<td>MOU</td>
<td>Memorandum of understanding</td>
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<td>Michels</td>
<td>Boardman Dam project dirt contractor</td>
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<td>NOV</td>
<td>Notice of violation</td>
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<td>NRCS</td>
<td>Natural Resources Conservation Service</td>
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<td>NZMS</td>
<td>New Zealand mud snail</td>
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<td>RFP</td>
<td>Request for proposals</td>
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<td>Supplemental Environmental Project</td>
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<td>SHPO</td>
<td>State Historic Preservation Office</td>
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<td>United States</td>
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