November Boardman River Dams Implementation Team Meeting
Approved Meeting Notes

**Date:** Thursday, November 8, 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**

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<tr>
<th>Grand Traverse County</th>
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<tr>
<td>Traverse City Light and Power Department</td>
<td>Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians</td>
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<td>Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition</td>
<td>US Fish and Wildlife Service</td>
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<td>Michigan Department of Natural Resources</td>
<td>Michigan Department of Environmental Quality</td>
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<td>Grand Traverse Conservation District (Ex officio)</td>
<td>Conservation Resource Alliance (Ex officio)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay (Ex officio)</td>
<td>Charter Township of Garfield (Ex officio)</td>
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<td>Grand Traverse County Road Commission (Ex officio)</td>
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**Voting IT Members Present:**

Frank Dituri, Marty Colburn (City of Traverse City)  
Brett Fessell, Mellissa Witkowski, Jimmy Garavaglia (Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians)  
Rick Westerhof (United States Fish and Wildlife Service)  
Dean Bott (Grand Traverse County)  
Scott Heintzelman (Michigan Department of Natural Resources)  
Bob Stuber (Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition)

**Non-voting IT Members Present:**

Nate Winkler, Amy Beyer, Katie Auwers, Summer Streeter, Kim Balke (Conservation Resource Alliance)  
Steve Largent, Reb Ratliff (Grand Traverse Conservation District)  
Joe Slonecki (Grand Traverse County Road Commission)

**Non-IT Members Present:**

Jason Plum (AECOM)  
Paul Powell (US Army Corps of Engineers)  
Dan Zielinski (Great Lakes Fishery Commission)  
Mike Sipkoski (Adams Chapter of Trout Unlimited)  
Jason Kimbrough (Natural Resources Conservation Service)
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 October IT meeting notes** – Approved with the following corrections/edits:
     - Colburn not listed as present

   * **Action item review from the October 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.

   * **Large wood structure (“log jam”) installation photo sequence** – Reviewed by Winkler, no discussion.

4. **AECOM update: report and discussion (Jason Plum)** – Plum presented the following updates:

   **Boardman Dam**
   - terracing was completed on two excessively eroding bluffs upstream of the former Boardman Dam impoundment. Knoop Excavating and Kanouse Outdoor Restoration performed the work under contract with the District
   - Knoop Excavating installed rock at the Alpers’ access and completed the work required there
   - All planned log jams have been installed and are complete
   - slope stabilization and seeding remains to be accomplished
   - Michels has demobilized from the site

   Largent posed a follow up question relating to mop-up work in the Boardman Pond bottomlands specifically relating to any seeding warranty and also what would be addressed in the scheduled site walk-through. Balke indicated that since Michels would not be returning and their contract is complete, it’s important to identify issues that require intervention while there are funds available to pay a contractor to perform the work.

   **Sabin Dam**
   - AECOM continues to provide observation for the Corps on Sabin Dam construction
   - dewatering of Sabin Pond continues through the spillway, elevations of both the current water surface and the design water surface nearly match
   - fabric encapsulated soil lifts and log jams are planned for construction “in the dry” in the new channel late the following week, then the plan is to subsequently shift to final channel alignment
   - hibernacula were constructed the week prior at spoil area “B” with additional hibernacula to be constructed at the job trailer site (Largent suggested that an additional site could be at the pre-1931 spillway location)
   - JSS et al have a scheduled de-mobilization date of 14/15 December (2018)
   - slope and floodplain stabilization activities are in-process vis a vis mulch blanket and seed applications
4. **AECOM update: Sabin Dam (cont.)**
   - staff gauges between S. Airport Road and Sabin Dam site are being monitored on a weekly basis and one more sediment monitoring event will occur prior to year’s end
   - in response to a question by Fessell, Plum responded that tributaries in the Sabin Pond bottomlands will likely be crossed with culverts and not fords as was done in similar circumstances at the Boardman Pond bottomlands

A follow up request came from Largent who asked that final slope grading accommodate footbridge abutments. Largent also noted that site security signage would need to be installed for the winter work break and that a bench-cut trail is proposed for the point at which the asphalt access road terminates near the former powerhouse site.

An additional comment from Dituri centered on the issue of the responsibility for site security and maintenance during the winter work break. Plum indicated that the requirements are laid out by the MDEQ and that JSS et al would re-mobilize to the site in the event the need arose.

**Union Street Dam**
- the 65% design iteration is expected to be available by the end of the following week

5. **Army Corps update: report, discussion (Paul Powell)** – Powell related that there was not much in the way to share above and beyond what Plum covered in the AECOM report.

6. **Monitoring and Evaluation Team update: report, discussion (CRA)** – Members of the IT provided the following information:
   - Garavaglia reported that an electrofishing survey occurred on the lower Boardman River earlier that day and a follow up effort may occur the week of November 19 (2018). Species collected included lake trout, brown trout, steelhead, and walleye, all of which were sampled for genetic material and implanted with PIT tags. Innovations since the last survey included a more efficient surgery board as well as the use of a TENS unit to replace chemical anesthetics normally used
   - Winkler noted that Au Sable Institute would be taking until their contractual due date of 1 December 2018 to release the macroinvertebrate survey report (initially, the anticipated date of release was given as sometime at the beginning of November)

Fessell asked of Heintzelman as to whether or not additional fish survey sites would be added by MDNR for the Boardman River. Heintzelman said that was not likely as there are already four separate surveys planned for different sites in 2019. Fessell suggested that perhaps creel census data might be useful especially if acquired from newly restored sections of river. Heintzelman agreed noting that MDNR did have some creel data and that maybe in the next five years or so, an attempt could be made to obtain creel data from the restored sections of river. He concluded by adding that MDNR staff in his unit will be focusing on the Muskegon and Manistee rivers as well as on a steelhead mass-marking project. Concluding thoughts by Fessell centered on the Boardman River’s candidate status for reintroduction of grayling which may make it advantageous to roll the overall Boardman River fish survey effort into the reintroduction project.
6. **Monitoring and Evaluation Team update: (cont.)**

   Largent followed up by reporting that he’d received correspondence from the USFWS relating to the “eagle take” permit which had been acquired for the Brown Bridge project. Westerhof indicated that he’d like to review the correspondence.

7. **FishPass: report, discussion (Dan Zielinski)** – Dan Zielinski provided the following updates:

   - the project JPA was submitted to the MDEQ on the prior week
   - the GLFC has contracted with the University of Minnesota St. Anthony Falls Laboratory for assistance in development of the FishPass facility and appurtenances
   - the 65% project design will be forthcoming the following week
   - the Corps requires an independent peer review of the design between the 65% and 90% iterations
   - Zielinski and Andrew Muir are planning to meet with the Traverse City DDA, City Parks and Recreation Department, and the Central Methodist Church which is located adjacent to the project site
   - the project advisory team will be meeting in February 2019 to develop an MOA for future facility O&M
   - fisheries assessments are ongoing as reported by Garavaglia earlier in the meeting. To date, upwards of 70 fish have been implanted with PIT and/or radio telemetry tags. Tissue (for DNA) samples obtained from captured fish are being analyzed at the UW-SP to determine point of origin
   - the project has received funding through GLRI for a fish tissue contaminant study as well as a stream productivity study as it relates to barrier removal
   - funding has been secured to develop a broadcast-quality video, in tandem a planning committee has been formed to provide guidance for the video’s development

Dituri noted that it wouldn’t be too early to have discussions related to O&M of the eventual FishPass facility. Zielinski indicated that work has started well in advance of the February advisory team meeting and that he does have draft language from the MDNR regarding the O&M agreement.

To conclude the discussion, Fessell inquired of Zielinski as to what the design peer review would relate to. Zielinski indicated that the peer review is initiated as a result of the project hazard classification and is not overtly related to fisheries.

8. **Bottomlands update: report, discussion (Steve Largent)** – Steve Largent provided the following information:

   - a tree planting workbee was held at the Boardman Pond bottomlands with 1,000 native seedling species having been planted
   - the Traverse Area Paddling Club assisted in moving rock at the new watercraft landing upstream of Cass Road
   - the District has been working on grant proposals aimed at funding future tree plantings
   - planning continues for the Phase II log jam project proposed for Brown Bridge
8. **Bottomlands update: (cont.)**
   - the District has received a soil erosion and sedimentation control permit for the pedestrian bridge abutment construction proposed at the downstream end of Brown Bridge (construction is planned for early 2019)
   - work was performed by the District to secure historic saw logs to the channel margins at the Boardman Dam project site

Dituri inquired of Largent as to any plans for providing stormwater detention at the new watercraft landing upstream of Cass Road. Largent replied that suggestions have been made to have detention basins installed anterior to the large rocks in place there. Plum added that the access road at that location had been moved which may explain the current lack of detention basins.

9. **Communications update: report, discussion (CRA/IT)** – Members of the IT provided the following with regard to communications:

Heintzelman and Dituri covered the recently held annual grayling restoration initiative meeting that was convened in Traverse City on 29 October, including the following:
   - the search for a gamete (eggs/sperm) source continues
   - an experiment is currently being conducted at MSU to determine any interspecific competition effects realized by grayling in the presence of other salmonid species. There has been approximately one year of experimentation so far and there are data showing a fair amount of competition occurring between grayling, brown trout, and brook trout
   - fundraising continues for the ultra-violet filtration system required for the MDNR fish hatchery at Oden, the proposed site for cultivation of grayling brood stock. The project team is short by $109,000 for the system purchase
   - a non-profit named “Re-Wild” has been formed to assist in raising funds for the overall grayling restoration project
   - the GTB has nominated the Maple (Emmet Co.) and Boardman rivers as candidates for grayling reintroduction
   - a letter of support for the candidacy of the Boardman River was requested by MDNR Fish Chief Jim Dexter from the IT
   - many reintroduction stream nominations were received based on societal considerations and not on a scientific basis so the project team would like to receive letters of support backed by biological considerations
   - there has been some opposition to stream candidacy based on concerns relating to impacts on resident trout populations

Concluding discussions relating to grayling included Largent’s question as to the upper lethal water temperature for grayling. Heintzelman replied that it’s 84° Fahrenheit as compared to that for brook trout which is 82° Fahrenheit. Westerhof stated that he would not be able to make a decision on a letter of support until he had more information. Dituri suggested that the presentation at the recent meeting be acquired and distributed to the IT for educational purposes. Beyer asked if there was any time sensitivity for a letter of support to which Dituri replied not imminently but within the next month or so.
9. Communications update: (cont.)
Additional items of note include the following:

- Dituri reported the former Corps’ Detroit District Commander was in town the past week to take a graduate-level training course and would be heading to West Point to teach a fisheries course that blends both ecological and engineering disciplines.
- Dituri added that a new “Nature Change” segment has been produced relating to sediment and the Boardman River dams project.
- Beyer thanked the GTB for their provision of aerial imagery for project presentations and went on to express appreciation to Dituri and Fessell for leading the recent tour of the project by the CRA board. Beyer concluded by noting Katie Auwers was finalizing the 2019 draft project communications plan and asked the group at large whether they’d like to consider approval of the plan at the December (2018) or January (2019) IT meetings.
- Fessell related that signage for a “what’s going on here?” informational kiosk regarding sedimentation was being produced and that he’d be happy to assist in developing verbiage. Additionally, there’s been a discussion at the GTB leadership level regarding a ceremony celebrating the end of the Boardman River dams project which will include a feast and floating tour (tentatively August 2019).

10. Funding update: report, discussion (CRA/IT) – Led by Beyer, the following was discussed:

- the need for the Corps to finalize the cost of the Boardman Dam removal project so that the list of mop-up items remaining (i.e. tributary channel grade stabilization, floodplain grading, slope stabilization) may be addressed. Also, this will provide the final dollar amount to be refunded to GTB (as they had footed advance funds).
- there are funding sources related to the matter noted above that have expiration dates in May and August of 2019.
- the need for the Corps to reconcile the last transmittal to the GTB by the end of the following week.

Largent added that the District would be preparing a proposal addressing recreation to the Coastal Zone Management program in the amount of $60,000-$80,000.

11. Open Forum: (IT) – The following items were offered by the group:

- Largent reported that a tree planting bee performed by contractors and volunteers resulted in 7,500 seedlings planted. Kudos were given to Ratliff for coordinating the work. Largent added that he’d worked with Ratliff on development of a recent “Nature Change” segment.
- Beyer noted that the Watershed Center has been developing a Boardman Phase II strategy and they’ve been getting a large number of questions regarding “what’s next?”. Dituri added that the goal of the lower Boardman River watershed group is to roll their strategy into the overall master plan for the area between northern Boardman Lake and the mouth of the river at West Grand Traverse Bay. Largent added that the plan for the lower river will be addressed within the purview of the DDA and ties into the lower Boardman study performed some years ago. According to Dituri, the overall emphasis of the effort is to focus on the health of an urban river. Largent concluded the discussion by pointing out a limiting factor in any plans is the sewer line in the 600 block of Boardman Avenue.
12. **Meeting Closing:** Meeting action items were reviewed and clarified by Winkler.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:30 p.m.
Action Items

New:

- **Winkler** to distribute draft November IT meeting notes for review
- **Winkler** to have approved October IT meeting notes posted to the project website
- **Fessell and Heintzelman** to discuss strategy for future Boardman River fish monitoring
- **Largent** to send Westerhof communication regarding USFWS “eagle take” permit (artifact of Brown Bridge project)
- **CRA** to include tours of project sites in 2019 project communications plan
- **CRA** to distribute date/time for final Boardman Dam project walk-through
- **Zeilinski and Fessell** to communicate regarding FishPass O&M language
- **Heintzelman** to check into availability of grayling presentations for distribution
- **Winkler** to circulate latest “Nature Change” video link relating to project-related sedimentation
- **Balke** to assist **Largent** in development of CZM grant preproposal
- **Lower Boardman River Advisory Team** to provide updates to the IT as available
- **AECOM** to provide photos of completed Alpers’ river access to **Winkler** for IT distribution

Pending:

- **County/Alpers** to file easements and Quit Claim Deed for Alpers’ easement
- **Dituri** to provide **AECOM** with documentation showing clean fill had been placed at Consumers Energy property
- **Fessell and Ratliff** to communicate regarding monitoring terrestrial habitats
- **Crissman** to provide **Winkler** with a copy of the prosperity plan for posting to the project website
- **Winkler** to provide the **IT** with a copy of the latest macroinvertebrate survey report once complete
- **DeVaun** to make contact with MDEQ and/or FEMA with regard to floodplain mapping amendments
- **CRA/Winkler** to send AECOM monitoring report to IT
- **Largent** to convene partners to develop proactive management of trees downstream of Sabin Dam, including contact points for any landowner inquiries
- **Higgins and Fessell** to discuss final survey stationing with Gourdie-Fraser
## Acronyms, Abbreviations, and Definitions

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<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>AECOM</td>
<td>Overall project engineer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brown Bridge</td>
<td>Brown Bridge Quiet Area and/or Brown Bridge Dam removal project area</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>County</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRA</td>
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<td>CZM</td>
<td>Coastal Zone Management</td>
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<td>DDA</td>
<td>Downtown Development Authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>DNA</td>
<td>Deoxyribonucleic acid</td>
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<td>District</td>
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<td>FishPass</td>
<td>Fish passage exploration project at Union Street Dam</td>
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<td>FishPass Advisory Team</td>
<td>Made up of City, GTB, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, MDNR, USFWS, US Geological Survey, Army Corps</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>GLRI</td>
<td>Great Lakes Restoration Initiative</td>
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<td>GTB</td>
<td>Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians</td>
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<td>JPA</td>
<td>Joint Permit Application</td>
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<td>Job Site Services (construction manager for Sabin Dam removal)</td>
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<td>O&amp;M</td>
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<td>TENS</td>
<td>Transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation</td>
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