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Coordinating Sensible Stewardship Of The Land

Location: Traverse City Governmental Center, Commission Chambers
400 Boardman Avenue
Traverse City, MI 49684

Boardman River Dams 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	Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Michigan Department of Natural Resources	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Grand Traverse Conservation District (Ex officio)	Conservation Resource Alliance (Ex officio)
Rotary Camps and Services (Ex officio)	Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay (Ex officio)

Meeting Minutes

Date: December 17, 2009

Facilitator: Todd Kalish, Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Notes: Tape recording and hand written notes by Nate Winkler, Conservation Resource Alliance

Present:

Dennis Aloia (Grand Traverse County)
Ben Bifoss (City of Traverse City)
Steve Largent, Lew Coulter (Grand Traverse Conservation District)
Nate Winkler, Amy Beyer (Conservation Resource Alliance)
Jim Schramm (Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition) (via phone)
Andy Knott (Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay)
Jim Pawloski (Michigan Department of Environmental Quality)
Brett Fessell (Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians)
Rick Westerhof (US Fish and Wildlife Service)
Todd Kalish (Michigan Department of Natural Resources)
Mark Rollenhagen (Traverse City Light and Power Department)
Becky Ewing (Rotary Camps and Services)

- 1:00-1:05** **Introduction**
 Introductions were made around the chambers by those in attendance.
- 1:05-1:10** **Public Comment**
 Mr. Matt Schoech inquired about meeting announcements, agendas, and minutes. Mr. Schoech also asked for clarification of processes for adding ex-officio members to the IT.
- 1:10-1:15** **Additions to or deletions from the agenda**
 Additions to the agenda included the suggestion by Nate Winkler to add responses to a letter of clarification by the Army Corps to the 1:35-1:45 timeslot. Winkler also indicated that the Cass Road bridge replacement estimate was not complete and needed to be moved to the January meeting. Steve Largent suggested a short discussion regarding the Cass Road crossing during that timeslot.
- 1:15-1:20** **Review and potential approval of the November 25, 2009 meeting minutes: decision item**
 The meeting minutes were reviewed with no changes suggested by the IT.
- Decision
 All voting members of the IT present were polled and indicated that they would accept the minutes and therefore were approved.
- 1:20-1:30** **Presentation of project manager monthly report**
 Nate Winkler presented the monthly report of activities performed by CRA for the time period between approximately November 16, 2009 and December 10, 2009. The report was in bullet form and was read audibly so that members of the public as well as the IT could listen. Winkler responded to questions of clarification from members of the IT regarding the report. Amy Beyer also made a point of clarification on the invoicing procedure being proposed by CRA which is different than how it was initially proposed.
- 1:30-1:35** **Presentation and review of 2010 calendar**
 Nate Winkler presented the 2010 IT meeting calendar which was reviewed by the IT. Dennis Aloia indicated he would pass it onto his staff for posting on the City of Traverse City calendar.
- Decision
 All IT members were agreeable to the calendar and it was therefore approved with no changes.
- 1:35-1:45** **Presentation and discussion of contact reports**
 A table summarizing contact reports generated by CRA was presented and questions by members of the IT regarding aspects of the reports were addressed by Nate Winkler. Winkler was advised by members of the IT that unless there was new information, especially regarding working relationships with the Corps, that this initial research task had been satisfied.
- The letter of clarification to Corps was discussed question by question and included dialogue regarding Jim Galloway's responses. This was done in an effort toward

timeliness in sending a letter of interest from the City and County to the Corps regarding their interest in pursuing the Corps' assistance with the project.

Dennis Aloia and Ben Bifoss agreed that they would be comfortable recommending to their respective commissions they submit letters of interest to the Corps but indicated that outstanding questions of the Corps should be followed up on.

1:45-1:55

Presentation and discussion of fundraising report

Amy Beyer discussed the fundraising report with input as well as questions from the IT. Becky Ewing also gave a short report on Rotary's efforts toward fundraising for the project.

1:55-2:00

Discussion of project workplan

Components of the workplan were discussed and Amy Beyer indicated that the IT should review and assure that appropriate work items are addressed within it. Also discussion centered on updating the workplan in a revised form and presenting it at the next meeting.

2:05-2:20

Presentation and discussion of Cass Road replacement estimate

Because the estimate was not yet complete, this agenda item was moved to the following month's meeting. Steve Largent indicated that he has been invited to attend the Chamber of Commerce and Grand Vision transportation committee meetings and was tasked with providing an update report on the Cass Road crossing at the next transportation committee meeting on January 5th.

2:20-2:30

Update regarding draft communications plan

Amy Beyer provided an overview of how the draft communications plan was coming. Beyer asked that she be able to make a report in January as the communication plan had not yet been completed. Beyer also gave recommendations for a media kickoff event and a request for the IT to host such an event. Steve Largent indicated his desire that during the development of the communications plan, messages regarding stewardship of the river should be stressed.

2:30-2:40

Report and discussion regarding recent Sabin Dam inspection

Jim Pawloski gave a synopsis of the most recent MDEQ inspections (October and November) of Boardman and Sabin Dams and answered questions from the IT regarding his report. Pawloski related that Sabin Dam and Boardman Dam are in fair condition and that there are no major issues with either of them (as long as the water level in Boardman Pond is kept at its current level). Pawloski related that he had a recommendation by his superior that Sabin Pond be lowered. The follow up discussion related to the need to develop management plans for the future exposed bottomlands at each of the ponds. Through discussion among the IT, it was determined that development of management plans should begin as soon as possible.

2:40-2:45

Agenda items for the next meeting and meeting review: decision item

The following agenda and action items were recommended for the January 21 meeting;

a) Development/presentation of draft bottomland management plans

- b) Generation of a letter to the County and City Commissions from the IT requesting they send a letter of interest to the Corps
- c) Obtaining Cass Road replacement cost estimate from URS
- d) Clarification on Jim Galloway's responses to letter from IT
- e) Revision of work plan format

2:45-3:10

Public Comment

Mary Gillis, Grand Traverse County Road Commission Manager, commented regarding the effects that the project might have on the public and private road crossings on the Boardman above and beyond Cass Road and South Airport Road. Ms. Gillis also indicated her wish to be added to mailing list to be kept up to date on the project and she inquired as to whether there were any hydrological studies performed in anticipation of potential effects on road crossings. Todd Kalish indicated that there had been some hydrological work done during the engineering and feasibility study and that he would tease that part out and provide it to Ms. Gillis.

3:10

Meeting Adjourned