

Bayview Professional Centre
10850 Traverse Highway
Suite 1111
Traverse City, MI 49684



Phone 231-946-6817
Fax 231-947-5441
info@rivercare.org
www.rivercare.org

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: January 21, 2010

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 Natural Resources and Environment)
Brett Fessell (Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians)
Rick Westerhof (US Fish and Wildlife Service)
Todd Kalish (Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment)
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. Rob Beardsley addressed the IT and asked two questions regarding the property rights of those living around the impoundments and financial status of the Boardman River dams project and suggested a balance sheet would be helpful for illustrative purposes.
- 1:10-1:15 Additions to or deletions from the agenda**
Nate Winkler asked to add correspondence with the Army Corps to the monthly report segment.
- 1:15-1:20 Review and potential approval of the December 17th, 2009 meeting minutes: decision item**
Steve Largent indicated that he had changes to the minutes including 1) he was invited to attend the Chamber of Commerce Land Use and Transportation meeting and had not attended prior meetings as the minutes implied 2) strike “long and short term aspects” of the project and replace with “stewardship of the river” 3) add dialogue from question and answer session with Mary Gillis (during public comment period).
The meeting minutes were subsequently approved with the changes requested by Largent to be incorporated.
- 1:20-1:30 Presentation of project manager monthly report and approval of quarterly invoice; decision item**
Nate Winkler read aloud the monthly report for the period between December 11, 2009 and January 11, 2010. Also related a phone conversation with Jon Imbrunone of the Army Corps who works under Jim Galloway. The conversation was to bring him up to speed on the project. Rick Westerhof inquired of Winkler what the conversations with consultants entailed with Winkler responding that it involved sediment mitigation in the bottomlands. Steve Largent inquired as to whether there would be a report or summary regarding such information with both Winkler and Amy Beyer responding that it was a work in progress and that in a month or so, it would be refined. Becky Ewing asked as to whether or not CRA was keeping track of in-kind work above and beyond the compensation from the contract with Amy Beyer responding “yes”. Rick Westerhof inquired about the phone interview with Sheri McWhirter and what it entailed with Winkler responding that it merely involved a recap of the project to date and involved basic information.
- 1:30-1:35 Presentation and discussion of fundraising and activity report**
Nate Winkler updated the IT regarding a successful proposal to deal with invasives and sediment in the exposed bottomlands from the US Fish and Wildlife Service for \$25,000. Winkler also provided an update on pending proposals being submitted for management of sediments in the impoundments. Brett Fessell provided information regarding the Circle of Flight proposal that the Grand Traverse Band will be submitting to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Dennis Aloia asked if there were five proposals out and Amy Beyer indicated that was correct. Amy Beyer also provided information on the pending TCL&P proposal for communications work.

- 1:35-1:40** **Discussion of project work plan revisions**
Winkler gave an update on three working groups developed to focus on bottomlands management, fundraising, and communications work to be done and indicated that those groups would be convened and would report on work items produced in the next month.
- 1:40-1:50** **Update of draft communications plan**
Amy Beyer updated the IT regarding where CRA and the communications working group with regard to the communications plan. Beyer related what might be expected of the IT with respect to generation and implementation of certain aspects of the plan which focuses primarily on messaging and consistency in messaging. Beyer also related that a consulting firm that specializes in communications would need to be retained for assistance in development of certain aspects of the plan.
- 1:50-1:55** **City and County reports on letters of interest**
Ben Bifoss indicated that the letter of interest had been approved by the City Commission and subsequently submitted to the Army Corps. Dennis Aloia provided that County's letter had been approved at the Physical Resources Committee level and that he would be taking it to the County Board for approval the following Wednesday.
- 1:55-2:05** **Procedure for adding/removing Ex officio IT members**
Todd Kalish indicated that the Settlement Agreement does say Ex officio members may be added as well as what the role of Ex officio members is. Kalish followed up by asking the group at large if there should be explicit language regarding procedures to add Ex officio members. Ben Bifoss indicated that it would be helpful but not necessary as well as indicating that members might be added due to the impact the project has on them (i.e. another governmental entity). Rick Westerhof indicated that he was in favor of developing language to specifically address a procedure for adding and removing Ex officio members with Dennis Aloia concurring. Becky Ewing suggested explicit language regarding criteria for potential Ex officio members to prevent the appearance of favoritism to one group or another. Kalish indicated that he would refine language and bring to the next meeting.
- 2:05-2:10** **Update regarding bottomlands management plan**
Nate Winkler provided background on what a bottomlands management plan will focus on including the management of invasive species in the exposed bottomlands. Steve Largent indicated that Brown Bridge Pond is exhibiting the presence of invasives, in addition to Boardman Pond.
- 2:10-2:20** **Discussion of Cass Road**
Nate Winkler indicated that several items related to the periphery of the dam removal might include things like the Cass Road replacement. Dennis Aloia indicated that he thought the issue of Cass Road was integral to the project and that it would need to be considered in the removal process. Becky Ewing indicated that the project should be considered a part of the Grand Vision especially when considering transportation corridors. Amy Beyer related that those agencies responsible for decision making such

as the road commission should be provided with information they need to help guide decision-making.

2:20-2:25 Agenda items for the next meeting and meeting review: decision item

The agenda items suggested for the February meeting include discussion regarding adding the county road commission to the IT as Ex officio members, refining language for adding/removing Ex officio members to the IT, and presentation of scope of work for sediment management.

2:25-2:30 Public Comment

Mr. Brad Kaye from the Garfield Township Planning Department indicated that the township is interested in participating in the process as they are a core township within the project area. Mr. Kaye also indicated his hope that the project will take a broad view especially considering the road issue and Cass Road in particular. Mr. Kaye also inquired as to a location for information regarding meeting materials. Nate Winkler indicated that he would add Garfield Township to the distribution list.

2:30 Meeting Adjourned