

BOARDMAN-OTTAWAY RIVER NETWORK

Boardman River Nature Center

June 16, 2022 | 9-10:30am

MINUTES

I. Welcome and Introductions

Brown Bridge Advisory Committee (BBAC)	Paul Maxbauer
City of Traverse City (TC)	Frank Dituri
Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA)	Amy Beyer, DJ Shook
Consumers Energy Foundation (CEF)	Doug DeYoung
Garfield Township (GT)	Derek Morton
GT Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians (GTB)	Jenna Scheub
Grand Traverse Conservation District (GTCD)	Koffi Kpachavi, Reb Ratliff, Steve Largent, Tom Vitale, Tom Wertz
Grand Traverse County (GTC)	Chris Forsythe
GT County Road Commission (GTCRC)	Wayne Schoonover
GT Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC)	Chris Sullivan, Jennifer Jay
Inland Seas Education Association (ISEA)	Jillian Votava
Kalkaska Conservation District (KCD)	Mark Randolph, Renee Penny
Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition (HRC)	Bob Stuber
Michigan State University Extension (MSUE)	Mark Breederland
Oleson Foundation (OF)	Kathy Huschke
Property Owners	Mark McKellar
Rotary Charities (RC)	Freya Bradford
The Watershed Center GT Bay (TWC)	Christine Crissman, Rick Kane, Sarah U'Ren
Traverse Area Association of Realtors (TAAR)	Kim Pontius
Traverse Area Paddle Club (TAPC)	John Heiam
Traverse Area Rec. & Transport. Trails (TART)	Chris Kushman
TC Downtown Development Authority (DDA)	Harry Burkholder
Trout Unlimited, Adams Chapter (TU)	Gabe Schneider, Liz McKellar

II. [Boardman River Watershed Prosperity Plan](#)

- a. Watershed Character Zones were introduced so participants could provide updates on projects/efforts in each zone, as well as watershed-wide (project leader provided in parentheses below, although most projects included several partners/funding sources)

III. Zone Updates

- a. Zone 1 (Kalkaska, South Boardman, Forks East)
 - i. North Country Trailhead improvements (Kalkaska DDA)
 - ii. Sand trap removed and river section restored on the North Branch of the Boardman River (GTCD)

- b. Zone 2 (Kingsley & Fife Lake)
 - i. Road crossing improvement project planned for Broomhead Road at the North Branch of the Boardman River crossing (CRA)
- c. Zone 3 (Brown Bridge, Forest Lakes, River Road)
 - i. Phase II tree installation at Brown Bridge complete (GTCD)
 - ii. 7,000 seedlings planted (CRA)
 - iii. Working to protect Turtle Cove property on Arbutus Lake (GTRLC)
 - iv. Importance of state-owned land throughout upper watershed; example of 130 acres of state land next to Brown Bridge traded to private developer (GTCD)
- d. Zone 4 (Garfield Township, including Silver Lake)
 - i. Land protection efforts at Hoosier Valley (GTRLC)
 - ii. Roundabout installation at Keystone and River roads hopefully completed this fall, that includes better connections to trails/river (GTRC)
 - iii. Planned incubator farm across from Keystone soccer complex (GTCD)
 - iv. Planned footbridge across the Boardman River from the Nature Center to connect to east-side NER trails and incubator farm (GTCD)
 - v. Interest in S. Airport Road river crossing improvements (GTRC)
 - vi. Educational signage at NER (GTCD)
- e. Zone 5 (Boardman Lake to Boardman River mouth)
 - i. Lower Boardman Unified Plan adopted by Traverse City DDA, Parks & Recreation, Planning Commission, and City Commission (DDA)
 - ii. Public meeting regarding redesign of 100 & 200 blocks of Front Street along the Boardman River July 13th
 - iii. Improvements at Medalie Park, including invasive species removal and Boardman Lake Trail connections (GTCD, TART)
 - iv. Kids Creek Restoration Project (TWC)
 - 1. Redirected 14th Street stormwater outfall into a bioswale then wetland
 - 2. Right-sized culverts at road stream crossings (2 on Cedar St., 1 on 6th St.)
 - 3. Pedestrian bridges on safe routes to school train and old Elmwood Avenue extension
 - 4. Underground infiltration, bioretention, stormwater wetland at Meijer parking lot
 - 5. Woody riparian buffer between Meijer and Silver Lake Road
 - 6. Mayfly monitoring stations measuring conductivity and stage flow (TU)
 - a. [11th Street](#)
 - b. [Silver Lake Road](#)
 - 7. In-depth chloride monitoring at 6 locations this year and next year (EGLE)

- v. Cass Road drainage district project replacing Miller Creek railroad crossing (GTC)
- vi. Boardman River Clean Sweep river clean-ups (BRCS)
- f. Watershed-wide
 - i. Education needed regarding invasive species such as New Zealand Mudsnail and *Didymo*
 - ii. Updated road stream crossing inventory for [Grand Traverse Bay watershed](#), including the [Boardman River watershed](#) (CRA)
 - iii. Concern about DNR boat launches built to preclude necessary access (TAPC)
 - iv. \$18.2 million ARPA funds allocated to GT County; formed committee to provide guidance and input into allocating funds; completed community survey that indicated critical infrastructure (stormwater, sewer, etc.) was a top priority (GTC)
 - v. Interest in engaging folks involved in the TC rail efforts

IV. Next Steps

- a. Interested in bi-annual/quarterly meetings
- b. If there is anyone that should be invited to participate in this network, please email contact information to Christine Crissman at ccrissman@gtbay.org
- c. Boardman River Watershed Prosperity Plan summary brochures are available [online](#) or contact Crissman for copies