

BOARDMAN-OTTAWAY RIVER NETWORK

West Shore Bank

October 6, 2022 | 9-10:30am

MEETING NOTES

I. Welcome and Introductions

See participant list below.

II. Projects & Initiatives – Updates from Members

- a. Broomhead Road stream crossing (CRA)
 - i. Completing the final grading, paving, and best management practices, including conifer tree revegetations
 - ii. US Fish & Wildlife Service conducted fish shocking/tagging project to assess movement of brook trout
- b. FishPass (GLFC)
 - i. Appeal for case against the project was recently heard; awaiting court decision
 - ii. Continue acoustic telemetry for fish movement, infrared imagery to measure water velocity, and other [research](#)
 - iii. Captured longnose (10-12,000) and white (15-18,000) suckers at the weir; tagged and relocated a number of each species upstream of Union Street Dam
 - iv. Video of steelhead jumping in the auxiliary spillway of the Union Street Dam being used to estimate swimming speed and leaping angle of each fish to help analyze the risk of unintended fish passage
- c. Oblique aerial imagery (GTC)
 - i. County is holding a stakeholder meeting Oct. 11 to discuss using this type of imagery
- d. Road and bridge projects (GTCRC)
 - i. Beitner Road bridge replacement: working on funding, most likely 3 years out
 - ii. S. Airport Road/Boardman-Ottaway River crossing: proposed removal of existing culverts and constructing a free-standing bridge; working on leveraging federal and local funds; local interest in starting discussions about maintaining some connectivity at the current (double) culvert site
 - iii. Hartman-Hammond bridge: currently in NEPA phase; bridge would span the entire river and be 70 feet high to minimize the impact on the river/watershed; project includes mitigation efforts to remove historic dredge piles that restrict current flow of the river
- e. Apple Creek dams (CRA)
 - i. There are 2 earthen berms (18 and 15 feet) on this Boardman-Ottaway River tributary that are likely to fail (one has breached, but the clay in the

- berm held it somewhat together) and a downstream culvert needs to be enlarged (house currently being built near this site)
- ii. Ponds have been pumped down and some stop blocks have been removed
- iii. Various property owners (individual and a homeowner's association) are making finding and acting on a solution complicated; EGLE is involved
- f. [Ottaway Crossing](#) at former Sabin Dam site (GTCD)
 - i. Effort to install a 180-foot-long pedestrian bridge to connect trails on the east and west side of the river (estimated cost \$1.2 million)
 - ii. Encouraged to involve EGLE in the planning stage
- g. [Great Lakes Incubator Farm](#) (GTCD)
 - i. Fosters the growth and development of new and beginning farmers, helping to lower barriers that deter individuals from starting a farm operation
 - ii. Received funding and hired a farm manager that will recruit famers over the winter to start farming in spring 2023
- h. Rail system (AN)
 - i. [Ann Arbor-Traverse City Passenger Rail Project](#) is developing; plans to come through the Boardman River Valley to downtown Traverse City
 - ii. Encouraged people/organizations to look into its impact on the watershed and engage in conversations with leaders of this effort (Groundwork, etc.)
- i. [Boardman-Ottaway Downtown Riverfront](#) (TCDDA)
 - i. Conceptual design nearly complete; view concept components online or in person at the Arcade Building downtown
 - ii. City starting 200-block project this fall, moving the sewer line closer to the buildings (replacing the leads) and installing additional sheet piling waterward of the current sheet piling
- j. Trails (TART)
 - i. [Bayfront Improvement and Extension Project](#) proposed between West End Beach and Eastern Ave/Garfield Rd; Phase I (West End Beach to Senior Center) would be implemented during the MDOT reconstruction project
 - ii. [Boardman Lake Loop](#) nearly buttoned up; already seen double the use compared to 2021 (3 times the use of Medalie Park)
 - iii. Working with Blair Township on a potential trail using rail right-of-way with a potential connection to the Nature Center
 - iv. Working with East Bay Township on an underpass on S. Airport Rd. by LaFranier Rd.
- k. Master Plans
 - i. [East Bay Township](#) recently concluded their 60-day comment period so their updated plan will be going to the Planning Commission for approval; also starting a Zoning Ordinance rewrite
 - ii. Garfield Township is undergoing an update

- iii. [City of Traverse City](#) recently started their update
- l. Land protection (GTRLC)
 - i. In the Hoosier Valley, looking to exchange 80 acres (including a tributary of Beitner Creek) listed as surplus for 40 acres of upland forest and considering 160-acre purchase with frontage along Jackson Creek
 - ii. Continue to raise funds for potential purchase of [Turtle Cove](#) property on Arbutus Lake
- m. *Didymo* (TU)
 - i. Recently discovered in the Boardman-Ottaway River; education is essential to reduce its spread – [TU’s control method information](#)
 - ii. There will be a presentation on the impact and spread of *Didymo* at the [Freshwater Summit](#) Oct. 28
- n. Kids Creek (TWC)
 - i. Replaced undersized culverts at three crossings (2 on Cedar Street, 1 on 6th Street) and replaced with right-sized concrete box culverts
 - ii. Removed 2 undersized culverts (Traverse City parkland near where Kids Creek crosses Silver Lake Rd.) and replaced them with pedestrian bridges (1 crossing is part of the Safe Routes to School)
 - iii. Infiltration trenches installed under newly resurfaced parking lot at Traverse City Meijer; rain gardens installed yet this fall
 - iv. Planning for woody buffer installation and floodplain reconnection work between Meijer and Silver Lake Rd; treated for invasive species (reed canary grass) last spring

III. Open Forum/Announcements

- a. Grand Traverse County is currently accepting [applications](#) requesting ARPA funds; Oct. 31 deadline for proposals
- b. [Registration](#) is open for the 15th Annual Freshwater Summit October 28th at the Hagerty Center
- c. Leadership Team seeking funding for recreation action planning; more information will be provided if funding is granted

IV. Next Steps

- a. Meeting notes will be sent to all stakeholders
- b. Next meeting in spring 2023, date and time TBD
- c. If there is anyone that should be invited to participate in this network, please email contact information to Christine Crissman at cricssman@gtbay.org

Participants

Aspire North Realtors (ANR)	Kim Pontius
Brown Trout Coalition (BTC)	Tom White
City of Traverse City (TC)	Frank Dituri
Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA)	Amy Beyer, DJ Shook, Nate Winkler

East Bay Township (EBT)	Beth Friend
GT Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians (GTB)	Jenna Scheub
Grand Traverse Conservation District (GTCD)	Koffi Kpachavi, Steve Largent
Grand Traverse County (GTC)	Chris Forsythe, John Chase
GT County Road Commission (GTCRC)	Wayne Schoonover
GT Regional Community Foundation (GTRCF)	Dave Mengebier
GT Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC)	Chris Sullivan
Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC)	Dan Zielinski
Networks Northwest (NN)	Rob Carson, Jennifer Neal
Rotary Charities (RC)	Freya Bradford
The Watershed Center GT Bay (TWC)	Christine Crissman, Rick Kane
Traverse Area Paddle Club (TAPC)	John Heiam
Traverse Area Rec. & Transport. Trails (TART)	Julie Clark
TC Downtown Development Authority (TCDDA)	Harry Burkholder
Trout Unlimited, Adams Chapter (TU)	Gabe Schneider