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Contacts:

Chuck Lombardo (CML)
T: 231.922.6782 M: 231.631.0224
clombardo@cmlmc.com

Todd Kalish (Implementation Team)
231.775.9727 ext 6070
kalisht@michigan.gov

**BOARDMAN RIVER DAMS PROJECT RECEIVES OVER \$3.4 MILLION
IN NEW FUNDING COMMITMENTS**

Traverse City, Michigan (August 29, 2011) – The Boardman River Dams Project has received over \$3.4 million in new grant funding commitments to cover the cost of design, permitting and the removal of Brown Bridge and Sabin Dams on the Boardman River. The grants are coming from various public and private sources, and are directed to project partners that are involved in the project.

Grant recipients include:

Conservation Resource Alliance

- \$1 million Sustain Our Great Lakes grant from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
- \$400,000 Fish Passage and Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Partnership grant from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- \$590,000 grant from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Great Lakes Fish & Wildlife Restoration Act

Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians

- \$649,000 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative award from the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs

Grand Traverse Conservation District

- \$25,000 grant from the Oleson Foundation

Grand Traverse County

- \$250,000 Challenge Grant from the Frey Foundation

The Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay

- \$533,000 grant from the U.S. EPA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
- \$40,000 from the Michigan DEQ Federal Clean Water Act Section 319 Program

The removal of Boardman, Brown Bridge and Sabin Dams will result in the restoration of over 3 miles of cold-water stream, 253 acres of wetlands and 57 acres of upland habitat, the most comprehensive dam removal and river restoration project in the history of the Great Lakes. The preliminary cost estimate for the Brown Bridge/Sabin removal phase of the Boardman River Dams Project is \$5 million.

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“On behalf of all of the grant recipients, I can say that we are both pleased and overwhelmed by the level of support the Boardman River Dams Project continues to receive,” said Amy Beyer, Director of the Conservation Resource Alliance. “It’s indicative of the tremendous value that organizations and individuals are placing on the return of the Boardman River to its more natural state as a fast-moving, cold-water stream.” Beyer points out that \$3 million of the new grants are part of the significant investment being made under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. “GLRI is investing in the future health of the Boardman River and Lake Michigan, while putting many local and regional people to work on this historic restoration project.”

Beyer added that continued fundraising success is critical to the completion of the project. “We’re off to a good start, but we won’t be able to completely pin down costs until engineering and design are complete. With a project of this magnitude, there is a likelihood that we could run into unanticipated costs and we need to be well prepared for that.”

The dam removal project will involve: engineering and design, including an analysis of methods to control sediment transport during dam removal; various permit applications ; removal of the dam, including demolition of the powerhouse and spillway and breaching the dam; and restoration and monitoring of the project area. Engineering, design, and permitting work began in early 2011. The drawdown of Sabin and Brown Bridge Impoundments is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2011, and deconstruction is scheduled to take place in 2012. The removal and first restoration phase is expected to take two years to complete.

To learn more about the project and stay updated, visit www.TheBoardman.org.

ABOUT THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

In 2009, the dam owners (City of Traverse City owns Union Street and Brown Bridge Dams and Grand Traverse County owns Sabin and Boardman Dams) passed resolutions to allow an Implementation Team (IT) to make recommendations and decisions concerning overall planning and direction of the dam removal project. The IT consists of the dam owners and key agency stakeholder representatives.

THE BOARDMAN: A RIVER REBORN - PROJECT HISTORY

Traverse City Light and Power’s decision in 2004 to discontinue hydropower generation at Brown Bridge, Boardman and Sabin Dams triggered a process to assess the fate of the dams that were built between 1867 and 1921. The Great Lakes Fishery Trust awarded \$476,000 in 2006 to support the process to determine the fate of dams. That process is considered one of the most comprehensive studies of its type ever undertaken in the United States. It involved over 1,000 people in 180 public meetings and the assessment of 91 options for the future of the dams. In April 2009, the Traverse City Commission and Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners reviewed the scientific data and recommendations provided by the study, and voted to proceed with dam removal. In September 2010, the development of funding to sustain this project was supported by a joint resolution of the City Commission and County Board to

achieve the shared goals for a coordinated process to pursue the removal of Sabin, Boardman and Brown Bridge dams and modify Union Street Dam.”

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ABOUT THE BOARDMAN RIVER

The Boardman River includes 160 miles of river and tributary stream, located in Grand Traverse and Kalkaska counties in Northwest Michigan. There are a total of 287-square miles in the watershed, producing one-third of the water volume of Grand Traverse Bay in Traverse City and draining 182,800 acres of land. An Estimated 2 million visitors use the Boardman River annually for recreation purposes. The river contains 36 river miles designated as Blue Ribbon river sections and is one of the top ten trout streams in Michigan.

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