

12/7/11

As we move into the holiday season and wrap up a very successful year for the Boardman River Dams Project, we're providing this project update.

Drawdown of Brown Bridge Pond and Sabin Pond

In preparation for dam removal next year, interim drawdown at both Brown Bridge and Sabin impoundments was completed in September. Brown Bridge pond has been lowered by approximately six feet and Sabin pond has been lowered by approximately four feet. If you haven't been to either pond since the drawdown, it's worth a trip to witness history in the making. The overlook areas at Brown Bridge provide particularly dramatic views as the river begins to seek its natural path. Please use caution near the exposed bottomlands, as these are sensitive areas during revegetation and could also pose safety issues.

Funding Success

The Boardman River Dams Project is funded through a combination of public and private grant sources, and 2011 has been a very successful year on the fund raising front. In August the project announced 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. Fundraising will continue to be a priority in 2012 as we progress toward funding the total estimated project cost of \$5 - \$8 million.

Boardman Watershed Prosperity Plan

Concurrent with the dam removal project is a long-term planning initiative for the Boardman River Watershed. The Boardman Watershed Prosperity Plan is focused on developing a new approach to natural resource planning - one that leverages the economic and community development potential of a unique asset (the 291 square mile Boardman River Watershed) with protection of that watershed. The plan will reflect one of the prime tenets of Michigan's long-term vision: creating a sense of place and emphasizing the importance of natural resources to regional prosperity. Ultimately, this innovative plan for the Boardman Watershed will have the potential to be used as a blueprint for the rest of the state and country.

IT Chairman Transition

Frank Dituri, Wetland Ecologist/Project Manager, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians, will take over as Chairman of the project Implementation Team (IT) in January. Frank succeeds Todd Kalish, Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries representative, who has chaired the IT since its inception and will continue as a member. Todd devoted countless hours to the project during his time as chair, and we deeply appreciate his knowledge, leadership and dedication to the project.

Thank you for your interest and support of the Boardman River Dams Project, and best wishes for a happy and safe holiday season.

Learn more and stay updated at www.theboardman.org

