

# Approved - BBAC Meeting Minutes – 3/20/14

## MINUTES of the BROWN BRIDGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, March 20, 2014  
Governmental Center  
County Training Room – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
400 Boardman Avenue  
Traverse City, MI 49684

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**Present:** Nelson Asper, Vice Chair; Gary Howe, City Commissioner; Marge Forgione; Judy Nemitz, Michael Kreft, Larry Gerschbacher; and Paul Maxbauer.

**Absent:** Deni Scudato; Bob Horstman; Dave Downer (All Excused)

**Others Present:** Steve Largent & Ben Purdy, Grand Traverse Conservation District; Norm Fred, Boardman River Clean Sweep & Traverse Area Paddle Club

I. **Call to Order:** Vice Chair Asper called the regular meeting to order at 5:16 pm.

1. **Introductions:**

Everyone went around the room and introduced themselves.

2. **Approval of Agenda:**

Largent asked that an update on the Planting Plan and a spring fly-over of the BBAC be added to VI on the Agenda.

**Motion by Gerschbacher; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Forgione to approve the Agenda as amended; Approved unanimously.**

3. **Approval of 12/12/13 Meeting Minutes:**

**Motion by Kreft; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gerschbacher to approve the Minutes as presented; Approved unanimously.**

II. **Review of Action Items:**

**Action Item 9-1:** GTCD staff to develop a site plan for the canoe launch area to be ready for implementation in the Spring 2014. 12/3/13 Status: GTCD staff will work on a draft site plan for presentation at the March 2014 meeting. **3/20 Status: Purdy reported that TCL&P disconnected the power lines but were forced out by the weather before they removed the wires & power pole. That will be done when the weather breaks. Largent stated the gate will be open to allow paddlers to access the lower drop-off area as soon as the weather allows. Grading will occur once the ground thaws.**

**Action Item 9-2:** GTCD staff to contact engineering firms and begin the process of developing cost estimates, engineering plans, and permits for replacement of the Boy Scout Bridge over the Boardman. 12/12/13 Status: GTCD staff contacted a local engineering firm and will obtain cost estimates for plans and bridge abutments. **3/20 Status: Largent reported he's working with Gourdie-Fraser & Associates on abutment designs. Actron Steel gave a price of \$2,500 to sand blast, rust proof, and paint the bridge.**

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**Action Item 12-1:** Largent and Purdy to place dates on management plan documents and redistribute to BBAC. **3/20 Status: Purdy asked the Advisory Committee how they wanted the information on a summary sheet or the entire document on a thumb drive or CD? Answers varied. Purdy will follow-up.**

**Action Item 12-2:** GTCD staff will send a reminder to the BBAC in late February reminding folks to review and comment on the management plan documents. **Done.**

## III. Boardman River Clean Sweep Request:

Norm Fred reported he's collecting funding in partnership with the Traverse Area Paddle Club to install porta-johns and trash receptacles at several launch sites along the Boardman River including the Brown Bridge launch for the 2014 paddling season. He requested a \$100 in support from the City for this effort. Discussion ensued. **Motion by Forgione, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Howe to pay BRCS in partnership with the Paddle Club \$100 for a porta-john and trash receptacle to be placed at the Brown Bridge launch site starting the week of May 23<sup>rd</sup> through the week of October 23<sup>rd</sup> given they follow all township and health department regulations. Approved unanimously.**

**Follow-up Discussion:** N. Fred asked that the City include a vault toilet in future long-term plans for the canoe launch site and that the BRCS will help secure funding. Howe added that we should research composting toilets or other methods rather than pumping.

## IV. Gerschbacher Position Paper – Disposition of BBQA:

Gerschbacher gave an overview of his position paper where he suggests the BBQA should be sold to support a lodge/conference center type development for conventions, social events and everyday dining facilities. His vision also includes cabins and/or small homes for purchase or lease by the public. Public access to the River would be maintained. Lively discussion ensued. Hearing no support for the proposal no action was taken.

## V. Brown Bridge Trust Fund Ballot Proposal:

Howe reported that a sub-committee of the City Commission met and decided to wait until 2015 to approach voters. He said they are looking at taking a percentage of the interest revenue for a smaller project. This would not have to go before the voters. He said they can go to the voters for larger projects through the BB Trust Fund. Can use referendum and 5-year Parks Plan. He said the next meeting of the BBTF sub-committee is scheduled for April 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 in the Commission Chambers.

**Action Item 3-1:** Largent to send a reminder to the BBAC regarding the April 7<sup>th</sup> Brown Bridge Trust Fund meeting.

## VI. USF&W Service Grant Proposal

Largent stated he would like to submit a grant proposal to the USF&W Service's Partners for Fish & Wildlife program to install an Agri-drain in-line structure on a

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culvert at the east end of Brown Bridge to create a 1.5 acre shallow water wetland. The culvert was placed under the access road at the north end of Spoil Area 4 to allow for equipment access during dam removal. The access road is now part of the trail system. The Agri-drain structure will allow land managers the ability to control water levels above the culvert creating approximately 1.5 acres of shallow water habitat for water dependent wildlife such as migratory shorebirds, waterfowl, reptiles, amphibians, and aquatic mammals. The BBAC liked the idea and approved Largent's request.

### **Bottomlands Planting Plan**

Largent shared draft maps showing management zones and stated that a Bottomlands sub-committee is planning to meet in the near future to begin developing management recommendations. Maxbauer and Asper volunteered to serve on that sub-committee.

### **Spring Fly-Over of Brown Bridge**

Every few years Grand Traverse County hires a firm to conduct a fly-over of the entire County to record and collect land-use and other useful information. The last fly-over was in 2010 and due to budget reasons don't plan another for at least another couple years. To that end, Garfield Township decided to contract with Pictometry International to conduct a fly-over of Township this spring. GTCD staff heard about this and obtained a bid to include the Brown Bridge Quiet Area to capture images of the river and bottomlands after dam removal that will aid in the development of the Bottomlands Planting Plan. Rotary Gourmet Game Dinner support will be used to fund this effort.

## **VII. Brown Bridge Management Plan:**

BBAC members supplied the following comments:

Gerschbacher:

- 9<sup>th</sup> page, Item 6, B-2 Archeology. Add: Contact Native American Tribe for possible archeological sites.
- 10<sup>th</sup> page, Item 7 Property conservation.
- 10<sup>th</sup> page, Item D – caretaker(?)
- 11<sup>th</sup> page , change vehicle to means

Howe:

- Under Desired Future Condition – use different wording for Goal # 4 (i.e. Develop a broad-base of users to support the sustainable use and preservation of BBQA)

Largent:

- With the dam gone there is no need to have a Traverse City Light & Power representative on the BBAC as required by resolution.

**Action Item 3-2: Largent will work with the City Clerk's office to amend the resolution that establishes a 12-member committee with one seat occupied by a designee of the TCL&P Board.**

**Action Item 3-3: GTCD staff will make recommended changes to the Management Plan and associated documents and provide the BBAC with a revised draft for their review.**

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**VIII. Public Comment** – None.

**IX. Meeting Review**

**X. Adjourn. Motion by Gerschbacher, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Forgione to adjourn. Approved Unanimously. 6:43 pm.**

**Next Meeting:**

**Annual Potluck, June 19, 2014 Brown Bridge Quiet Area.**

Minutes respectfully prepared and submitted by S. Largent.