

Call Denny Chase
R/E

The Boardman River Dams

The mission of Trout Unlimited is "to conserve, protect and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds." In addition, a recent poll of the members of the Adams Chapter of Trout Unlimited found that 61% of respondents ranked the option that would Remove Brown Bridge, Boardman, and Sabin dams and retain/repair Union Street Dam, as their most favorable dam disposition option. As a result, be it resolved that the Adams Chapter of Trout Unlimited supports the removal of Brown Bridge, Boardman and Sabin Dams as well as the repair of Union Street Dam on the Boardman River. This will allow for the restoration of the Boardman River as a coldwater fishery, in accordance with the mission of Trout Unlimited.

Jack Murray
Joel Jakes
Dave Stellingwater

Fish Passage

The mission of Trout Unlimited is "to conserve, protect and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds." In addition, a recent poll of the members of the Adams Chapter of Trout Unlimited found that 53% of respondents supported limited passage of steelhead up the Boardman River. Given that the Chapter is supportive of removing Brown Bridge, Boardman and Sabin Dams and repairing Union Street Dam as well as, given that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources continues to limit Great Lakes Salmon passage at the James P. Price Trap/Transfer Harvest Facility, be it resolved that the Adams Chapter of Trout Unlimited supports the upstream passage of steelhead to Beitner Rd. This will allow for the conservation and restoration of the Boardman River as a coldwater fishery, in accordance with the mission of Trout Unlimited.

Next mtg Jan 25th

News letter
Kids Camp

March 20-22
Outdoor show

Dec 17th
6pm
Exec mtg

The Fate of the Boardman River Dams

The Adams Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Resolution 001

- WHEREAS,** The mission of Trout Unlimited is *to conserve, protect and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds*; and
- WHEREAS,** A recent poll of the Adams Chapter membership found that 61 percent of respondents ranked the option that would Remove Brown Bridge, Boardman, and Sabin dams and retain/repair Union Street Dam, as their most favorable dam disposition option; therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** That the Adams Chapter of Trout Unlimited supports the removal of Brown Bridge, Boardman and Sabin Dams as well as the repair of Union Street Dam on the Boardman River; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the removal of Brown Bridge, Boardman and Sabin Dams on the Boardman River will allow for the restoration of the river's coldwater fishery; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** That the restoration of the Boardman River's coldwater fishery is within the mission of Trout Unlimited.

The Adams Chapter of Trout Unlimited - # 676

Box 2129 . Traverse City, MI . 49685-2129

Dear Adams Chapter Member,

For nearly fifty years, Trout Unlimited has taken a leading role in protecting America's coldwater resources. These beautiful and fragile areas demand our attention or they won't be around for future generations.

On Saturday, April 18th, your Adams Chapter will hold its 13th Annual Banquet at the Williamsburg Dinner Theatre. Our membership of over 300 members is dedicated to preserving our cold water fisheries for the future. Every year, our "only" fund raising event allows us to continue supporting stream improvement, educational projects, and partnership with conservation groups to protect and restore endangered natural areas. With your help, we've been able to distribute nearly \$200,000 to:

- **Educational projects** – We send local youths to fly fishing and conservation camp for the experience of a lifetime. Local schools are supported through educational grants. Our First Cast program teaches entry level skills to the youngest anglers... our hope for the future.
- **Partnering** with the Upper Manistee River Restoration Committee, The Boardman River Project, Conservation Resource Alliance, Betsy River Restoration Committee and The Anglers of the AuSable, we've worked on projects to reduce sedimentation and restore valuable habitat in local streams and rivers.

Your Chapter is an entirely volunteer organization, 501(c)(3) approved, and committed to spending our resources locally. We need and appreciate the continued support of individuals and business underwriters to achieve our goals. Whatever your outdoor interest, your contributions can help maintain the environmental quality that makes Northwest Michigan so special.

Thanks for your help,

Officers:

Bill Fernandez, President 941-7102
Jeff Alandt, VP
Jim Zachow, Secretary
Dennis K. Taylor, Treasurer

Directors:

Dr. Ken Gum	Dave Stellingworth	Kirk Novak
Gary Silverman	Jeff Jocks	Steve Largent
Jack Murray	Gabe Schneider	Larry Thompson II

Trout Unlimited
Adams Chapter #676 – Executive Committee Members
2008

Officers:

President

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Traverse City 49685-0944
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wlf@charter.net

Treasurer

Dennis Taylor
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Traverse City 49686
941-7202
dktaylor1217@charter.net

Vice-President

Jeffrey C. Alandt
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Secretary

Jim Zachow
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Traverse City 49686
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Directors: [month/year term expires]

Gabe Schneider [12/09]
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Pat Kelly [12/08]
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brooktroutpat@aol.com

Mike Slater ex-officio
immediate past president
929-1285
slatermw@yahoo.com

The Adams Chapter of Trout Unlimited - # 676

Box 2129 . Traverse City, MI . 49685-2129

AGENDA – 3/26/08

- Introductions of members & guests
- Review of previous meeting minutes:
- Additions to the agenda

survey

*- 10 Boardman - one
web site re: 10
opinion of dams*

Committee Reports:

- Treasurer's Report - DKT
- Stream Committee – Steve Largent
- Boardman Dam Committee Update
- Web Site / Newsletter
- Banquet Committee
 - April 19th - ticket sales, gift collections

*Summer meetings
June 18 Wed. CCC
Aug 20 Wed RR
Sept 19-21 WaWaSum*

President's Report:

- Banquet, Outdoor Show, grants
- MCTU mtg on April 4/5

New Business:

- Discussion on Grant Requests & Proposed Distribution
 - Motion to approve 2008 Grants
- Review of Banquet preparations
 - Collection of donated items / receipts are available now
- Ticket Sales
 - Tickets are available now
- Discussion of Summer meeting schedule
 - Set dates for outdoor meetings / include in newsletter
 - WaWaSum dates in September

Other Business / Discussion

- Set Next Meeting Date

Adjourn

BANQUET IDEAS
GIFT COLLECTION; ETC.

- Right Brain Brewery
- Schmuckal Gas
- Dave Koschara
- Jeff Dean @ Bay Meadows golf
- Mistwood golf
- TC Country Club golf
- Caio Bella
- Stella's – bartender/john/kraimer friend
- Action Shooting Sports – Manton
- Luther Game Farm – Mesick
- Joe Stearns
- Glenn Wolff
- State Theatre - *Doug - tickets*
- Jim Olsen [attorney contact]
- North Peak [didn't Mike Shirley contact Schelde]
- Chain Restaurants: Applebees's, Chili's; etc.
- The Photo Shop in back of Annies downtown
- Wineries
- Bob Portenga [potential underwriter ?]
- Newland Net [Mike Connors ?]
- Aurora Energy
- TJ Carroll artwork
- Guide trips
-

Have a list of collected items ready by April 9th ... so that we will know what we have to buy.



The Adams Chapter, # 676
Trout Unlimited
Box 2129
Traverse City, Michigan 49685-2129

The Fate of the Boardman River Dams
Resolution of the General Membership - December 3, 2008

- Whereas,** The mission of Trout Unlimited is to conserve, protect and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds; and
- Whereas,** A recent poll of the Adams Chapter membership found that a majority of the respondents ranked the option that would "Remove Brown Bridge, Boardman, and Sabin Dams and Retain/repair Union Street Dam" as the most favorable dam disposition option; therefore be it
- Resolved,** That the Adams Chapter of Trout Unlimited supports the removal of Brown Bridge, Boardman, and Sabin Dams and the repair of Union Street Dam on the Boardman River; and be it further
- Resolved,** That the removal of Brown Bridge, Boardman and Sabin Dams on the Boardman River will allow for the restoration of the river's coldwater fishery; and be it further
- Resolved,** That the restoration of the Boardman River's coldwater fishery, by removal of these dams, is within the mission of Trout Unlimited.

The above resolution was unanimously adopted at the Adams Chapter - Trout Unlimited General Membership Meeting held on December 3, 2008.

dchase@record-eagle.com

**ADAMS CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED
GENERAL ELECTION**

December 3rd, 2008

President

Bill Fernandez _____

Vice President

Jeff Alandt _____

Treasurer

Dennis Taylor _____

Secretary

Jim Zachow _____

3-Year Directorship (pick three)

~~Pat Kelly~~ _____

Jack Murray _____

Jeff Jocks _____

Dave Stellanworth _____

Write In:

12/08 - off - Connors / Kalish / Kelly
on - Murray / Jocks / Stellingworth

Trout Unlimited

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2008**

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DRAFT
Boardman River Dams Committee (BRDC) Recommendations
Concerning Alternative Futures for the Boardman River Dams

ACTION REQUEST: *As agreed at the November 12, 2008 BRDC meeting, the following draft recommendations statement has been posted on the project web-site for BRDC review and comment. All comments received by **December 11th** will be considered as a final draft is prepared for discussion and action at the December 16th BRDC meeting. That meeting will feature a facilitated small group process similar to that used for the November meeting. **Please direct your comments on the following draft to sroonis@message.nmc.edu.***

Introduction

For the last three years, a citizen-based Boardman River Dams Committee has examined a range of alternative futures for the Union Street, Sabin, Boardman, and Brown Bridge Dams. The engineering, environmental, socio-economic and cultural implications of various alternatives (i.e., repair/ retain, modify, remove) have been analyzed and compiled in an Engineering and Feasibility Study. In addition, public input has been gathered through monthly BRDC meetings, a public opinion survey, community workshops and other outreach activities. Collectively, this data and information has helped shape the development of a recommended approach to disposition of the dams. Presented below, this draft recommendations statement is directed to City of Traverse City (City) and Grand Traverse County (County) officials who, as owners of the dams, have decision-making authority over their future.

Process

The process for arriving at a recommended alternative was pursued consistent with the terms of a multi-party Settlement Agreement signed in 2005. The Engineering and Feasibility Study was prepared by a contractor consistent with a Scope of Work developed and approved by the BRDC. Eighty one potential alternative futures for the four dam system were identified, representing all possible combinations of retain/ repair, modify and remove. BRDC members, along with the larger stakeholder community, selected six of these alternatives for additional analysis to explore, with equal and objective consideration, their respective engineering, environmental, socio-economic and cultural implications. (This included revising one of the alternatives to include a hydro-electric power option.) The analysis, along with other study reports, provided the basis for a broadly administered public opinion survey and series of public workshops. Based upon all input received, the November 12, 2008 BRDC meeting featured a facilitated, small group process that focused on three alternatives as a basis for further refining BRDC preferences.

Based on input obtained during the November 12 BRDC meeting, a draft recommendations statement was prepared and posted on the project website for BRDC review and comment. A refined statement was then presented at the December 16 BRDC meeting for review, comment and approval. The approved statement is to be presented to the City and County for their consideration.

Basis for Recommendations

The recommendations presented below were informed and shaped by three primary factors: 1) science-based data and information contained in the Engineering and Feasibility Study; 2) community input gathered from the public opinion survey and public workshops; and 3) the insights and contributions of the BRDC membership and its various committees. The study effort benefitted tremendously from the contributions of the BRDC, an exceptionally active and well-informed group of citizens with a shared passion for the Boardman River system, a commitment to actions that restore or enhance the social values of the system, and a range of ideas and preferences that enriched the study process. The draft recommendations presented below are the result of a concerted effort to identify and build upon points of agreement within the BRDC membership, while drawing from the wealth of objective, science-based data and information generated by a multi-disciplinary team of experts.

Recommended Approach: The "BRDC Alternative"

Key elements of the "BRDC Alternative" are presented below, accompanied by a statement of rationale. In addition, a summary matrix is provided (Attachment A), highlighting special features, benefits and costs associated with the alternative.

Union Street Dam will be retained and modified to allow passage of Great Lakes fish except for salmon, which will be blocked at the Michigan Department of Natural Resources weir. The modification will consist of a rock ramp passageway that can also accommodate kayaking.

Rationale: The modification of Union Street Dam will achieve the following:

- Respond to the preferences of 72% of public opinion survey respondents;
- Preserve the lake used by 72% of the waterfowl examined;
- Preserve the size of Boardman Lake;
- Reconnect the Boardman River above Boardman Lake to the Great Lakes;
- Preserve a warm water fishery; and
- Limit the cost to taxpayers due to availability of public grants.

Sabin Dam will be breached at the earthen dam and the impoundment replaced by the Boardman River.

Rationale: The partial removal of Sabin Dam will achieve the following:

- Increase wildlife habitat (by 40 acres) as well as species diversity;
- Reconnect and restore 0.7 miles of the Boardman River;
- Mitigate the impact of Sabin Dam on the Boardman River;
- Improve cold water fish habitat; and
- Limit the cost to taxpayers due to availability of public grant funds.

Boardman Dam will be modified to meet Michigan Department of Environmental Quality requirements, return the pond to pre-drawdown levels, and allow steelhead to pass over the dam and access the Boardman River.

Rationale: Modifying Boardman Dam will achieve the following:

- Preserve the pre- drawdown size of Boardman Pond;
- Preserve waterfowl habitat;
- Reconnect the Boardman River for steelhead;
- Preserve a warm water fishery; and
- Preserve the potential for power generation.

Brown Bridge Dam will be breached at the earthen embankment and the impoundment replaced by the Boardman River.

Rationale: The partial removal of Brown Bridge Dam will achieve the following:

- Create a 20 acre waterfowl impoundment;
- Reconnect and restore 1.5 miles of the Boardman River;
- Increase wildlife habitat (by 192 acres) as well as species diversity;
- Increase cold water fish habitat;
- Mitigate the impact of Brown Bridge Dam on the Boardman River; and
- Limit cost to taxpayers due to availability of public grants.

Additional Recommendations

- Grand Traverse County should consider inviting proposals from companies/ individuals interested in restoring hydropower capability at Boardman Dam. The proposals should be of sufficient detail to establish the economic viability of the project; demonstrate the ability to assume necessary repair, maintenance and operational costs; and establish an associated timeline.
- In reviewing this recommendations statement, City and County officials should also carefully consider additional comments, suggestions and dams disposition preferences expressed by individual BRDC members and other stakeholders. Any such statements received in a timely manner will be appended to the final Engineering and Feasibility Study document.
- City and County officials should establish a mechanism to ensure continued public input as the decision making process moves forward, and benefit from the expertise and longstanding commitment of BRDC members.

ATTACHMENT A

BRDC ALTERNATIVE
DAM or IMPOUNDMENT

Concern or Criteria	Ratio of Less important to more important	MODIFY Union Street Dam	REMOVE Sabin Dam	MODIFY Boardman Dam	REMOVE Brown Bridge Dam	Notes
Preserve Habitat for Wildlife	10:90	X		X		Preserve 442 acres of impoundments. Create 232 acres of riverine habitat; increase habitat diversity and richness.
Limit costs to taxpayers	36:64	X	X	X	X	Approximately 90% of the cost of the actions are grant eligible.
Total Cost		\$1.0-1.5 M	\$0.4-1.2 M	\$2.2-3.0 M	\$1.3-2.0 M	Total cost = \$5.0-7.9 million.
Local Share of Cost		10%	10%	10%	10%	Many sources of funding for river restoration and dam removal. (Note: local share may vary over time, particularly given longer term costs associated with maintenance of dams that are retained.)
Increase habitat for cold water fish	36:64		X		X	Creates 2.2 miles of coldwater habitat; mitigate warm water impacts; and restores up to 1 mile upstream from impoundment.
Keep impoundments for Waterfowl	39:51	X		X		Preserves 442 acres of impoundments used by 72% of waterfowl surveyed in baseline studies.
Return river to more natural state	43:57		X		X	Returns 2.2 miles to natural state, removes fragmentation in Boardman, restores natural sediment patterns
Generate electric power	44:56			X		Potential for 1 MWh or more of power generation.
Improve conditions for canoeing & kayaking	46:54	X	X		X	Creates 2.2 miles of river paddling. Creates potential for whitewater park
Prevent Great Lake fish from moving upstream	49:51			X		Great Lakes fish except steelhead are blocked at Boardman Dam.
Keep size of impoundments	50:50	X		X		Protects approximately 66% of the total acreage of the impoundments.
Protect the buildings & dam structures	52:48		X	X	X	Protects the buildings and spillways at the dams.
Open river to fish passage	53:47	X	X		X	River is open from Union Street to Boardman Dams, while excluding invasive species. Coldwater species free to move at Brown Bridge Dam.
Preserve warm water fisheries	64:35	X		X		Boardman Lake and Boardman Pond are preserved.



The Adams Chapter, # 676
Trout Unlimited
Box 2129
Traverse City, Michigan 49685-2129

MINUTES

Meeting of December 3, 2008

At 7:00 p.m. this date, a general meeting of the Adams Chapter was convened at 5199 N. Royal Drive, in Traverse City.

Present:

Bill Fernandez, President	Mike Connors
Dennis K. Taylor, Treasurer	Ron Stepka
Jim Zachow, Secretary	Larry Tollstam
Gary Silverman	Ginty Kasms
Patrick Kelly	Dave Stellingworth
Ken Gum	Kirk Novak
Jack Murray	Jeff Jocks
Gabe Schneider	Ted Kraimer
Tom Wilcox	Dave Leonhard
Steve Largent	

Treasurer's Report:

- The Current Balance in our accounts is approximately \$20,000
- The annual financial report has been submitted to TU National in a timely manner
- The 990 E-postcard has been submitted to the IRS

Conservation/Stream Committee:

- The Boardman River Dams Committee has issued a preliminary report recommending:
 - Modification of Union Street dam to improve fish passage (except for Salmon which would continue to be blocked at the State wier),
 - Breaching of Sabin dam to allow natural river flow,
 - Repair and modification of Boardman dam to allow fish passage AND restore the impoundment to previous levels, and
 - Breaching of Brown Bridge dam retaining a smaller waterfowl pond.
- The results of the membership survey regarding dam removal and fish passage on the Boardman River were discussed.
 - A majority of the membership (53%) favors removal of Sabin, Boardman, and Brown Bridge dams with Union Street dam remaining in place.
 - A majority of the membership favors establishment of an upstream limit for passage of steelhead.

- In order to provide for federal funding for dam removal from existing appropriations, and considering the public ownership of riparian properties along the river, it was suggested that a wier might be placed near Beitner Road to define a reasonable upstream limit.
- Since the a draft of preliminary report of the Boardman River Dams Committee has recommended breaching Sabin and Brown Bridge dams while repairing Boardman dam and restoring its previous impoundment and maintaining Union Street dam, and the final recommendation will be due shortly, the issue of fish passage should continue to be discussed and a Chapter position developed while a Chapter position statement favoring the removal of Sabin, Boardman & Brown Bridge should be presented to the BRDC.
- Gabe Schneider presented a draft resolution favoring removal of Sabin, Boardman, and Brown Bridge dams with Union Street dam remaining in place.
- Ken Gum moved that the Chapter issue a “position” statement to be presented to the BRDC and shared with other conservation organizations urging removal of Brown Bridge, Sabin AND Boardman dams.
 - In the discussion that followed it was suggested that the Resolution be further refined and issued on Chapter letterhead.
 - The motion was passed unanimously.
 - The Secretary will refined the Resolution drafted by Gabe Schneider and forward to all present who provided and e-mail address for review and comment prior to publishing by December 10.
- All members are urged to attend the BRDC meeting on December 16th to support the Chapter position on dam removal.
- The Conservation/Streams Committee will be meeting early next year to further discuss a position statement of upstream passage of steelhead, and other stream issues.

The 2009 Banquet:

- The Banquet is scheduled for April 18th at the Williamsburg Dinner Theatre.
- It was moved bt Ted Kraimer that “The President is authorized to apply for the Gaming License for the 2009 Banquet”. The motion passed without opposition.
- Gary Silverman and Jeff Alandt will be spearheading the Banquet Committee.
- It is time to start seeking Underwriters for raffle and auction items as well as donations of the items themselves.

President’s Report:

- Bill Fernandez attended the quarterly MCTU meeting and continues to be perplexed by the top-down management of our grass-roots organization. He also continues to meet with other Chapter Presidents prior to the MCTU meeting.
- Kirk Novak is participating in the conference calls for planning the 50th anniversary National TU Conference to be held in Traverse City next August. Other than hosting

fishing outings for out-of-town members (free guides), not much has been suggested for local participation.

- The Chapter sponsored the showing of “Flow” at the State Theatre. The event played to an overflow crowd and was attended by Jim Zachow & Kirk Novak representing the Adams Chapter.
 - The Wawasum outing is scheduled for September 18th – 20th, 2009. All members and guests are invited to attend.

New Business:

- It was moved that the Adams Chapter sponsor up to four youths to attend the Kalamazoo Chapter’s Youth Camp at the McMullen Outdoor Center at Higgins Lake again this summer.
 - While this last year we did not have enough applicants to fill the four slots (& did not spend the budgeted amount), in past years this has been a worthwhile endeavor,
 - The motion passed without opposition.
- The Traverse City Outdoor Show is scheduled for the weekend of March 20th –22nd , 2009.
 - There was a motion to approve having a Chapter Booth at the Outdoor Show.
 - The motion passed without opposition.

Elections:

- All officers and 3 Director are to be elected. President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer serve one year terms; Directors serve three year terms.
 - The four officers are willing to serve another term and there were no nominations.
 - Of the three Director up for re-election (Kalish, Connors, & Kelly), only Pat Kelly expressed a willingness to be nominated. The nominating committee presented three additional names (Jack Murray, Dave Stellingworth, & Jeff Jocks)
 - After brief statement by each nominee, ballots were taken and counted by the nominating committee.
- The officers for 2009 are:
 - President: Bill Fernandez
 - Vice President: Jeff Alandt
 - Treasurer: Dennis K. Taylor
 - Secretary: James Alan Zachow
- The Directors for the term beginning in 2009 are:
 - Director: Jack Murray
 - Director: Dave Stellingworth
 - Director: Jeff Jocks

Door Prizes:

Minutes of December 3rd, 2008 meeting (continued).

In a drawing on names from a hat, a fly box was awarded to Jim Zachow and an aluminum humidor was awarded to Dennis Taylor.

Next Meetings: There will be a Directors Meeting at Conservation District's office on Wednesday, December 17th at 6pm. The next regular meeting will be on Wednesday in January 28, 2009. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

James Alan Zachow, Secretary

R-Zoo Valley TU website. Greg Potter

Jan 28th next membership mtg

email new webmaster from Bill

Aug 17-23 18th hosted fishing day

Adams Chapter Update

A publication of the Adams Chapter of Trout Unlimited • Traverse City, Michigan • www.tctrout.com

In this issue:

- President's Report
- Boardman River Dams Update
- Boardman River Update
- Chapter Work Bees
- Adams Chapter Supports Effort to Re-Shape Former Trout Rearing Ponds
- Summer Calendar



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Finally, the season is here. We're almost to the point where we can pack insect repellent instead of extra fleece and replace the thermos with a cooler. Personally, I'm ready... been out a few times and the waders don't leak and the river still provides the universal solvent for stress and anxiety. My prediction, given the steady rise in fuel prices, is that our local stretches will see a little more pressure this season. I know that my historically common hour drives to other rivers will be a little less frequent and more carefully planned. Maybe I'll even have to fish with a gas-sharing partner and amend my solitary ways... at my age, probably for the better.

Our 12th annual fund raising banquet turned out quite well, given the economy. No sell out this year, but we raised in excess of \$17,000; just a bit less than last year when we were oversold. Thanks to all who attended and contributed to the success. We'll be able to continue our Chapter funding of stream restoration projects and educational programs as usual. Thanks to Mike Delp for his always enjoyable reading and Justin Wolf for the auctioneering. Double those thanks for the merchants and local fly shops who contributed so much to the banquet... support them & buy locally. The big winner (The Gates \$1000 certificate) was an infrequent fisherman who bought 1 ticket while vacationing in Traverse City. I gave him two choices, (1) I'd mail the certificate to him with an explanation of, and directions to, Gates

Lodge or (2) he could just give me the certificate. He decided on #1.

Summer brings both great fishing weather and stream improvement projects. Be sure to check out our web page (tctrout.com) for project dates and locations. The Chapter will have 2 outdoor meetings – June 25th at the CCC Bridge Campground on the Manistee and August 20th at Ranch Rudolf on the Boardman. We'll have the grill set up on the Manistee, so come by for some food, a short meeting, maybe a beverage, and some evening fishing.

You'll all need something to read while waiting for the evening hatch, so you should check out Excess Baggage, poems and other writings by, Chapter director, Dr. Ken Gum. I found the works on fishing and philosophy very enjoyable.

Be sure to stay on top of the pending water withdrawal legislation – Senate Bill 860 – and continue to press your elected representatives for an adverse impact limit of less than 1%. A less than 1% level still allows for considerable water withdrawal from our precious coldwater resources and anything greater is simply unacceptable. The beauty of trout fishing is the beauty of the coldwater environment and we must remain constant in our attempts to protect and preserve that which we love so much.

I hope to see you at our summer stream-side meetings. In the meantime, take a kid fishing, check out our web page for volunteering activities, and enjoy many pleasant hours on your favorite stretch of river. I'll be napping on that nice log just around the bend.

**ADAMS CHAPTER OF
TROUT UNLIMITED
BOX 2129
TRAVERSE CITY, MI 49685**

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Stream Committee Chair

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Boardman River Dams Update

A previous Adams Chapter newsletter focused on the need for more money to keep the Boardman River Dams Project moving forward. Since then, Grand Traverse County and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources stepped up big time. The County allocated an additional \$100,000 and the MDNR Fisheries Division came up \$50,000 to keep the process flowing.

The citizen-base Boardman River Dams Committee (BRDC) developed a list of "alternative futures" for the four Boardman River dams. Eighty-one (81) different alternatives are possible, given the various combinations associated with retaining/ repairing, modifying or removing each dam. In the interest of efficiency and cost effectiveness, the BRDC selected a subset of these alternatives for detailed analysis and the preparation of fact sheets to help inform citizens as they indicate their preferred future for the Boardman River system.

A fact sheet will be prepared for each alternative, objectively presenting detailed information that includes (at the minimum) a description and drawing of the alternative, a rationale, and an analysis of associated environmental, economic, social and cultural implications.

As of this writing, the recommended set of alternatives for detailed analysis includes the following:

- A. Retain/repair all four dams
- B. Remove all four dams
- C. Modify all four dams
- D. Retain/repair Brown Bridge and Union Street dams, remove Boardman and Sabin dams
- E. Modify Brown Bridge and Boardman dams, remove Sabin dam, retain/repair Union Street dam
- F. Remove Brown Bridge, Boardman and Sabin dams, retain/repair Union Street dam

For a complete project update please visit www.theboardman.org.

Boardman River Update



Perched culverts on Kids Creek (above) and Miller (below) are two of seven sites slated for repair where fish passage is blocked by perched culverts.

Besides the on-going Dams project, a busy summer of restoration activities are on tap for the Boardman River. Nine erosion sites are scheduled for repair on Kids Creek and five on the North Branch. In addition, we are working in cooperation with the Grand Traverse Band of Indians, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Garfield Township, and the Grand Traverse County Road Commission to repair seven road or trail crossings that's impairing fish passage. These are federal Environmental Quality Incentive

Program (EQIP) funds being administered to the Grand Traverse Band.

Chapter Work Bees

Two work bees have been scheduled for the Summer 2008. Please mark your calendars for June 7th and July 26th. The June work bee is in conjunction with the Cherry Capital Paddle America Club's River Clean up event. A team of Chapter members will re-arrange woody debris and assist with river cleanup activities. Contact Stream Committee Chair Steve Largent at (231) 883-9960 to sign up.

Adams Chapter Supports Effort to Re-Shape Former Trout Rearing Ponds

The Adams Chapter is supporting the Grand Traverse Conservation District's effort to reshape 16-former trout rearing ponds located on the main stem of the Boardman River below Brown Bridge Dam. Though all the ponds still cycle water, they have not been active in over 30 years. The ponds have filled in over time with silt and sand. As such, these ponds act as solar panels heating the water as high as 80 degrees in the summer before flowing back into the Boardman. Shutting off this seasonal inflow of hot water is a high priority for the long-term health of the Boardman River. The ponds were created as a private business venture to raise and sell trout. Other partners in this effort include the MDNR Fisheries Division, Ducks Unlimited, CRA, and the Grand Traverse Band.

On Tuesday, May 13th, the Adams Chapter sponsored an evening discussion at the Grand Traverse County Civic Center concerning fish passage on the Boardman River that attracted over 50 people including numerous Chapter members, county commissioners and riverfront property owners. The purpose of this informational meeting was to gain more knowledge concerning what fish passage means and what the MDNR's management objectives might be given the fate of the Boardman River Dams.

Mark Tonnello, Fisheries Biologist, MDNR Cadillac, gave a presentation that compared Boardman

River brook and brown trout numbers and pounds per acre to similar rivers around the state. The Black River was the one that was used most often to compare to the Boardman. Despite runs of steelhead and salmon, the Black River contains high numbers of brook and brown trout. Using data from a comprehensive 2005 fisheries survey, the MDNR found that for whatever reason that the Boardman contains average numbers of brook and brown trout throughout certain sections of the river system and below average growth rate and size except below Sabin Dam. Below Sabin Dam they found no brook trout and few brown trout, but the size of the brown trout were much larger than anywhere else on the river. The MDNR and US Fish & Wildlife staff answered numerous very good questions from the crowd including concerns about fisheries and social impacts, contamination issues, and sea lamprey.

The trend for contamination levels for several pollutants found in steelhead coming from the big lake is going down, but, in many cases, still hover above state threshold levels. This is a concern for eagles and other wildlife that would consume these fish. More information and discussion is needed.

The MDNR indicated that sea lamprey that may access the river system attached to migrating fish are juveniles and would not do well in the Boardman if the dams are removed because the river is too cold and too fast for them do well. Much discussion followed. Once again, more information and discussion is needed concerning this issue as well.

Besides the biological tradeoffs, there is much worry about the social impacts that would follow. Given the MDNR's desire to pass steelhead (and not salmon), the Boardman would become an attraction as a top rate natural reproducing steelhead river. This would draw people into the area and the problems with trash, trespass, and resource degradation would follow.

On Tuesday, May 27th, the MDNR is planning to give another presentation on this subject at the regular Boardman River Dams Committee meeting. The BRDC meeting is scheduled to start at 6:00 pm at the Grand Traverse County Civic Center. In addition, the Adams Chapter plans to mail out a survey to all Chapter members in the near future to gauge where we are at as a Chapter on this issue. If you have any questions or want more information contact Stream Committee Chair Steve Largent at (231) 883-9960.

SUMMER 2008 CALENDAR

- June 7** **Chapter Work Bee**
- June 14** **Kids' Free Fishing Day**
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- June 25** **Outdoor Meeting on the Manistee at CCC Bridge**
- July 26** **Chapter Work Bee**

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Adams Chapter Update

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- **Summer Calendar**



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Summer's heat is upon us and while the fishing gets tougher, hoppers, wading wet and less fishing traffic on the streams are positives. Hitting the river before the day heats up has always been one of my favorite times... the cool early morning and the river's peaceful awakening... now, I only have to make it happen; putting those days on the calendar with broad, indelible, marking. Our June outdoor meeting on the Manistee was a real treat. Gabe and the crew hauled out the grill and Mike, at Apache Trout Grill, provided the provisions. After a few beverages and a short meeting, we adjourned to the river for some evening Hex fishing. Thanks to those that made it happen and to all those who were there. We'll do another outdoor meeting on Wednesday, August 20th, on the Boardman at Ranch Rudolf. The agenda is similar... grab some food from their bar, have a short meeting with some casting instruction, then off to the river. We'll be there around 6pm and look forward to seeing you all.

Much work – by our state MCTU executive director, Bryan Burroughs, and individual Adams Chapter members – was done in an attempt to influence Michigan's recent "water withdrawal bill." Establishing "adverse impact" levels was a major issue and the result was not what we were after. Following is an excerpt from one of Bryan's emails, summarizing the current legislation:

This morning, Tuesday June 24, 2008, the House and Senate finalized negotiations on the remaining points of difference each of their water withdrawal bill packages. The bill packages were amended to be consistent with each others and both were passed out of the opposite chamber's committees. They are now both up for a general floor vote. The final compromise did not reflect an even middle ground on the remaining differences, but was skewed in favor of the Senate version. The adverse resource impact thresholds were not set where we'd have liked in all cases; no new recognition of the public trust in groundwater was added, but a statement was included which clarified that this new legislation in no way precludes or impinges on any common law, existing public trust or sovereignty of the state in protecting its waters; the new framework will become partially effective on October 1, 2008 and fully effective in 2009; and permitting was added for all new withdrawals of 1 million gallons per day if they fall within "zone C" (which is the zone approaching the threshold of ARI).

The "adverse resource impact lines" (ARI) for coldwaters have ended up at: <3% decline in thriving fish abundance (21% reduction in low flow) for coldwater streams (the smallest size streams); for coldwater small rivers the ARI line was drawn at "less than 1%" decline in thriving fish abundance (20% reduction in low flow). For cold-transitional streams, small rivers, and large rivers, the ARI are "less than 5%" reduction in thriving fish abundance (which in all three cases is between 2 - 4% reductions in low flow). While these outcomes are less than ideal for protecting our waters, they do represent a great deal of progress from the proposed ARI lines 1 year ago (recommendations from the Groundwater Advisory Council). Those recommendations had proposed ARI lines as:

Cold streams: 45% reduction in thriving fish species (10% change in fish community), = 52% reductions in low flow

Mitchell Creek/TU Work Bee

Chapter member Brad Platt and a group of volunteers worked with Steve Largent and the GT Conservation District to restore a severely eroded bank on Mitchell Creek during an unscheduled Adams Chapter work bee. The streambank had eroded due to high water and a tree that fell into the Creek diverting the stream flow into an already unstable bank. A couple years ago the Grand Traverse County Road Commission had reconstructed the intersection of US-31 and Three-mile roads. This included the stream crossing just south of the intersection near the Bay. The Road Commission had used sand bags and broken asphalt in an attempt to stabilize the bank when the work was first completed. The increased stream flow began eating away at the unstable bank toward buried utility lines. In fact, the crew had to work around a copper gas line that had become exposed from the erosion which made it more of a challenge to restore the site. The tree was repositioned to provide greater fish habitat to complete the day's work.



U.S. Judge Blocks Oil, Gas Drilling Near Au Sable River

by John Flesher | The Associated Press
Friday July 11, 2008, 11:44 AM

TRAVERSE CITY—A federal judge has overturned a decision by the U.S. Forest Service to allow oil and gas drilling in an environmentally sensitive area near the Au Sable River in Michigan's northern Lower Peninsula.

U.S. District Judge David Lawson on Thursday ruled the agency had acted "arbitrarily and capriciously" in 2005 by giving Savoy Energy of Traverse City a permit to drill an exploratory well near the river's south branch — www.deq.state.mi.us/documents/deq-exec-savoy-factsheet.pdf.

The proposed wellhead would be located in the Huron-Manistee National Forest about three-tenths of a mile from the Mason Tract, a wilderness area prized by outdoor recreationists.

Federal assessments had found the drilling would have no significant environmental impact.

Two environmental groups, the Sierra Club — www.sierraclub.org/planet/200603/ausable.asp — and Anglers of the Au Sable, sued the government to halt the drilling.

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or the mouth of a trout.

—from *Excess Baggage*



A great turnout at the June outdoor meeting at the C.C.C. bridge.

Boardman River Dams Project Update

With additional funding secured from the Michigan DNR and Grand Traverse County, as mentioned in the last Adams Chapter Update, the Boardman River Dams Project is moving forward toward an estimated study completion by the end of the year. At the July 22 meeting of the Boardman River Dams Committee (BRDC), the final work order was approved requesting that the hired consulting team, ECT move to the "Detailed Evaluation of Alternatives Phase of the Engineering and Feasibility Study and the Identification of a Preferred Alternative". The Committee has previously identified seven alternatives from a list of 81 potential alternatives. These seven include

- a) Retain/repair all four dams
- b) Remove all four dams
- c) Modify all four dams
- d) Retain/repair Brown Bridge and Union Street dams, remove Boardman and Sabin dams
- e) Modify Brown Bridge and Boardman dams, remove Sabin dam, retain/repair Union Street dam
- f) Remove Brown Bridge, Boardman and Sabin dams, retain/repair Union Street dam.

ECT recommends selecting six alternatives from this list, dropping the option that includes removal of Union Street Dam. Their reasoning is with the limited funding that they should focus on the most feasible alternatives. Removal of Union Street Dam is not feasible for several reasons including invasive species issues and the cost of handling contaminated sediments in Boardman Lake that would become exposed with the removal of Union Street Dam.

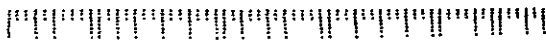
Between now and the end of the year is a great chance for all who are interested in the Boardman River and the fate of the dams to get involved! Check out www.theboardman.org or attend a meeting of the BRDC, Tuesday, August 26, 2008, 6:00 p.m. at the Civic Center. This is your opportunity to have your voice heard on which alternative you prefer. Hope to see you on the 26th!

Chapter Work Bee ~ October 18th

Anyone interested in helping restore an eroding bank along the North Branch of the Boardman River in October should contact Steve Largent at (231) 883-9960.

SUMMER 2008 CALENDAR

- August 20** **Outdoor Meeting on the Boardman River**
Ranch Rudolf – 6 p.m.
- September 18** **Adams Chapter WaWaSum Weekend**
WaWaSum Lodge on the AuSable [9/19-9/21]
- October 18** **Chapter Work Bee**
- December 3** **General Membership Meeting**
7 p.m. Traverse City Eye Consultants
5199 North Royal Drive, Traverse City



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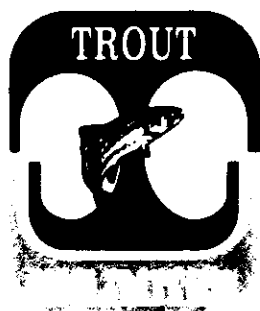
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I trust that this newsletter finds you all in good health, weathering the economic turmoil, and preparing for the holiday season. Even though the snow tires are on my car, some of these unseasonably warm days have made outdoor activities quite pleasant. I hope that you've had the opportunity to take advantage of our nearby extended season stretches of water. Even though our fishing schedules may be reduced in winter, there are still a number of items on the Chapter's plate; especially environmental issues and fund raising. The cold weather brings us back indoors for our series of winter meetings leading up to our 13th Annual fund raising banquet. At the December 3rd meeting, we'll hold our yearly elections for officers & 3 directors. Please consider attending and bring any new ideas and/or nominations for Chapter consideration. We have over 300 members but, like most non-profits, there's a small core of individuals who do most of the heavy lifting and any amount of volunteer time is greatly appreciated. We can especially use volunteers for a number of committees and issues... ranging from water quality and withdrawal, the fate of the Boardman dams, fish passage & fishing regulations to member retention. The primary mission of the Chapter has always been to have a positive impact on our local coldwater resources through specific projects, partnership with other environmental organizations and youth education and, as you know, our only source of revenue is the annual banquet. We have been fortunate and have met our modest goals for 12 years. The state of the economy may present a challenge for our 13th fundraiser, so

it's not too early to think about donations and underwriters. We've been fortunate to have a few members who have stepped up each year and underwritten a major raffle item and we would welcome more... give me a call, or email, if you're interested. One thing we've never had is a major sponsor for the banquet and that would have a very positive effect on our bottom line. If you have any ideas get with anyone on the executive committee, the contact information is in this newsletter. Naturally, we'll still need all the other usual items - guide trips, fishing gear, dining, artwork, jewelry and anything else you can think of, or offer. Gary Silverman & Jeff Alandt will be coordinating both the receipt of and thank you letters for gifts.

Many of you have asked me about the upcoming 50th Anniversary Celebration of TU and the TU National Conference to be held in Traverse City, in August 2009. TU National is handling the event and they informed me that all information would come through the Michigan Council of TU. Chapter director Kirk Novak has been in on recent MCTU conference calls about the 50th Celebration and we'll have more information at our December meeting. We'll also have an update on the status of the Boardman Dams Committee and discuss the results of our recent member survey. Gabe, Pat & Steve have been working on a Chapter position statement regarding the dams, fish passage and quality regulations.

Our thanks to the many members who volunteered their time over the summer. Please remember to mark the December 3rd meeting on your calendar. I look forward to seeing you at our annual meeting.

