



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
DETROIT DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
477 MICHIGAN AVE.
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226-2550

July 8, 2014

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Planning Office
Plan Formulation Branch

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, PUBLIC GROUPS, AND CITIZENS

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Detroit District, has completed a Detailed Project Report (DPR) and Environmental Assessment (EA) addressing a proposed ecosystem restoration project on the Boardman River, Grand Traverse County, Michigan. The DPR and EA are available for review online at:

<http://www.lre.usace.army.mil/Missions/EnvironmentalServices/FeasibilityStudyforBoardmanRiver.aspx>

A paper copy of the DPR and EA may be reviewed at the Traverse City District Library, 610 Woodmere Ave., Traverse City, Michigan (inquire at the reference desk).

The proposed action for this project involves removal of the Boardman and Sabin Dams, and modifications to the Union Street Dam. The impoundments that formed behind the Boardman and Sabin Dams would be replaced with natural stream reaches to reconnect and restore habitat within the Boardman River system, allowing movement of woody debris and sediment through the river system, eliminating thermal disruption, and restoring the natural balance between coolwater and coldwater species. Removal of Boardman and Sabin Dams would eliminate barriers to fish passage within the Boardman River, while modifications to the existing Union Street Dam would provide downstream passage of fish species, including lake sturgeon (State-listed as threatened). The functions of the existing fish ladder (at Union Street Dam) and fish weir (located approximately 0.4 mile downstream from the Union Street Dam) would be maintained and future upstream transport of sturgeon using a trap and transfer technique would be possible.

The EA and associated appendices address the expected impacts of implementation of the proposed project including the excavation and discharge of fill material in waters of the U.S. per Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. State water quality certification, pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, is being requested from the State of Michigan.

Environmental review of the proposed action indicates that no significant cumulative or long-term adverse environmental impacts would be expected as a result of project implementation. The Sabin and Boardman Dam impoundments would be converted to coldwater stream segments to provide connectivity within the river. The project would also result in a net increase in wetlands along the lower Boardman River. The project benefits to the environment outweigh the impacts of project construction and the elimination of the impoundments behind Boardman and Sabin Dams.

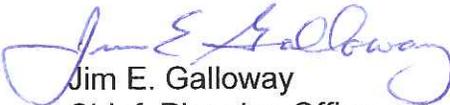
A public information session will be held on August 7, 2014, from 5:00 to 8:00 PM at the Grand Traverse County Civic Center (1213 W Civic Center Dr, Traverse City, Michigan) to answer questions and discuss concerns you may have on this project. You may also provide any concerns or comments regarding this proposed action in writing by August 15, 2014. If no comments are received by that date, it will be assumed there are none. Please direct your comments to:

Charles A. Uhlarik
Chief, Environmental Analysis Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District
477 Michigan Avenue,
Detroit, Michigan, 48226-2550

Comments can also be emailed to: BoardmanRiverReport@usace.army.mil.

Any person who has an interest that may be affected by the discharge and/or disposal of fill material may request a public hearing. To be considered, the request must be submitted in writing to the contact provided above within the comment period of this notice and must clearly set forth the interest that may be affected and the manner in which the interest may be affected by this activity.

Sincerely,


Jim E. Galloway
Chief, Planning Office

Notice to the postmasters / libraries and other various public entities:

It is requested that the above notice, be conspicuously and continuously posted for **40 days** from the date of issuance.