

NEWS RELEASE--For Immediate Release

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The Boardman: A River Reborn Rallies Support

Traverse City, MI – Partners are rallying support for a very big two years on the Boardman River including the removal of Boardman Dam this year and the removal of Sabin Dam in 2018. Rotary Charities of Traverse City is leading efforts to engage private investments for Sabin Dam removal through foundation grants, private donations and other non-public sources. As a result, partners are pleased to share the announcement of two new major grants to support the removal of Sabin Dam, the third dam targeted in The Boardman: A River Reborn.

The Grand Rapids-based Frey Foundation recently awarded a \$315,000 grant to Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA). In addition, the Wisconsin-based Brookby Foundation awarded CRA a grant of \$100,000. These grants join funding committed from the City of Traverse City, Grand Traverse County and the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians, as well as a strong partnership of private funders including Rotary Camps & Services and Rotary Charities of Traverse City, The Oleson Foundation, The Conservation Alliance, Patagonia and Trout Unlimited.

“The Brookby Foundation is proud to support efforts to protect the Lake Michigan watershed. This grant making strategy flows from the family’s deep commitment to preserve our valuable natural resources. Having a personal connection to the region, we have witnessed the Great Lakes’ remarkable ability to support life, provide opportunities for wonder and study, offer countless recreation options and deliver economic benefit for citizens. Our hope is to ensure these magnificent treasures will be safe for future generations. The Boardman River Dams Ecosystem Restoration Project is a natural extension of our wish to promote community well-being through collaborative approaches that successfully balance environmental stewardship with economic sustainability,” said Nicole Lightwine, Program Officer for the Wisconsin based Brookby Foundation.

The Boardman: A River Reborn, launched in 2005, is the most comprehensive dam removal and watershed restoration effort in Michigan's history and represents a model for how diverse organizations can collaborate effectively to work through complex issues that span multiple jurisdictional boundaries. The project benefits fisheries and habitat all the way to Lake Michigan. The reborn and restored Boardman River will positively impact its users, regional tourism and economic development, while serving as a regional, state and national model. More information about the project is available at www.theboardman.org.

Photo credit: John Russell – Great Lakes Images, LLC

Photo caption: Sabin Dam on the Boardman River is slated for removal in 2018.



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