



## Administrator's Update 12/19/08

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✚ **Grand Traverse County Septage Treatment Facility Financial and Operations Analysis-** The County has received a report from URS and Plante Moran on the Analysis of the Operation of the Septage Treatment Plant. A televised Public Presentation of the report will be made to the County Board of Commissioners, the County Board of Public Works, and the Sewer & Water Committee of the Board of Public Works at a Special Meeting on Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm in the Commission Chambers of the Governmental Center of Grand Traverse County. At this time, presentation will be made by the consultants and questions will be answered. At the conclusion of this meeting, I believe that the Boards will attempt to set up a committee that will be charged with further investigating the recommendations that have been made by the consultants and developing an implementation plan to begin changes to the financing and operation of the facility. The public is invited to attend and it will be televised live on Channel 99 as well as on demand via webstreaming. Visit [www.grandtraverse.org](http://www.grandtraverse.org) and click on "Media" for the link.


✚ **Boardman River Dams- Joint City/County Study Session** Also in the month of January, the County Board of Commissioners will hold a joint meeting with the City of Traverse City in a Regular Study Session. The meeting will be held on Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the Commission Chambers. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear a presentation from Environmental Consulting & Technology (ECT) Consultants and the Boardman River Dams Committee on the conclusions reached by the committee following a 2.5 year public process. The community worked very hard on analyzing the options for the four (4) dams on Boardman River. The Boardman River Dams Feasibility Study has been completed which will be very useful in working with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and the Army Corp of Engineers, as well as, potentially with hydro-power generators regardless of the option chosen. I am particularly pleased that the City and the County are meeting together because I believe that future action on the disposition of the dams, must take into consideration both municipalities and the impact that decision on any individual dam will have on the remaining three (3) dams.

✚ **2010 Strategic Planning Public Input Sessions-** The County Board of Commissioners will also undertake Strategic Planning Public Input Sessions to begin their 2010 Strategic Planning process in January. The meetings are tentatively scheduled for both Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> and Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup> from 6:00pm-9:00pm at the Grand Traverse County Civic Center in Traverse City. The County Board is taking their Strategic Planning to the next level by asking the public to be involved in the formulation of goals and objectives for the County in 2010. The meetings will be facilitated by Jim Wiesing, MSU Extension Director, and John Sych, County Planning Director. The first session will be used to review the current goals, gather public input, and establish potential goals for 2010 and to list objectives under those goals. At the conclusion of this session, all the final information collected will be documented and emailed to all participants. The second follow-up session on Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, the public will vote on prioritizing goals and objectives for the County in the upcoming years. This session will utilize a "real time" voting system called Turning Point so that all parties present can vote on goals and objectives suggested. Upon completion of the second session, the County Board of Commissioners will then take the compiled data and continue work in February on the actual development of goals based on what they have learned from the public input received. When the County Board adopts the final goals it will be transmitted to the Departments so that they


can develop their own Strategic Plans based on the goals adopted by the County Board. The Strategic Plans will then be utilized in the development of the Departments' 2010 budget recommendations.

 **Joint Board of Commissioner/Local Municipality Meeting** - Yet another Special Meeting will be held in January. On January 15<sup>th</sup>, the County will sponsor a joint municipality meeting for all municipalities in the county with the purpose being to discuss issues relevant to local government in Grand Traverse County. The meeting will be held at the Civic Center from 9:00am-12:00pm. Several topics already identified are: financial state of the Road Commission and ongoing plans for road improvements, a report on the Ordinance on septic tank assessments as it pertains to home sales in Long Lake Township, and discussion on the ORV Ordinance. This meeting is the second meeting in the past six months and a chance for local municipalities to discuss issues of concerns openly. This meeting is in an effort to build consensus and maintain an open door policy for further collaboration among the local units of government.

 **Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians** - The County, along with Whitewater and Acme Townships, continues to work on the establishment of a Conceptual Agreement with the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians regarding trust land located in Acme and Whitewater Townships at the Turtle Creek Casino. We are currently working on the Conceptual Agreement that will be adopted by the Boards that will be a precursor to three (3) potential individual agreements to be considered by the parties. The first agreement would be an agreement to deal with replacement revenues, in lieu of taxes, for new development of land placed in trust at Turtle Creek Casino. That agreement will potentially be signed by the Tribe, the County and the two (2) townships. The second agreement will be a land use agreement which will likely to be signed by the Tribe and the two (2) townships. The final agreement to be discussed would be the possibility of cross-deputization between the County and the Tribe. The new Tribal Chairman, Derek Bailey, has been sworn in and the County wishes to congratulate him on his election. The County also wishes to thank Bob Kewaygoshkum, outgoing Tribal Chairman, for his foresight in seeing the need for strengthening and improving the relationships between the local municipalities and the Tribe.

 **Labor Contract Status Update-** We continue to work on negotiating labor contracts. There are currently seven (7) labor contracts open with two (2) more expiring in January, 2009. Two (2) contracts have been tentatively settled and will be considered by the County Board at their Board of Commissioners Meeting on Tuesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Three (3) more contracts are requesting mediation and the final two (2) contracts are still being negotiated. We will continue to work on completing this in the near future.

 **Happy Holidays** - I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas, a joyful holiday season and a Happy New Year.

 **Board of Commissioner Meetings Live and On-Demand** - The County Board and Committee meetings are available for viewing live and on-demand. Visit [www.grandtraverse.org](http://www.grandtraverse.org) and click on the "Media" link for meeting viewing information, packets and agendas. In addition, meetings are broadcast live on Channel 99 and rebroadcast each week on Sunday starting at 1:00pm.

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