



## Administrator's Update 1/11/08

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✚ **Dams** With the rains and the warm weather this past week, there has been a great deal of thaw, and as a result, an increased volume of water going through the Boardman and Sabin Dams. It's hard to imagine the size of the catchment area that drains into the Boardman River system. In the two days of thaw this past Monday and Tuesday, the river level at Boardman Dam increased by nearly 7 feet and continues to rise. You will recall that last summer, we reduced the level by over 14 feet. Our Public Works staff was prepared for this type of thaw, but expected it to come in the spring. We cleared debris and even a pontoon boat, and continue to let water out of the dam while controlling the flow, so as to not overtax Sabin Dam. We understand, although we have still not received any communication from the Traverse City Board of Light & Power, that the Board of Light & Power has sold equipment inside the two dams owned by the County. We are in the process of trying to determine what equipment has been sold and what the disposition of that equipment will be. We have been contacted by the perspective buyer. What impact this has on the maintenance and operation of the two dams remains to be seen.

✚ **The Grand Vision** January and February are very busy months for the Grand Visioning process. Grand Visioning is the process whereby the community will take a look in a five-county region at transportation and land use needs for the next 20 to 30 years. There was a very well attended training held in October. There will be three more trainings held in January.

- January 23 - Central City Workshop, Hagerty Center, 6:30 pm
- January 24 - "East Arm"/Acme Twp Workshop, Grand Traverse Resort, 6:30
- January 24 - Southwest/Interlochen Workshop, Great Wolf Lodge, 6:30 pm

Everyone is encouraged to attend. You can go to the Grand Vision web site at <http://thegrandvision.org> to sign up for any of these sessions as well as the session on transportation to be held on February 27. Also, on the web site is the most recent newsletter, which will update you on the progress of the project.

✚ **Historic Courthouse** Work continues on the renovation of the historic courthouse. Part of the renovation project will be the installation of new energy-efficient windows throughout the building. There are approximately 135 windows, many of which are 8-foot tall, that need to be replaced. That portion of the project is going very well. This past weekend, we successfully moved the Friend of the Court offices and its 20 plus employees to the third floor of the Governmental Center, where they will remain for the

next 3 to 5 months during the reconstruction at the historic courthouse. The transfer of the employees went very smoothly, and while we finished the regular workday on Friday, the Friend of the Court was up and running, holding court first thing Monday morning. Special thanks to the Friend of the Court staff as well as our Facilities staff and IT staff for their great work and cooperation in achieving this task. The rest of the construction project continues with renovations occurring on three of the four floors in the courthouse.

✚ **Resource Recovery** Many of you have heard about possible changes that will take place in the Resource Recovery program. The County Board has held two joint sessions with the Resource Recovery Council to do strategic planning for what the future of this program will look like. A third session was held this week to look at goals and objectives to discuss funding for future programs. The work is going quite well, and while we are working with a reduced staff, all services continue to be provided. I'm hopeful that the planning part of this exercise can be completed within the next two months, so that we can reassess the staffing and budget needs of the department and move the programs approved by the County Board forward.

✚ **Strategic Planning** The County Board has also begun their strategic planning for 2009. We have completely revamped the strategic planning process, and while the County Board did strategic planning for 2008 in the middle of last year, they have moved the 2009 planning up to January of this year. The strategic planning process will be held on January 17. Part of the necessity to move the planning so far in advance is so departments can react to the strategies developed by the County Board, plan programs to coincide with the County Board's strategies and, of course, prepare budget recommendations for 2009 that provide appropriate resources to do so. When the County Board is done with their strategic planning, this information will be distributed to all County departments. Departments will then use this information to develop their plans for 2009 and request budget resources necessary to achieve that. Final decisions will be made during the 2009 budget process by the County Board, and then departments will reassess goals based on the resources allocated.

✚ **Televised Meetings** January 2, the County Board began providing live coverage of all County Board meetings including all five committees of the County Board and County Board meetings. All meetings will be shown live at their designated times with the exception of County Board meetings not held in the County Commission Chambers. Those meetings will be videotaped. All meetings conducted by the County Board during the week will be shown on the following Sunday between 1:00 and 6:00 pm on channel 99. The live broadcast can also be viewed on channel 99. If you have a chance to view the meetings of the County Board and have any thoughts or comments, please feel free to contact me at [daloia@grandtraverse.org](mailto:daloia@grandtraverse.org). We look forward to your thoughts.