

November Meeting Summary for Muskegon River Prosperity Group

November 1, 2024 | 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Newaygo County Sportsman’s Club
7951 Elm Ave.
Newaygo, MI 49337

Attendees (Organizations Represented)

- City of Big Rapids
- Consumers Energy
- Big Rapids Public Schools
- Big Rapids Township
- Fremont Area Community Foundation
- Great Lakes Fishery Commission
- Homeowners association (HOA) representatives
- Mecosta County
- Mecosta County Parks
- Mecosta Township
- Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition
- Michigan Chapter of Trout Unlimited
- Muskegon River Watershed Assembly
- Newaygo County Road Commission/Administration
- Office of State Representative Joseph Fox
- Omni Tech International
- Public Sector Consultants

Welcome and Overview

Everyone was welcomed and the meeting purpose and agenda were reviewed. Group expectations and ground rules were reviewed.

An overview of the previous work was summarized including the list of opportunities/assets by dam site for the following scenarios:

- Scenario one: Hydro facility continues operation (either by Consumers Energy or by a new owner)
- Scenario two: Hydro facility is removed

Planning for Prosperity in River Hydro Communities

Muskegon River Group: Rogers, Croton, and Hardy

Breakout Session: Review Assets and Opportunities and Confirm Direction and Completeness; Finalize and Confirm Group's Priorities

- Participants were grouped by dam location and/or interest (Rogers, Croton, or Hardy)
- Each group reviewed the list of prioritized (top five) assets and opportunities that were generated for each scenario (i.e., hydro facilities continue with Consumers Energy ownership or other ownership; hydro facilities are removed)
- A third scenario was created for "hydro facilities continue with ownership sold to another entity" and the groups were tasked with assessing completeness and providing a final summary of their work in all three scenarios
- A summary of prior work was provided by Omni Tech International to facilitate the discussion
- A summary of each group's work is included at the end of this document.

Update from Consumers Energy

Angela Thompkins, Chief Diversity Officer and Vice President of Community Affairs at Consumers Energy, provided an update on the company's decision-making process. She thanked the participants for their continued work. She stated that Consumers Energy continues to vet potential buyers' financials and ability to safely operate the dams. She reiterated Consumers Energy's commitment to the communities and to open and transparent communication. Consumers Energy is looking forward to reviewing the feedback from these prosperity group sessions. She thanked everyone for their time and restated the importance of understanding the different scenarios that communities are discussing and identifying what is most important to them.

Questions, Wrap-Up, and Next Steps

Group members shared their frustration with the long meetings and explained that they were exhausted by the process. Some shared their concerns that the data and feedback would really not be used in decision making. Most group members are not interested in continuing any other work.

Consumers is working to develop a plan to ensure that the prosperity groups are informed of the decisions about the river hydros before the broader public, and to inform all communities at the same time. Once decisions are made, the groups will reconvene to determine a way forward.

Appendix A: Hardy Dam Priority Tables

Hardy Dam Scenario One: The Hydro Facility Remains and Consumers Energy Retains Ownership

PRIORITY

	List the group’s key actions to advance each asset/opportunity (three to five).	Briefly describe what is needed to move each key action forward, including main actors and the role that the group identified for Consumers Energy to play, if any.
<p>Increase recreational opportunities and continue to develop Dragon Trail/trail head camp sites</p>	Maintain existing lease agreements, keeping lease costs low.	Consumers Energy maintains existing lease agreements.
	Support grants for park infrastructure and improvement.	Consumers Energy considers setting up a grants program for park infrastructure improvements that promote and expand recreational activities.
	Improve portages	Consumers Energy supports design and installation of portages
	Continue to maintain undeveloped parcels	Consumers Energy supports maintenance of undeveloped parcels
<p>Achieve sustained water quality improvements</p>	Facilitate bottom draw down from Rogers Dam Pond	Consumers Energy invests in operational changes to facilitate more cold water coming down the river from Rogers Dam Consumers drafts and agrees on new operational agreements.
	Re-evaluate dam operations, with a focus on water quality improvement.	Consultations with engineers/specialists to evaluate options for operational techniques that can be applied to help lower water temperatures.

Planning for Prosperity in River Hydro Communities

Muskegon River Group: Rogers, Croton, and Hardy

	List the group's key actions to advance each asset/opportunity (three to five).	Briefly describe what is needed to move each key action forward, including main actors and the role that the group identified for Consumers Energy to play, if any.
	Address algae bloom	Consumers Energy implements techniques that promote cold water mixing, reducing hot surface water.
<p>Increase growth and stability of existing businesses, create new opportunities</p>	<p>Partner with community to market recreational activities/events</p> <p>Create marketing campaigns across Newaygo and Mecosta counties.</p> <p>Maintain public access</p> <p>Sell unrestricted property to public or private parties.</p>	<p>Consumers Energy offers support through sponsorships of events and volunteers</p> <p>Newaygo and Mecosta Counties Tourism Councils create and execute a marketing strategy.</p> <p>Consumers Energy maintains all public easements</p> <p>Consumers Energy could consider sale of unrestricted property to public or private party.</p>
<p>Expand efforts to become a destination community by focusing on real estate development and additional recreational opportunities.</p>	<p>Provide more waterfront access and space to build, while protecting undeveloped land.</p> <p>Promote hunting, biking, and other land-based recreational activities</p>	<p>Consumers Energy could consider selling a small percent of land for development with waterfront access and/or Consumers Energy could engage in long-term (>12 months) leases</p> <p>Consumers Energy is a partner in promoting recreational opportunities</p>

Planning for Prosperity in River Hydro Communities

Muskegon River Group: Rogers, Croton, and Hardy

Hardy Dam Scenario Two: The Hydro Facility Remains and a New Party Takes Ownership

PRIORITY

	List the group’s key actions to advance each asset/opportunity (three to five).	Briefly describe what is needed to move each key action forward, including main actors and the role that the group identified for Consumers Energy to play, if any.
<p>Increase recreational opportunities and continue to develop Dragon Trail/trail head camp sites</p>	<p>Transfer land owned by Consumers Energy to county, townships, or other local bodies.</p> <p>Establish long-term lease agreements to foster community commitment, keeping lease costs low.</p> <p>Restrict new owner to a percent of land for development</p> <p>Support grants for park infrastructure and improvement.</p> <p>Continue to maintain undeveloped parcels</p>	<p>Negotiated prior to license transfer.</p> <p>New owner maintains existing lease agreements.</p> <p>Negotiated as part of sale agreement</p> <p>Consumers Energy and/or new owner consider setting up a grants program for park infrastructure improvements that promote and expand recreational activities.</p> <p>New owner supports maintenance of undeveloped parcels</p>
<p>Achieve sustained water quality improvements.</p>	<p>Facilitate bottom draw down from Rogers Dam Pond</p> <p>New owner establishes dam operational agreements, with a focus on water quality improvement.</p>	<p>New owner invests in operational changes to facilitate more cold water coming down the river from Rogers Dam.</p> <p>New owner drafts operational agreements.</p> <p>Consultations with engineers/specialists to evaluate options for operational techniques that can be applied to help lower water temperatures.</p>

Planning for Prosperity in River Hydro Communities

Muskegon River Group: Rogers, Croton, and Hardy

	List the group's key actions to advance each asset/opportunity (three to five).	Briefly describe what is needed to move each key action forward, including main actors and the role that the group identified for Consumers Energy to play, if any.
	Address algae bloom	New owner implements techniques that promote cold water mixing, reducing hot surface water
<p>Increased growth and stability of existing businesses , creation of new opportunities</p>	<p>Partner with community in marketing recreational activities/events</p> <p>Create marketing campaigns across Newaygo and Mecosta counties.</p> <p>Maintain all public easements and lease agreements</p> <p>Employment training for youth, preserving our environment (high school and college)</p>	<p>New owner offers support through sponsorships of events and volunteers</p> <p>Newaygo and Mecosta Counties Tourism Councils create and execute a marketing strategy.</p> <p>Consumers/New Owner ensure the Dragon Trail trailhead is deeded to counties.</p> <p>Consumers Energy could consider using a percentage of the sale proceeds to support an education fund for high school and college students job training or studying environmental preservation.</p>
<p>Expand efforts to become a destination community by focusing on real estate development and additional recreational opportunities.</p>	<p>Provide more waterfront access and space to build, while protecting undeveloped land</p> <p>Promote hunting, biking, and other land-based recreational activities</p>	<p>Consumers Energy/new owner could consider selling a small percent of land for development w/ waterfront access and/or could engage in long-term (>12 months) leases</p> <p>Consumers Energy/new dam owner are partners in promoting recreational opportunities</p>

Planning for Prosperity in River Hydro Communities

Muskegon River Group: Rogers, Croton, and Hardy

Hardy Dam Scenario Three: The Hydro Facility Is Decommissioned and the River Is Free Flowing

	List the group’s key actions to advance each asset/opportunity (three to five).	Briefly describe what is needed to move each key action forward, including main actors and the role that the group identified for Consumers Energy to play, if any.
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">PRIORITY</p> <p>Maintain and expand recreational opportunities</p>	<p>Create recreational endowment fund to support projects such as a rustic camp area, expanded trail system, and ORV park/trail.</p> <p>Create a business development fund</p> <p>Maintain undeveloped parcels</p> <p>Local control to manage “new property” created during removal. This includes but is not limited to: assessments, surveying, and plotting of properties.</p>	<p>Created by Consumers Energy</p> <p>Consumers Energy supports maintenance of undeveloped parcels</p> <p>Surveying costs supported by Consumers Energy</p>
<p>Restore cold water sturgeon fishery, fish migration</p>	<p>Develop a habitat restoration plan that includes restocking and long-term fish management</p> <p>Activate sediment mitigation study</p> <p>Address algae bloom</p>	<p>Consumers Energy pays for all costs as part of a planned dam removal process</p>
<p>Stability of existing businesses and creation of new opportunities</p>	<p>Create recreational endowment fund</p> <p>Create a business development fund</p>	<p>Established by Consumers Energy prior to decommissioning</p>

Planning for Prosperity in River Hydro Communities

Muskegon River Group: Rogers, Croton, and Hardy

<p>Rebrand the community as a destination community focused on nature/land appreciation</p>	<p>List the group's key actions to advance each asset/opportunity (three to five).</p>	<p>Briefly describe what is needed to move each key action forward, including main actors and the role that the group identified for Consumers Energy to play, if any.</p>
	<p>Add more waterfront access and space to build while protecting undeveloped land</p> <p>Promote hunting, biking, and other land-based recreational activities</p> <p>Perform hazard assessment for impact of dam removal on infrastructure, homes, and businesses</p>	<p>Consumers Energy deeds land with waterfront access to counties</p> <p>Consumers Energy is a partner in promoting re-development plan and economic funding</p> <p>Consumers Energy is financially responsible for reimbursement of assessment and impact costs</p>

Appendix B: Rogers Dam Priority Tables

Rogers Dam Scenario One: The Hydro Facility Remains and Consumers Energy Retains Ownership

	<p>List the group’s key actions to advance each asset/opportunity (three to five).</p>	<p>Briefly describe what is needed to move each action forward, including main actors and the role that the group identified for Consumers Energy to play, if any.</p>
<p>Continue to build upon current recreational assets to maintain and grow tourism and ensure that it remains as is or better</p>	<p>Maintain public recreational access at the dam site</p> <p>Add canoe launch on the west side of the dam</p> <p>Add a nature center/pavilion near the river where community can gather and learn about the river etc.</p> <p>Connect the river trail in Big Rapids with the Dragon Trail at Hardy Dam</p> <p>Enable local governments to manage the recreation sites</p>	<p>Develop a Recreational Master Plan that includes these priorities</p> <p>Land transfer/memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Consumers Energy and local governments</p>
<p>Ensure property values continue to hold their value</p> <p>Ensure that the community does not have to worry about a long-term buyer plan</p>	<p>Maintain pond-based recreational opportunities</p> <p>Maintain aesthetic value of the pond</p> <p>Maintain frequent and accessible communication with the community regarding dam operations and future plans</p>	<p>Ensure property owners continue to have recreational access</p> <p>Consumers Energy protects water quality; removes trash; supports invasive species management</p> <p>Hold public meetings; post more/better social media posts (especially on Facebook); partner with local organizations to reach community members (e.g., through post cards)</p>

Planning for Prosperity in River Hydro Communities

Muskegon River Group: Rogers, Croton, and Hardy

	List the group's key actions to advance each asset/opportunity (three to five).	Briefly describe what is needed to move each key action forward, including main actors and the role that the group identified for Consumers Energy to play, if any.
	Be transparent and honest with the community	Send Consumers Energy representatives to local township meetings to answer questions/give updates; communicate timelines and deadlines and stick to them
Continue to maintain high satisfaction levels with property owners	Public engagement Maintain water levels satisfactory to property owners Ensure safe operation of the dam	Develop a public engagement strategy that includes public meetings; send mailers to ALL adjacent property owners to notify of meetings Continue to apply for grants and loans to support dam safety
Maintain/improve current wildlife habitats	Add bird habitat (e.g., osprey towers) Add bat houses Manage the sediment to ensure it does not negatively impact wildlife Protect wildlife habitat in and around the dam Maintain the fishery's health	Engage with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) for consultations to ensure best practices; seek funding to support habitat enhancement Enter into conservation easements with landowners Engage consultants and experts in the field

Rogers Dam Scenario Two: The Hydro Facility Remains and a New Party Takes Ownership

	<p>List the group’s key actions to advance each asset/opportunity (three to five).</p>	<p>Briefly describe what is needed to move each key action forward, including main actors and the role that the group identified for Consumers Energy to play, if any.</p>
<p>PRIORITY</p> <p>Further develop tourism and resident attractions (plan more events that draw in tourists, further develop trail system, improve tourism infrastructure)</p>	<p>Develop a comprehensive Lake Management Plan to address and improve water quality issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify solutions to cool the water downstream - Identify solutions to address algae blooms - Develop/implement a sediment management plan <p>Enhance/improve the quality and accessibility of the existing trail system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve access to trails - Clearly identify and communicate land ownership - Expand/extend existing bike trail and improve overall quality - Enhance existing bridges (biking, walking, viewing site) for safety and accessibility 	<p>New owner provides support for the development of the Lake/Watershed Management Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support for new technologies to help cool the water downstream - Support to help develop the Sediment Management Plan (subset of Lake/Watershed Management Plan) <p>Land transfer to public entity negotiated as part of sale</p> <p>New owner actively contributes information on ownership (e.g., signage reflecting ownership)</p> <p>New owner helps maintain/improve access to trail system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Form partnership for accessibility to trails (walking and biking) <p>New owner considers providing financial support for land management</p>

Planning for Prosperity in River Hydro Communities

Muskegon River Group: Rogers, Croton, and Hardy

	<p>List the group’s key actions to advance each asset/opportunity (three to five).</p>	<p>Briefly describe what is needed to move each key action forward, including main actors and the role that the group identified for Consumers Energy to play, if any.</p>
	<p>Expand/market current and future opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus on campaign for quiet season - Market as a 4-season destination - Expand marketing of events <p>Improve accessibility to water activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Install ADA accessible kayak launches 	<p>New owner provides information/data and partners with local chambers/economic development organizations to increase messaging and marketing</p> <p>Partnership w/ new owner and other entities to fund accessibility</p>
<p>Ensure that the sea lamprey barrier continues protecting upper watershed</p>	<p>Develop a formal memorandum of understanding (MOU) that ensures safety, structural integrity, and water levels for treatment</p>	<p>Consumers Energy adds as a condition of sale; new owner agrees and supports</p>
<p>Ensure recreational access to Croton Pond remains for residents and the public</p>	<p>Address leased land issues with property owners (clearly identify scope of land ownership and ensure current landowners have the same access)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recreational/shared assets - Lakefront/private ownership <p>Enhance existing bridges and causeway (biking, walking, viewing site) for safety and accessibility</p>	<p>Consumers Energy adds continued access to recreational assets as a condition of sale</p> <p>Transfer ownership of assets (lake front to homeowners, boat launch to public entity or neighborhood association)</p> <p>Support for recreational infrastructure improvements – could be provided by new owner and/or Consumers Energy</p>

Planning for Prosperity in River Hydro Communities

Muskegon River Group: Rogers, Croton, and Hardy

	<p>List the group’s key actions to advance each asset/opportunity (three to five).</p>	<p>Briefly describe what is needed to move each key action forward, including main actors and the role that the group identified for Consumers Energy to play, if any.</p>
<p>Maintain status quo (boating/fishing, land values, public access, wetland habitats)</p>	<p>Maintain current level of support of assets and accessibility (aesthetically pleasing dam, historical structure)</p>	<p>Consumers Energy negotiates with new owner to help support recreational assets and ensure boating boundaries, etc.</p> <p>New owner should consider creating a grant program for improvements</p>
<p>Develop/communicate a proactive Decommission and Transition Plan</p>	<p>Develop a long-term plan and future resources (comprehensive version of what is being done now)</p>	<p>New owner develops/communicates plan and updates regularly</p> <p>Consumers Energy provides supports for new owner in development of plan</p>

Planning for Prosperity in River Hydro Communities

Muskegon River Group: Rogers, Croton, and Hardy

Rogers Scenario Three: The Hydro Facility Is Decommissioned and the River Is Free Flowing

PRIORITY

<p>Develop plans to recapture and shift resources/time currently spent on dam safety</p>	<p>List the group's key actions to advance each asset/opportunity (three to five).</p>	<p>Briefly describe what is needed to move each key action forward, including main actors and the role that the group identified for Consumers Energy to play, if any.</p>
	<p>Develop a Sediment Management Plan</p> <p>Identify and communicate downstream impacts of dam removal</p> <p>Develop a Decommission Timeline Plan w/ access to decommission reports/data</p> <p>Develop a plan to address sea lamprey</p> <p>Clear communication to community on timeline</p>	<p>Consumers Energy provides resources and data; develops the plans; sets up regular comprehensive communication sessions with the community</p>
<p>Develop an area wide Land Use Plan and opportunities for property expansion (extension of property under former pond)</p>	<p>Maintain waterfront access for owners; transfer property rights to homeowners</p> <p>Identify current legal rights of adjacent property</p> <p>Give community choice for trail expansion; explore option to grant easements for owners</p> <p>Address bottom land ownership issues</p>	<p>Consumers Energy transfers property rights to property owners</p> <p>Consumers Energy investigates as part of decommissioning process</p> <p>Consumers Energy helps with Land Use Plan/Study, including community input on trail expansion options</p> <p>Put plan agreements in place for any options identified; identify if agreements are coordinated by city, county, or some other entity</p> <p>Consumers Energy investigates</p>

Planning for Prosperity in River Hydro Communities

Muskegon River Group: Rogers, Croton, and Hardy

	List the group's key actions to advance each asset/opportunity (three to five).	Briefly describe what is needed to move each key action forward, including main actors and the role that the group identified for Consumers Energy to play, if any.
<p>Build/expand new recreational opportunities (cold water fishery expansion, full river habitat restoration, trail improvement)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a River Restoration Plan Review/improve access points to river Expand access to paddle sports Develop a Coordination Plan for where the Little Muskegon River comes into the Muskegon River (water flow, temperature, etc.) Maintain sea lamprey barriers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consumers Energy provides support for a River Management Plan that prioritizes river restoration Financial support for access point changes – could be provided by Consumers Energy Economic development support; equipment purchases Consumers Energy supports plan development Support for long-term plan to maintain sea lamprey barriers
<p>Develop/expand new Economic Drivers and Real Estate Development (as a riverfront asset)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand marketing plan for recreational uses (fishing tours, different types of anglers, etc.) Provide economic support for businesses to transition Create a boardwalk Create a birdwatching station 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consumers Energy could provide financial support to develop the plan Consumers Energy could provide grants to recreational business owners Consumers Energy should consider providing land/opportunities for businesses to expand Support for a land use plan; consultants and expertise Financial support – could be provided by Consumers Energy

Appendix C: Croton Dam Priority Tables

Croton Dam Scenario One: The Hydro Facility Remains and Consumers Energy Retains Ownership

PRIORITY

Further develop tourism and resident attractions (plan more events that draw in tourists; further develop trail system; improve tourism infrastructure)

List the group’s key actions to advance each asset/opportunity (three to five).

Briefly describe what is needed to move each key action forward, including main actors and the role that the group identified for Consumers Energy to play, if any.

Develop a comprehensive *Lake Management Plan* to address and improve water quality issues

- Identify solutions to cool the water downstream
- Identify solutions to address algae blooms
- Develop/implement a sediment management plan

Consumers Energy provides support for the development of the Lake/Watershed Management Plan

- Support for new technologies to help cool the water downstream

- Support to help develop the Sediment Management Plan (subset of Lake/Watershed Management Plan)

Enhance/improve the quality and accessibility of the existing trail system

Consumers Energy helps maintain/improve access to trail system

- Improve access to trails
- Clearly identify and communicate land ownership
- Expand/extend existing bike trail and improve overall quality
- Enhance existing bridges (biking, walking, viewing site) for safety and accessibility

Consumers Energy should consider transitioning the land to public entity/providing financial support for land management

- Form partnership for accessibility to trails (walking and biking)

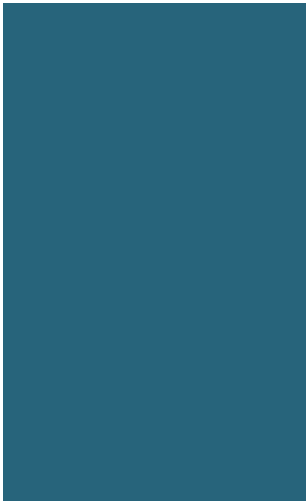
- Consumers Energy actively contributes information on ownership (e.g., signage reflecting ownership)

Planning for Prosperity in River Hydro Communities

Muskegon River Group: Rogers, Croton, and Hardy

List the group's key actions to advance each asset/opportunity (three to five).

Briefly describe what is needed to move each key action forward, including main actors and the role that the group identified for Consumers Energy to play, if any.



Expand/market current and future recreational opportunities

- Focus on campaign for quiet season
- Market as a 4-season destination
- Expand marketing of events

Improve accessibility to water activities

- Install Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible kayak launches

Consumers Energy provides information/data and partners with local Chambers/Economic Development organizations to increase messaging and marketing

Partnership w/ Consumers Energy and other entities to fund accessibility

Planning for Prosperity in River Hydro Communities

Muskegon River Group: Rogers, Croton, and Hardy

Croton Dam Scenario Two: The Hydro Facility Remains and a New Party Takes Ownership

PRIORITY

Further develop tourism and resident attractions (plan more events that draw in tourists, further develop trail system, improve tourism infrastructure)

List the group's key actions to advance each asset/opportunity (three to five).

Briefly describe what is needed to move each key action forward, including main actors and the role that the group identified for Consumers Energy to play, if any.

Develop a comprehensive Lake Management Plan to address and improve water quality issues

- Identify solutions to cool the water downstream
- Identify solutions to address algae blooms
- Develop/implement a sediment management plan

New owner provides support for the development of the Lake/Watershed Management Plan

- Support for new technologies to help cool the water downstream
- Support to help develop the Sediment Management Plan (subset of Lake/Watershed Management Plan)

Enhance/improve the quality and accessibility of the existing trail system

- Improve access to trails
- Clearly identify and communicate land ownership
- Expand/extend existing bike trail and improve overall quality
- Enhance existing bridges (biking, walking, viewing site) for safety and accessibility

Land transfer to public entity negotiated as part of sale

New owner actively contributes information on ownership (e.g., signage reflecting ownership)

New owner helps maintain/improve access to trail system

- Form partnership for accessibility to trails (walking and biking)

New owner considers providing financial support for land management

Planning for Prosperity in River Hydro Communities

Muskegon River Group: Rogers, Croton, and Hardy

	<p>List the group’s key actions to advance each asset/opportunity (three to five).</p>	<p>Briefly describe what is needed to move each key action forward, including main actors and the role that the group identified for Consumers Energy to play, if any.</p>
	<p>Expand/market current and future opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus on campaign for quiet season - Market as a 4-season destination - Expand marketing of events <p>Improve accessibility to water activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Install ADA accessible kayak launches 	<p>New owner provides information/data and partners with local chambers/economic development organizations to increase messaging and marketing</p> <p>Partnership w/ new owner and other entities to fund accessibility</p>
<p>Ensure that the sea lamprey barrier continues protecting upper watershed</p>	<p>Develop a formal memorandum of understanding (MOU) that ensures safety, structural integrity, and water levels for treatment</p>	<p>Consumers Energy adds as a condition of sale; new owner agrees and supports</p>
<p>Ensure recreational access to Croton Pond remains for residents and the public</p>	<p>Address leased land issues with property owners (clearly identify scope of land ownership and ensure current landowners have the same access)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recreational/shared assets - Lakefront/private ownership <p>Enhance existing bridges and causeway (biking, walking, viewing site) for safety and accessibility</p>	<p>Consumers Energy adds continued access to recreational assets as a condition of sale</p> <p>Transfer ownership of assets (lake front to homeowners, boat launch to public entity or neighborhood association)</p> <p>Support for recreational infrastructure improvements – could be provided by new owner and/or Consumers Energy</p>

Planning for Prosperity in River Hydro Communities

Muskegon River Group: Rogers, Croton, and Hardy

	<p>List the group’s key actions to advance each asset/opportunity (three to five).</p>	<p>Briefly describe what is needed to move each key action forward, including main actors and the role that the group identified for Consumers Energy to play, if any.</p>
<p>Maintain status quo (boating/fishing, land values, public access, wetland habitats)</p>	<p>Maintain current level of support of assets and accessibility (aesthetically pleasing dam, historical structure)</p>	<p>Consumers Energy negotiates with new owner to help support recreational assets and ensure boating boundaries, etc.</p> <p>New owner should consider creating a grant program for improvements</p>
<p>Develop/communicate a proactive Decommission and Transition Plan</p>	<p>Develop a long-term plan and future resources (comprehensive version of what is being done now)</p>	<p>New owner develops/communicates plan and updates regularly</p> <p>Consumers Energy provides supports for new owner in development of plan</p>

Planning for Prosperity in River Hydro Communities

Muskegon River Group: Rogers, Croton, and Hardy

Croton Dam Scenario Three: The Hydro Facility Is Decommissioned and the River Is Free Flowing

	List the group’s key actions to advance each asset/opportunity (three to five).	Briefly describe what is needed to move each key action forward, including main actors and the role that the group identified for Consumers Energy to play, if any.
<p>Develop plans to recapture and shift resources/time currently spent on dam safety</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a Sediment Management Plan Identify and communicate downstream impacts of dam removal Develop a Decommission Timeline Plan w/ access to decommission reports/data Develop a plan to address sea lamprey Clear communication to community on timeline 	<p>Consumers Energy provides resources and data; develops the plans; sets up regular comprehensive communication sessions with the community</p>
<p>Develop an area wide Land Use Plan and opportunities for property expansion (extension of property under former pond)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain waterfront access for owners; transfer property rights to homeowners Identify current legal rights of adjacent property Give community choice for trail expansion; explore option to grant easements for owners Address bottom land ownership issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consumers Energy transfers property rights to property owners Consumers Energy investigates as part of decommissioning process Consumers Energy helps with Land Use Plan/Study, including community input on trail expansion options Put plan agreements in place for any options identified; identify if agreements are coordinated by city, county, or some other entity Consumers Energy investigates

PRIORITY

Planning for Prosperity in River Hydro Communities

Muskegon River Group: Rogers, Croton, and Hardy

List the group's key actions to advance each asset/opportunity (three to five).

Briefly describe what is needed to move each key action forward, including main actors and the role that the group identified for Consumers Energy to play, if any.

Build/expand new recreational opportunities (cold water fishery expansion, full river habitat restoration, trail improvement)

Develop a River Restoration Plan

Consumers Energy provides support for a River Management Plan that prioritizes river restoration

Review/improve access points to river

Financial support for access point changes – could be provided by Consumers Energy

Expand access to paddle sports

Economic development support; equipment purchases

Develop a Coordination Plan for where the Little Muskegon River comes into the Muskegon River (water flow, temperature, etc.)

Consumers Energy supports plan development

Maintain sea lamprey barriers

Support for long-term plan to maintain sea lamprey barriers

Develop/expand new Economic Drivers and Real Estate Development (as a riverfront asset)

Expand marketing plan for recreational uses (fishing tours, different types of anglers, etc.)

Consumers Energy could provide financial support to develop the plan

Provide economic support for businesses to transition

Consumers Energy could provide grants to recreational business owners

Create a boardwalk

Consumers Energy should consider providing land/opportunities for businesses to expand

Create a birdwatching station

Support for a land use plan; consultants and expertise

Financial support – could be provided by Consumers Energy