

Planning for Prosperity in River Hydro Communities Manistee River Group: Hodenpyl and Tippy

Joint Meeting 1

April 8, 2024 | 9:00 am - 12:00 noon

Norman Township Hall
1273 Seaman Rd
Wellston, MI 49689

Attendees

Michigan Trout Unlimited
Alliance for Economic Success
Conservation Resource Alliance
Cadillac Area Land Conservancy
Huron-Manistee National Forest
Wexford County Road Commission
Huron-Manistee National Forest
Great Lakes Fisheries Commission
Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition
Wexford County
Campground Owner
Manistee County Sports Fishing Assoc
Cadillac Area Chamber of Commerce
Loomis Landing Camping & Boating
Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
Norman Township
Manistee County
Manistee City
Manistee Tourism Authority
KND Schools
Consumers Energy
Public Sector Consultants
AES

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Welcome

- Eric Gustad and Patrick Tiedt with Consumers Energy welcomed the attendees to the meeting and provided housekeeping details.

Overview

- Josh Burgett, Executive Director, Community Engagement and Corporate Citizenship for Consumers Energy, provided an overview of Consumers Energy river hydro engagement, including an update on recent inquiries for dam purchases. Burgett also spoke about his expectations and charge for the group.

Introductions

- Each participant shared their name and affiliation while also stating what a successful outcome of the meetings might look like.

Ground Rules

- Participants were asked to discuss their expectations for the group and for each other. They articulated and agreed to the following ground rules:
 - Be open to both sides.
 - Explore the “what ifs?”
 - Participate responsibly.
 - It’s ok to think out loud.
 - Be present. Silence / limit devices.
 - Don’t let emotions dominate.
 - Be honest. Expect honesty.
 - Be non-judgmental of others’ thoughts and comments.
 - Be respectful.
 - Respect everyone’s time.
 - Value everyone.
 - No “mansplaining.”

Community Asset Mapping

Participants were divided into four groups (two for each dam) and provided known assets in their communities, using the categories of People, Nature, and Economy. Each of the groups reported to the large group the following assets:

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NATURE

- Boating and paddle sports
- Camping
- Trail system for recreational activities, including the North County Trail
- Hunting
- Fishing - trout, steelhead, salmon
- 4 seasons recreation and enjoyment
- Clean water, fresh air
- Diversity of water ways - river and backwaters
- Diversity of wildlife
- Wild-life habitat, undeveloped areas, public land
- Natural resources
- Lake communities
- Serenity / quiet places
- Diversity of waterfowl and birds
- Accessible – major highways
- Hobby / outdoor enthusiast culture
- Tribal cultural values

TIPPY DAM

- Invasive species control – Sea lamprey
- Bats (hibernaculum)
- Arctic Grayling, sturgeon restoration

HODENPYL DAM

- Photography
- Mushroom Hunting
- Open spaces for fabulous views

ECONOMY

- 4 season outdoor recreational based tourism
- Lifestyle – people choose to live here
- Agriculture – fruit, vegetables, farm stands, beef, farmers markets
- Forestry, Christmas trees, timber
- Small businesses
- Industrial base
- Lodging, including short term rentals
- Fishing industry
- ORV and Horse trails
- Schools – large employers

TIPPY DAM

- Higher education
- Connection and impact with great lakes
- Historic downtown
- Casino
- Sea lamprey control
- Great lakes fishing – recreational, tribal, commercial
- Airport

HODENPYL DAM

- Hub zone for competitive grants
- Hunting clubs

PEOPLE

- Multi-generational recreation and leisure

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Tourism
History
Engaged local government officials
Diversity of types of people, all ages, variety of activities, etc.
Native American Tribal cultural values (e.g. habitat protection)
Seasonal visitors and year-round enthusiasts
Schools and libraries- community places, playgrounds
History and tradition of working together – collaboration and community partners

TIPPY DAM
Veteran involvement
Escapism
Races – running, biking

HODENPYL DAM
Jobs – direct and indirect
Fishers
Events - Mushroom festival, Blessing of the Jeeps, Harrietta Blueberry Festival
Churches