

# GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY 2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## FINANCIAL

National Certificate of Financial Reporting - For the second year in a row, the County received a certificate of achievement for excellence in financial reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association.

Fund Balance – Closed 2007 with an addition to the fund balance of \$1,772,441.

Long-Term Advance Reduction – Continued effort to reduce long-term advances by reducing IT balance reserve by \$274,000.

## PLANNING

Capital Improvement Program Process - Initiated Capital Improvement Program Process utilizing staff, County Commissioners and Planning Commission members to develop a comprehensive program that the County can use in evaluating facilities and properties, and planning for future development of the County. That plan was worked on throughout 2007 and will be rolled out by March of 2008.

The Grand Vision - Continued support of the Grand Visioning Process. The County Board of Commissioners appointed the members of The Grand Visioning Coordinating Group and expanded that membership to include the five (5) surrounding counties in 2007. The County has been actively involved in supporting this very public effort including a 2007 decision to help fund any contributions made by local governments for a two-year period if that government was not able to appropriate their local contribution all in one year.

Boardman River Dams Feasibility Study – The County has continued to work extensively on the Boardman River Dams Feasibility Study, both through County Board of Commissioner participation and staff involvement. The contractor has been hired and the planning process is about 40% complete at this time.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

Labor Contracts Complete - In 2007, the Grand Traverse County Board completed the negotiations on two labor contracts.

The Segal Study – A complete wage and salary study for all Grand Traverse County employees began in 2007 with an anticipated completion date in 2008. In 2007, job analyses of employees were completed, current market trends were

established and a market study was completed. At this time, job descriptions are being rewritten and the study is close to being finalized.

Benefit Plan Change for Retirees - The County initiated a new program, which improves the health insurance plan for retirees, which will provide a comparable benefit to the previous plan at a lower cost to our retirees.

## **FARM LAND PRESERVATION**

Grand Traverse County negotiated and signed an interlocal agreement with Acme Twp. to delineate the responsibilities for the farmland preservation program in the township.

## **BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT**

EPA Petroleum Grant - Grand Traverse County received a grant of \$200,000 Environmental Protection Agency Petroleum Grant.

## **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT)**

Revamped Computer Storage - Completely revamped the computer storage platform for the County, consolidating the number of County servers necessary to support operations, reducing maintenance costs and improving speed.

Electronic Document Imaging - Initiated the electronic document-imaging project to create greater efficiency and enhance communication in the operations of the Friend of the Court, Prosecutor, Finance, and Clerk's Office. This project can be expanded to include more component departments once this phase of the project has been successfully initiated.

Enhanced Network Fiber Connection - Signed an agreement with Traverse City Board of Light and Power to develop a wide-area network fiber connection, which will connect all of the major County facilities in a fiber network loop that will provide greater security and faster speed and redundancy of service for our major County facilities.

Exchange Fire Wall – added intrusion prevention service to better protect the network

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

County Commission Chamber Renovations - The County Board implemented improvements to the County Commission Chambers including new furnishings and room renovations to allow for televising of all County Commission meetings, which begin January 2008.

## **DAMS**

Boardman and Sabin Dam – The County began the take over the maintenance and operation responsibilities of the Boardman and Sabin Dams in January 2007. The Board of Light and Power previously operated the dams. That transition was successfully completed in the first half of the year with operations of the dams taken over by our DPW staff at that time.

Boardman Pond Draw Down - Simultaneously the County conducted the draw down which was required by the DEQ Consent Decree dropping Boardman Pond by approximately 14 ½ feet resulting in a letter of compliance from the DEQ.

## **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS**

Historic Courthouse Renovation - We began the historic courthouse renovation project in the Fall of 2007 which includes replacement of all windows, rewiring of the building for communication services, and renovation of the three floors of the facility.

Hall of Justice - Completed the move of all offices into the Robert P. Griffin Hall of Justice, which became fully operational in 2007.

Twin Lakes – Completed dormitory improvements at Twin Lakes Park including the replacement of all floors and the interior painting of the dormitory.

Governmental Center – Completed the elevator replacement project and cleaned exterior of building for the first time including recaulking all of the joints.

Nature Education Reserve Building - Appropriated \$100,000 as a Challenge Grant for Soil Conservation to help finalize the fundraising activities for construction of the new Nature Education Reserve Building, which began in 2007. This building will be owned by Grand Traverse County upon its completion.

## **PARKS AND RECREATION**

Enhanced Handicap Accessible Facilities at Twin Lakes Park - The Twin Lakes Waterfront Project received more than \$400,000 in grants in 2007 to support the development of enhanced handicap accessible facilities at Twin Lakes Park, which will include swimming facilities, fishing piers, and handicap accessible trails and a gazebo. This project would be the first waterfront accessible park for those with disabilities in Northern Michigan.

Maple Bay Master Plan - Initiated the public process for the Master Plan of Maple Bay, which will be completed in 2008.

Keystone Park - Evaluated alternatives, appropriated funds and awarded the bids for the new entryway for the new keystone sports complex.

Maple Bay – Acquired 5.17 acres from the Regional Conservancy Park at Maple Bay and developed a permanent entryway to the park.

## **EQUALIZATION**

GIS Mapping System - Rolled out the GIS mapping system to local units of governments in 2007 allowing for online access to the database, with the plan to open the database to the public in early 2008.

## **SOLID WASTE**

Solid Waste Planning Amendment Adoption - Completed the adoption of the Solid Waste Planning Amendment, which will allow for greater flexibility and choice in services provided to the citizens of Grand Traverse County.

Initiated discussions with Resource Recovery Council on possible reorganization of the Resource Recovery Department.

Recycling Education Program - Presented the recycling education program to over 1,400 students in 2007.

## **LAND BANK AUTHORITY**

Habitat for Humanity - Activated the Land Bank Authority Program in 2007 and purchased our first property in East Bay Township. Initiated an agreement with Habitat for Humanity to create two (2) affordable Habitat for Humanity houses on this property. This meets the strategic goal of the Land Bank Authority to increase affordable housing accessibility in Grand Traverse County.

## **STORM WATER CONTROL**

Uniform Storm Water Management Ordinance - The County Drain Commissioner worked to get thirteen (13) local municipalities to develop the Uniform Storm Water Management Ordinance and approve it. The County will administer and enforce the ordinance on behalf of the local municipalities.

## **VETERAN AFFAIRS CLINIC**

Expansion of VA Programs Offered – The County worked with the VA to see the expansion of programs offered to our veterans in Grand Traverse County in the areas of Psychology, Psychiatry, In-Home Nursing and Physical Therapy. Six (6) new VA positions were added to support these services.

Veteran Affairs Health Care Clinic - Continue to lobby the Veteran Affairs Department for a clinic in Traverse City that will serve Northwest Michigan. Process in this area was made, as the region now appears to be interested in expanding clinic services even further.

## **COMMISSION ON AGING**

Emergency Response Program Enhanced – Increased the Emergency Response Program available to seniors in our community from 20 to 140 units. These are emergency call buttons that can be used by seniors in a time of need.

File of Life Program - Implemented the File of Life Program in conjunction with the Traverse City Fire Department. Distributed over 5,000 kits to seniors to help provide easily accessible medical information for emergency service workers during an emergency.

Establishment of the Respite Care Program - Information on respite care options accessible through 911 Dispatch Center.

## **HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Full Accreditation Received - Once again, received full accreditation by the State of Michigan, meeting all of the requirements of the Public Health Code.

Expanded Dental Services – Expanded services at the Youth Health and Wellness Adolescent Clinic to include dental services on-site.

Successfully integrated the Emergency Management Program into the Health Department.

School Lock-Down Drills - Emergency Management conducted over 100 school lock-down drills in 2007.

## **TRIBAL AFFAIRS**

Tribal Application - Conducted extensive public hearings to evaluate the Tribal Application to place land in trust at Turtle Creek Casino property.

Initiated regular meetings with the Tribe to improve communication and mutual understanding.