

East Bay Charter Township

# 5

01 October 2008

Mr. Glen Lile,, Supervisor  
East Bay Township  
1965 Three Mile Road  
Traverse City, MI 49686

Dear Glen:

2008 has been a busy but exciting summer with the grand opening of the new Boardman River Nature Center. This regional Nature Center is located off Cass Road along the banks of the Boardman River at Sabin Dam and is also the new site of the Grand Traverse Conservation District's office. *Our mission is to inspire exploration, appreciation, and conservation of our natural world.*

Over 1200 people attended the Boardman River Nature Center's Grand Opening in August. One of the free activities was a kids fishing event. Several hundred kids took part in this event with many catching their first fish ever!!



We feel it is critical to reconnect children with the wonders of nature before they can become true stewards of our natural resources. Exploration of nature increases children's confidence, their comfort level, and even their coordination. Time outdoors means exploring and discovering a continual unfolding of mysteries. Seeing a deer in the woods, watching a dragonfly laying her eggs in a stream, and catching a fish are among the endless wonders of nature!

In harmony with connecting children with nature, the Conservation District continues to work tirelessly providing safe and environmentally sound access to these natural areas and restoring areas of erosion where humans have tread with a heavy foot.

This summer we have been busy working along the banks of the Boardman River. A few of



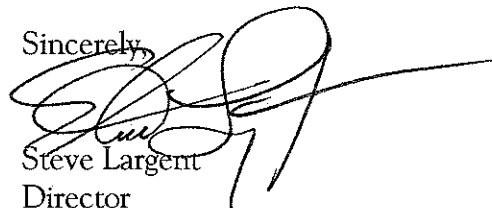
these activities include: working through a cooperative agreement with the Grand Traverse Band and the Natural Resources Conservation Service to restore five eroding stream crossings in the watershed; assisting the Paddle Club with a river clean-up event; participating in several school-related field trips to the Boardman including Dr. Dave Mahan's (AuSable Institute) Stream Ecology class concerning the restoration and protection of the Boardman River. By the end of October, we'll have restored nine erosion sites on Kids Creek and five erosion sites along the North Branch in Kalkaska County. And we continue to work with the local community to determine the fate of the Boardman River dams.

We work closely with other local units of government in the watershed including the Kalkaska Conservation District. Though Conservation Districts are local units of state government, they are not funded by state dollars alone. Each Conservation District receives only \$9,500 per year from the state. In fact, District's must compete for funds from other public and private sources, charge for some services, and establish partnerships with local entities and individuals to achieve mutual goals and to provide needed services.

This is why East Bay Township's support is so critical to help achieve our goals for restoring and protecting the Boardman River. To that end, enclosed is an invoice for \$1,465 the Township's annual support for this effort.

I look forward to seeing you when I give my annual update on October 13<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your support and continued commitment to the Boardman River. If you have any questions please call me at 941-0960.

Sincerely,



Steve Largent  
Director  
Land Management Services

cc: Susanne Courtade, Clerk w/invoice

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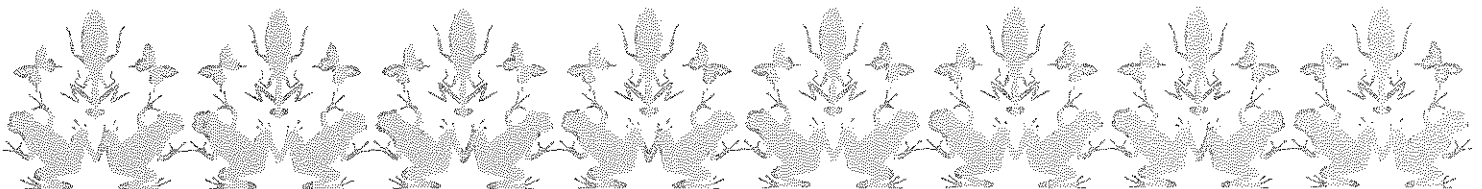
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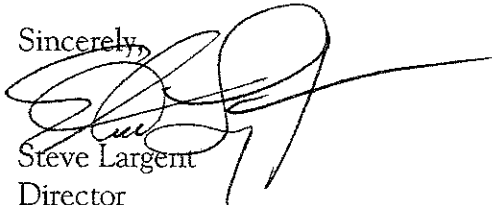
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