

Huron River Planning
January 28, 2009 Public Meeting
Breakout Session: River-Wide Issues

What about the Vision and Scenarios do you like?

- The process is public. It gives a chance for all to be heard
- The City should manage the weeds in all of the impoundments and South and Furstenburg Ponds.
- The city should purchase a harvester

What Concerns You? How might these concerns be met?

- Water Quality should be a higher priority than Recreation
- There is not enough information to make informed decisions. We must know for certain the feasibility of various scenarios, such as placing the rowers at Barton, before making a decision about removing the dam
- The vision should address the possibility of upstream contamination. There is a firing range at Island Lake State Park that has high lead in the soil next to the river
- Better access to Barton Pond for family-based recreation is needed
- The difficulty of getting the railroads to agree to crossings is a big challenge
- Concerned about safety of swimmers if swimming beach was developed. Water quality is a problem, as is managing the area for multiple uses (swimmers, boaters fisherman) that could conflict and lead to injury
- What quantifiable water quality benefit will be gained if Argo dam is removed, both in the immediate area of the existing pond and throughout the entire stretch?
- If Argo dam is removed, how fast will the resulting flow be? Safe enough for families to wade?
- Removing Argo dam will encourage graffiti and unsafe areas along the river
- It seems that the resulting water quality if Argo dam is removed will be the same as the areas upstream, such as near Delhi Bridge. Why do we need more areas like this when the pond serves as a major recreation spot for the public?
- Removing Argo dam may have a positive impact on development of the border to border trail in this area, by making the pedestrian bath easier to construct if the river level drops
- The Hyrdo study that was done only looked at the cost of adding hydro as it related to coal-fired plants. It did not compare the costs to other renewable sources such as solar or wind power generation. All comparisons should be made
- The City should consider partnering with Loch Alpine on purchasing a harvester for weed management

- If the city dredges, contaminants such as arsenic may be present in the sediment, causing higher costs and disposal problems

What other ideas/comments do you have?

- Did the committee look at selling parkland for commercial development?
- Commercial development will only degrade water quality; the primer should strike any statements that encourage commercial development, as it cannot co-exist with the goal of high water quality

Huron River Planning
January 28, 2009 Public Meeting
Breakout Session: Dam Repaired (Scenario A)

What about THIS Vision and Scenario do you like?

- Process and visioning by community – it's cost effective
- Less uncertainty – fewer things lead to simpler and non-disruptive change
- Solves immediate issue – can explore other issues/visions later
- Location/shorter commute for rowing teams
- There is known certainty for rowers if current activities at Bandemeer are retained
- Minimized disruption to river system. This allows investment in our existing system
- Avoids any unforeseen problems
- Diverse uses are good

What Concerns You? How might these concerns be met?

- Weed removal/purchasing a harvester. Actual cost info is needed. Where will money come from?
- Need to identify up front costs and recurring costs for all scenarios in a uniform way
- What are the lease obligations with the rowing clubs?
- We need to recognize tradeoff between the natural river system and development/overuse (what is the cost to maintain this newly created land if Argo is removed?)

Other issues/ideas/considerations?

- Improve the water quality in Argo (geese, other non-point sources)
- Is there any way to directly influence upstream uses (land purchase?)
- Should look at whitewater upstream (Delhi?)
- Use city "Green money" to restart hydro at Argo
- Look at raising dam level vs. dredging sediment
- Location of sediment/shift downstream?
- Personal money investment in rowing at risk
- Can you extend dam such that you block off the millrace?
- If so, what happens to canoer's portage?
- What are the ecological/river health issues if the dam is removed?
- Has Argo ever been dredged?
- What lessons can we learn from the Dexter dam removal? What went right/wrong?

Huron River Planning
January 28, 2009 Public Meeting
Breakout Session: Dam Removed (Scenario B)

What about THIS Vision and Scenario do you like?

- Looking at the river from a holistic viewpoint is good
- Enables border to border trail connection
- Restores natural flow of river
- Public Access/Trails increased
- Better fishery (coldwater)
- Ability to canoe without portage
- Quieter/Passive recreation opportunities

What Concerns You? How might these concerns be met?

- Process. Should the focus be on just weed control or a broader set of issues?
- Reduction in access due to shift in rowing use
- Contamination of sediments
- Continuity of rowing as a sport – debt, coaches, kids' careers
- Barton Village response
- Funding for improvements?
- Invasives
- Unknowns
- Opportunities lost = well-tuned machine
- Lost power opportunity
- Conflicts among uses may become exacerbated
- Safety

Other issues/ideas/considerations

- Look at whitewater in other locations
- Argo is the most efficient location
- What does "natural" mean? Is this even possible here?
- Amount of overall space at Barton is a concern
- Lots of vegetation management throughout the river
- Noise issues
- Source of use?
- Plan needs a timeline
- What will be usage of whitewater facility?
- Relocation of dam would need to be concurrent with funding for rowing
- Need 2 rowing venues: Barton as add'l option. Geddes has issues with livery Superior has constraint with bridges
- Limit options by cutting renewable option at Argo

Huron River Planning
January 28, 2009 Public Meeting
Breakout Session: Dam Hybrid (Scenario C)

What about THIS Vision and Scenario do you like?

- Cost for Phase 1 not much more than toe drain repair
- Provides flat water and whitewater in same location. This would be a unique national model
- Ann Arbor is already listed as one of Michigan's "Cool Cities". This gives one more aspect of cool!
- It makes recreation even better
- Like the whitewater course
- Glad to see a hybrid option

What Concerns You? How might these concerns be met?

- Eliminating hydropower forever
- Safety in swimming: water quality, space
- Conflict with recreation users
- Cost
- Liability of dam risk
- Where will funding come from?
- Concern about the walking trails – will they be kept or enhanced?
- Parking and access
- Maintain level of pond
- Allen Creek impact of water quality

Other issues/ideas/considerations

- Put in place a standing group for use management
- River millage
- More data needed on parking, access, potential users, months of year the whitewater course will be used, water flow
- Raise Argo pond
- What is the whitewater demand?
- What is the liability risk for whitewater and dams?
- Need more data
- Need one river path with pond level remaining the same
- What is the plan for low flow situations?