

Eustice updates on fishing pier for river's east side

By Kortny Hahn

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CHEBOYGAN — On March 9 Cheboygan City Manager Tom Eustice updated the council members on the progress being made to install a fishing pier on the Cheboygan River's east bank, near the Children's Trail.

"We got grant funding for the fishing pier project from the Great Lakes Fisheries Trust and DNR Land Trust," said Eustice.

Sanders is one of the owners of the landscape architecture firm Sanders and Czapski Associates in the Upper Peninsula.

There are still some soil borings that will need to be done in and around the property on the east bank of the Cheboygan River, adjacent to the Children's Trail.

"We should be able to send out bids probably in mid-July is what he's telling me," said Eustice. "Like everything else, it's a long process, but that project likely can start in the fall, depending on how the bid process goes and how they come back."

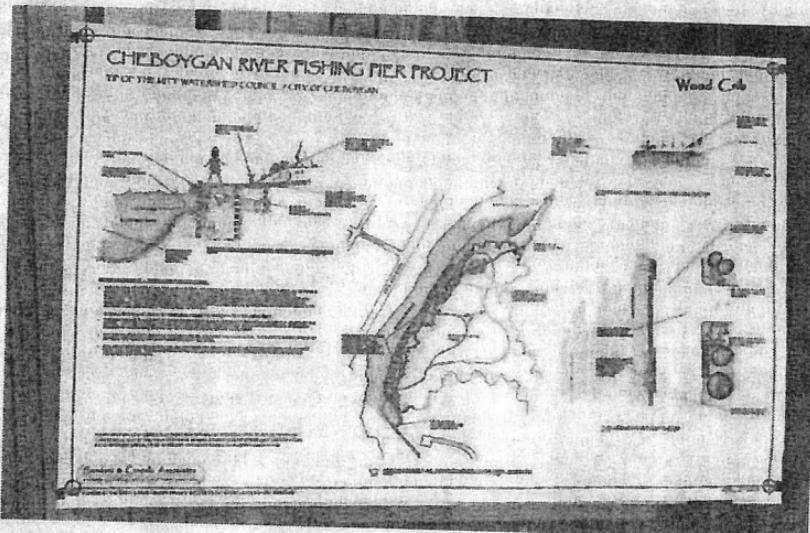
One of the main concerns regarding the bids for the construction of the fishing pier is the cost of the materials needed to build it. The cost for materials — including the

lumber that will be needed to construct part of the pier — has increased dramatically over the last several years, so this may have some sort of a negative impact on the bid totals the city receives.

"We're kind of concerned," said Eustice. "Bill and I are kind of concerned as to what kind of bids we're going to get back at this point."

Eustice said he would have the renditions of what the project is going to look like and when the soil borings are done, all the information will be presented to the council members at a future meeting. This will

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Drawings of the proposed Cheboygan River Fishing Pier Project were presented to the city council meeting last year. The pier would go on the eastern banks of the Cheboygan River, off the Children's Trail in Major City Park. [TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO BY KORTNY HAHN]

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help the council members get a better feel for how the project is going to look.

The City of Cheboygan has received a \$308,000 grant from the Great Lakes Fisheries Trust fund and the city also has an application in to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Land Trust Fund for an additional \$300,000 to build the proposed fishing pier on the east side of the river, near Major City Park, across from Court Street, behind Great Lakes Tissue, along the bank. This will tie into Major City Park and the walkways will tie into the Children's Trail.

The first phase of construction will include two fishing piers and a boardwalk.

There will also be some landscaping done in that area, and some nice trees and perennial, flowering

bushes included in the project, to make everything look really nice on that side of the river. Seedums Garden Club will be working with the city on this portion of the project.

This will give people something to look at as they drive into the city, passing the Great Lakes Tissue Factory, and potentially make people want to investigate the east side of the Cheboygan River.

A variety of partners are involved in the project, including Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, Cheboygan Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau, Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division, Michigan Department of Natural Resources Parks and Recreation Division, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and a representative from the Lake Huron Advisory Committee.