

## **Media Fact Sheet**

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway was created in 1989 after years of study and hundreds of public meetings. The legislative compromise that created the project also created the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board as an independent state agency to administer the unique and innovative aesthetic protection regulations. The Riverway Board is charged with protection of the scenic beauty and natural character of the Riverway through administration of a program to control land use and development. The board issues permits for construction, timber harvesting, prairie restoration efforts, utility facilities, nonmetallic mining, etc. The Department of Natural Resources must obtain permits from the board for activities on state owned lands just as a private landowner must do for certain activities. The regulations are detailed in Chapter 30.40 to 30.49, Stats., and Wisconsin Administrative Code's Chapters NR 37 and RB 1 & 2.

The Riverway Board is a state agency (Agency 360) and receives administrative support from the Department of Tourism and Department of Administration and technical services from Department of Natural Resources, as requested. The board is funded through SEG dollars (conservation fund) and has a budget of \$208,600 for FY 14. The board is comprised of 9 members; six of whom come from the counties along the Riverway and 3 members who represent recreational users and reside outside the Riverway area. Members receive a per diem of \$25 per meeting and are compensated for mileage.

The Riverway begins below the last dam on the Wisconsin River at Prairie du Sac and follows the final 92 miles of the river to the confluence with the Mississippi River near Prairie du Chien. The project encompasses nearly 80,000 acres of public and private lands. The Department of Natural Resources manages the 45,000+ acres of state lands within the boundary and administers a land acquisition program whereby lands are purchased from willing sellers only. Land acquisition is funded by the Stewardship Fund. There are more than 20 State Natural Areas in the Riverway and numerous rare plants and animals, both terrestrial and aquatic. The Riverway is a popular destination for outdoor enthusiasts from hunters and anglers to canoeists and kayakers to hikers and wildlife observers. Sandbar camping in the summer is one of the most popular activities in the Riverway.

## Nonmetallic mining permit applications

The Riverway Board first considered the nonmetallic mining permit applications submitted by the Pattison Sand Company and four landowners from the Town of Bridgeport, Crawford County, in October of 2012. The board tabled action on the permit requests at that meeting and has been engaged in information gathering since that time. Additional field inspections have been conducted, viewshed analyses have been received, and consultations with legal counsel have transpired. While other nonmetallic mining permits have been issued by board in the past, the permits were for small operations and nothing on the scale of the large industrial sand mine for the purpose of frac sand extraction as proposed by the Pattison Sand Company.

The landowners involved are Rod and Sandy Marfilus, Lee and Joan Pulda, Earl and Amber Pulda, and Alan and Kathy Flansburgh. Marfilus, Pulda and Pulda have obtained permits from the Town of Bridgeport and DNR. Flansburgh has not applied for the Town or DNR permits but has requested the Riverway Board issue a permit in anticipation of pursuing the other permits in the future.

For Marfilus/Pulda/Pulda, the mine site is 305 acres of which 53 acres are within the Riverway boundary. Of the acreage within the boundary, 41 acres are proposed to be mined or reclaimed.

For the Flansburgh property, the total acreage is 222 with 153 to be mined or reclaimed. 80 acres would be located within the boundary with 14 acres slated for mining and 14 acres slated for reclamation.

### Contact information:

Mark Cupp, Executive Director  
Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board  
608-739-3188 or 1-800-221-3792 (office)  
608-739-2179 (cell)  
mark.cupp@wisconsin.gov  
www.lwr.state.wi.us

Beth Regan  
Pattison Sand Company  
563-964-2860  
BRegan@pattisonsand.com