

# LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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## MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 9, 2007, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, August 9, 2007, at Wyalusing State Park to conduct a regular monthly business meeting. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Bill Lundberg. All members were present with the exceptions of Melody Moore and Greg Greenheck. Lundberg thanked Brian Hefty, Wyalusing State Park Superintendent, for hosting the meeting. Hefty welcomed the board to the park. Acknowledgment that the meeting was properly noticed was provided by Mark E. Cupp, Executive Director. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Fred Madison, seconded by Nick Nice. **MOTION CARRIED.** The minutes of the July 12, 2007, meeting then were considered. Cupp apologized that the minutes were incomplete in the packets and the hard copy mailing. He noted the electronic mailing was accurate. Cupp said he had a copy of the complete minutes for those who wished to see the document. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ron Leys, seconded by Madison. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chairman Lundberg. An update on the proposed removal of the Balmoral Dam in the Town of Eagle, Richland County, was discussed. Cupp said he attended a meeting of the Muscodia village board where Department of Natural Resources (DNR) officials described the process. The village board previously voted to abandon the dam initiating a process that requires an environmental analysis and structural assessment. Cupp said it will be months, and more likely will be years, before final decisions on removal or repair are made. Correspondence then was reviewed. A complaint regarding low water levels on the Wisconsin River and Cupp's response was discussed. Cupp said, frequently, he receives comments about low river levels and attempts to explain to people that the lack of precipitation and drought conditions in the north and central parts of the state are reflected in below normal flows on the lower Wisconsin River. A query regarding helicopters operating in the Riverway also was discussed. Cupp said DNR Conservation Warden had responded to the question. Youngquist noted there are regulations on helicopter use from both the Federal Aviation Administration and DNR. Steve Colden, DNR Riverway Manager, said the DNR rules are found Chapter NR 45, Wisconsin Administrative Code. Cupp said the other low flying helicopter seen earlier in the year was in use for deer counting purposes by the department.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chairman Dorscheid. The request of Eileen Zadrazil for a permit to harvest timber in the Town of Pulaski, Iowa County, was considered. Dorscheid noted the consultant is Andrew Nelson of Nelson Hardwoods. Cupp said he conducted a field inspection on August 8, 2007. Mrs. Zadrazil's son and grandson were present for the field inspection as were the consultant, Andrew Nelson, and Brad Hutnik, DNR Riverway Forester. Portions of the parcel are visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. The harvest area will include the Bluff, Riverview and Resource Management Zones. Plans call for the selective harvest of merchantable hardwoods, mainly, oak species. An oak wilt pocket was delineated by Hutnik and will be cut. An existing logging road will be utilized and one new logging road will be constructed. The new logging road will not be visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. Cupp said Hutnik determined that the basal area requirements for the Bluff Zone and Riverview Zone will be met. The trees slated for harvest have been marked. The harvest will occur during the times when the leaves are off the deciduous trees and the ground is frozen or dry.

**Zadrazil continued:**

A motion to approve issuance of a permit with standard permit conditions was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Leys. Conditions of the permit include:

- The harvest shall comply with the basal area limits for the residual stand in the Bluff Zone and Riverview Zone, as detailed in Chapter NR 37, Wisconsin Administrative Code;
- In the Bluff Zone and Riverview Zone, all trees selected for harvest shall be appropriately marked and reviewed by the LWSRB for compliance with the applicable performance standards prior to initiation of the harvest;
- In the Bluff Zone and Riverview Zone, the harvest shall be limited to the times when the ground is frozen or dry and the leaves are off the deciduous trees;
- The LWSRB shall review the location and design of all new logging roads, if any, in the Bluff Zone and Riverview Zone;
- The new logging roads, if any, shall comply with the applicable performance standards regarding grade and erosion control and shall be re-seeded upon completion of the harvest;
- The LWSRB shall review the location and design of all small regeneration cuts, if any, in the Riverview Zone to assure compliance with the applicable performance standards;
- If necessary, the various zones shall be delineated prior to initiation of the harvest;
- The landowner or his/her agent shall notify the LWSRB within 10 working days upon completion of the harvest and, if necessary, the LWSRB shall conduct a post-harvest field inspection; and,
- The LWSRB shall review modification of the plans, as submitted, for compliance with the applicable performance standards.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

The Crystal/Fish/Mud Lake District pumping project in the Town of Roxbury, Dane County, was discussed. Cupp noted Dane County was processing the permit request of the lake district. Steve Colden, DNR Riverway Manager, said the land use agreement between the department and the Lake District was being finalized and the other DNR permits were being processed. Madison asked if the pilot project was expected to be implemented this fall. Colden answered in the affirmative.

The Budget Committee report was presented by Chairman Nice who reviewed the final report for FY 07. Nice noted there was sound fiscal management by staff. Nice then reviewed the status of the FY 08 budget. Cupp said the LWSRB is using the same allotments as last year due to the state budget impasse in the Legislature. Cupp reported that the additional office space will be available for the LWSRB on September 1<sup>st</sup>. The conference room will be moved into the new space.

There was no report from the Personnel Committee report.

The Executive Director's report was given by Cupp who reviewed the materials in the board members' packets. Cupp thanked Timm Zumm for his work in organizing the canoe trip in conjunction with the Spring Green sesquicentennial celebration. He thanked Don Greenwood, Ritchie Brown and others for representing the board at the ceremony commemorating the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Wisconsin Heights. Cupp said volunteers from Cultural Landscape Legacies and Friends of the Lower Wisconsin had worked hard to prepare the Twin Lizard Mound Group for a tour by 50 teachers slated for August 11<sup>th</sup>.

Under board members' business, Leys reported on the proposed expansion of a hog operation in Crawford County to 2900 sows. The property is located in the Town of Wauzeka, Crawford County, a short distance from the Wisconsin River. He noted the Vernon County Board of Supervisors narrowly defeated a motion to enact a moratorium on large scale livestock operations. He said the county has limited power to regulate large operations unless there is a threat to public health. Leys expressed concern about a possible manure spill adversely impacting the Wisconsin River and expressed concern about odors emanating from the operation.

The DNR report was presented by Colden who said there were two new acquisitions in the Riverway. A 104 acre parcel was purchased in the Town of Muscoda, Grant County, and a 40 acre parcel was purchased in the Town of Spring Green, Sauk County. Colden said a death investigation by Dane County had determined the body found at the Black Hawk Unit was a person who had committed suicide. Hutnik reported he had attended a meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers regarding bottomlands management. He said the focus was on the Mississippi River bottoms but that there are interesting parallels with the Riverway. Hutnik noted the harvest on state owned lands along CTH T in the Town of Watterstown, Grant County, was underway.

During the public comment session, Jerry Stram of the Town of Wauzeka noted there were many dead elm trees in the woods. He said elm seems to be disappearing from the landscape. Hutnik said it is surprising to note that 10% of the growing stock in the bottoms in American Elm. He said there are attempts to grow a Dutch elm disease resistant strain and then establish these trees at various locations to enhance the genetic stock in the area. Dorscheid asked Hefty about firewood restrictions due to the threat of an emerald ash borer infestation. Hefty said firewood must come from within 50 miles of the park. He said there has been good compliance with the restriction and noted a number of private firewood vendors are in the neighborhood. Leys suggested the DNR place EAB warning signs with information on the restriction at boat landings. Colden said there are signs at DNR landings and said he would contact local units of government who manage the other landings.

A motion to adjourn until September 13<sup>th</sup> when the meeting will be held at the Spring Green Public Library was made by Madison, seconded by Nice. **MOTION CARRIED.**

END

For further information, corrections, additions or deletions to the minutes, contact Mark Cupp, Executive Director, at (608) 739-3188 or 1-800-221-3792.

Minutes submitted by:

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Mark E. Cupp, Executive Director  
Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board