

LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 11, 2007, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, October 11, 2007, at the Wauzeka village hall 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 Ritchie Brown and Greg Greenheck. Acknowledgment that the meeting was properly noticed was provided by Mark E. Cupp, Executive Director. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Jerry Dorscheid, seconded by Nick Nice. **MOTION CARRIED.** The minutes of the September 13, 2007, meeting were considered. A motion to approve was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Melody Moore. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chairman Lundberg who reviewed correspondence. Lundberg noted Cupp had received a letter from Riverway landowner Kevin Isenring. Lundberg said the letter from Mr. Isenring and Cupp's response were in the meeting packets.

The Balmoral Dam in the Town of Eagle, Richland County, was discussed. Don Greenwood said Muscodia officials had initiated compliance with the drawdown of the Mill Pond as ordered by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) after the August floods. Greenwood said efforts are being made to explore restoration of wetlands above the dam. Ron Leys asked who owns the land above the dam. Greenwood said the Village of Muscodia only owns the dam and added that land ownership of lands exposed by the drawdown of the Mill Pond is uncertain. Leys asked if the dam removal will be permanent. Greenwood said it is highly likely that the dam removal will be permanent but added that Muscodia continues to go through the abandonment process.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chairman Dorscheid. The requests of Fletcher Flansburgh on behalf of the DNR for extensions to three previously issued management permits were considered. Cupp explained the activities involve cutting of woody vegetation to enhance or restore native plant communities at three sites that are not visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. The sites were located in the Town of Eagle, Richland County; Town of Richwood, Richland County; and, Town of Boscobel, Grant County. Cupp said the activity in the Town of Eagle is part of a prairie restoration effort at the former Russo property. He said the activity at the Town of Richwood site also involves prairie restoration efforts at the former Stone and Dremsa farms. In the Town of Boscobel, Cupp said the activity is restoration of the native plant community in a marsh west of the airport. A motion to approve extensions for periods of two years for each permit was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Greenwood. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cupp reported Matt Zine, DNR State Natural Areas (SNA) Manager, informed him of activities that will occur at the Ferry Bluff SNA in the Town of Prairie du Sac, Sauk County. Cutting of woody vegetation as part of continued efforts to restore and enhance the existing prairie and oak savanna ecosystems will take place in the coming weeks.

Cupp also reported he had conducted a field inspection of the River Road bridge in the Town of Arena, Iowa County, which is slated for replacement. Cupp noted the bridge is on the road to the Arena boat landing and is not visible from the river during leaf-on conditions. The bridge traverses a slough. Cupp said he sent a letter to the consultant requesting an on-site meeting to discuss vegetative removal and also encouraging aesthetic treatments for the bridge. Correspondence was reviewed.

The Crystal/Fish/Mud lake district pumping project was discussed. Steve Colden, DNR Riverway Manager, said the department determined that work to create the test cell (seepage pond) had been initiated without a signed land use agreement between the lake district and the DNR. A stop work order was issued and public meeting was required. The meeting was held on October 10th. The DNR will review comments and consider execution of a land use agreement. Greenwood asked if the excavation involved the test cell only. Colden responded in the affirmative. Greenwood asked if the pumping will still cease by November 1st if it was started yet this fall. Colden said it is possible that the time would be extended but no decision has been made as of yet. Leys asked if Mead & Hunt was still the consultant. Colden responded in the affirmative.

Cupp reported on a field inspection conducted with Colden and a representative from the Wisconsin & Southern Railroad. The recent floods had resulted in the need for maintenance and repair activities at two small railroad bridges and culverts in the Town of Wauzeka, Crawford County. Cupp said neither site is visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. He said the work done within the railroad right-of-way would be exempted from the permit process. Additional work to remove woody vegetation and establish wetland scrapes for wildlife habitat purposes may require a permit. Colden said the creation of the scrapes for waterfowl would occur on adjacent DNR managed lands and a land use agreement would be required. The matter is under review.

Permits issued by the Executive Director were reviewed. Cupp said he had issued a general permit to Jacobus Pretorius for modification of an existing structure in the Town of Spring Green, Sauk County. He said plans call for the addition of two rooms to a small home on Long Lake east of Lone Rock. The site is not visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. Cupp said he had issued a general permit to Mark and Peggy Timmerman for construction of a garage in the Town of Buena Vista, Richland County. The site is located north of the intersection of STH 60 and CTH TB west of Gotham. Cupp said the site is not visible from the river and noted the height of the structure will not result in it being visible from the river.

The Budget & Office Committee report was presented by Chairman Nice who reviewed the status of the FY 08 budget. Cupp noted the board continues to operate under the FY 07 allotment until the state budget impasse is resolved. Cupp added that furnishing of the office expansion area is on hold until the new biennial budget is passed. Lundberg noted the new space looks good.

There was no report from the Personnel Committee.

The Executive Director's report was given by Cupp who reviewed the materials in the board members' packets. No items were discussed under board members' business.

The DNR report was presented by Steve Colden, DNR Riverway Manager, who said 40 acres had been purchased in the Town of Troy, Sauk County. Colden said the water sample analyses had been completed and the results were encouraging. There was one "bad" sample near Arena taken after a heavy rain event. There were no problems with fecal contamination found. Colden said the Riverway staff is done for the season.

During the public comment session, David Gjestson, Co-Chair of the Friends of the Lower Wisconsin (FLOW) said he had attended a legislative hearing on a bill to restore appointment of the DNR Secretary to the Natural Resources Board rather than the Governor. He testified in favor of the legislation. Gjestson noted that much of the controversy that swirled around the Riverway Board during the formative years has dwindled. He complimented Executive Director Cupp for his leadership and commitment to the project. Gjestson also congratulated the board for its continued exemplary performance. Gjestson noted that the FLOW membership has grown to an e-mail distribution list of over 250 members.

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Cupp noted former LWSRB member Glen Beneker was in attendance. He also acknowledged Riverway landowner Peter Pomerening, who had spent time with Cupp earlier in the day to show him a mound group on his property.

A motion to adjourn until November 8th when the meeting will be held in Avoca was made by Moore, seconded by Dorscheid. **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:

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