

LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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MINUTES OF THE APRIL 10, 2008, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, April 10, 2008, at the public library in Sauk City to conduct a regular monthly business meeting. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chair William Lundberg. All members were present with the exceptions of Jerry Dorscheid and Ritchie Brown. 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.** A motion to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2008, meeting was made by Don Greenwood, seconded by Melody Moore. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Lundberg. Steve Colden, DNR Riverway Manager, was presented with a plaque for his years of service to the Riverway and citizens of Wisconsin. Lundberg and Cupp thanked Colden for his contributions to the Riverway project.

Jean Unmuth, DNR Water Resources Specialist, briefed the board on the recent discovery of zebra mussels in Lake Wisconsin. Unmuth reviewed the life cycle of the invasive mussel and discussed the potential adverse impacts on native mussel populations. She said a citizen monitoring project is in place. An education and information campaign will be important to minimize the spread of the zebra mussel.

Under correspondence, Lundberg noted Cupp had sent a memorandum to Colden regarding reprinting of the Riverway Visitor. Cupp said he had suggested changes to the mileage chart and the chart showing amenities at access sites. Cupp suggested that there be expanded verbiage about proper waste disposal. Cupp then showed the board a human waste disposal product from a California company. He said a sales representative had contacted him after Canoecopia. The human waste can be wrapped in an airtight bag that contains enzymes to break down the waste. The bag then may be thrown away in the regular trash. Cupp said he had encouraged the salesperson to contact area canoe liveries to see if the liveries may want to offer the product to their customers as an alternative to burial of human waste on sand bars.

Lundberg said the Town of Prairie du Sac, Village of Prairie du Sac and Village of Sauk City had each passed a resolution in support of conversion of the rail corridor from Mazomanie to Devil's Lake as a recreational trail. Ron Leys suggested the LWSRB also consider a resolution of support. The matter will be placed on the May meeting agenda.

Lundberg said Cupp had responded to a letter from State Representative Sheryl Albers regarding private property adjoining the Black Hawk Unit in the Town of Mazomanie, Dane County. The letter and response were distributed to the board prior to the meeting. Lundberg asked if board members had any comments. Madison said it was a good response to the issues raised by Representative Albers.

Lundberg noted three board members will have their terms expire on May 1st. He said Governor Jim Doyle had re-appointed him to the board and said his confirmation hearing before the Senate Environmental Resources Committee was held on April 9th. Lundberg said State Senator Dale Schultz serves on the committee and had raised questions regarding human waste disposal, recreational use, water quality, forestry and biofuels. Cupp commended Lundberg and his responses to the questions raised by Senator Schultz and others during the confirmation hearing. Cupp noted that the terms of Greenwood and Leys also will expire on May 1st. As county representatives, the Sauk County and Crawford County boards will submit a minimum of two names to the Governor for his consideration.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Acting Chairman Leys who said he, Lundberg, Cupp and Brad Hutnik, DNR Riverway Forester, had met with Kevin Isenring to review parcels owned by Isenring and his mother, Diana Isenring. The parcels are adjacent to lands within the Black Hawk Unit, in the Town of Mazomanie, Dane County. Leys said the group walked the property, despite the inclement weather, to discuss access to firewood and potential trail development. Leys said options to trail development to access the firewood were discussed, including a land swap or a land use agreement with DNR. He said no commitments on the board's behalf were made to any of the alternatives.

A pilot project undertaken by the Crystal/Fish/Mud Lake District was discussed. Correspondence from Tim Astfalk, an engineer with Mead & Hunt, was reviewed. Colden said the land use agreement with DNR had been approved. Representatives of the Lake District are to notify him and Cupp when pumping begins. If the infiltration is successful, a land swap may be considered so that the Lake District would actually own the property where the discharge area is located. Madison expressed his opinion that the water table at the site is not only influenced by Wisconsin River water levels but may be influenced by other factors. He encouraged adequate monitoring of ground water to better understand influences on the water table and infiltration opportunities.

Cupp reported no permits had been issued by him since the last meeting.

The Budget Committee report was presented by Chairman Nice who reviewed the status of the FY 08 budget. Cupp noted tracking of projected expenditures had been initiated.

There was no report from the Personnel Committee.

The Executive Director's report was presented by Cupp who reviewed the materials in the board members' packets. He noted Governor Doyle had re-appointed him to the Land & Water Conservation Board, of which he currently serves as Chair. Cupp said his confirmation hearing also was held on April 9th.

Under board members business, Leys said he recently read an article about dwindling outdoor use and expressed concern that the constituency of outdoor recreational users is vanishing. He noted it could result in less support for the Riverway project in the future. Nice said he had noticed the number of hunters in the Boscobel area, particularly, waterfowl hunters, had decreased in recent years.

Leys also requested that the May meeting include discussion of wind turbines. He said there is interest in wind generation around the region and suggested local units of government should adopt ordinances to regulate wind turbines, similar to regulations for cell towers. Leys said there is language that requires a two-mile setback from a National Wildlife Refuge and suggested the board may wish to consider additional regulation to protect the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway.

Madison reported that a meeting held in Seneca to discuss farming in karst areas was well attended. He said the carbonate bedrock results in fissures and sink holes that are a conduit for pollution which can have dramatic impacts on groundwater quality. Madison said the amount of soil over the bedrock is important. He noted the karst region of eastern Wisconsin is somewhat different than the karst area of the southwestern Wisconsin.

The DNR report was presented by Colden who said there were no new acquisitions since the March meeting. He said discussions with the Department of Transportation continue regarding motor boat access at the USH 14 landing during construction of the new bridge. He said an event recognizing Paul Brandt's gift to the Riverway will be held on May 20th. Colden said his last day on the job will be May 9th. John DiFulvio,

DNR Parks and Recreation Specialist, will take over some of his responsibilities until a successor is named. Hutnik reported the annual meeting of the Upper Mississippi Forestry Partnership will be held in the Riverway on August 13-14th. He said the focus will be on bottomland forestry management.

There were no comments from the public.

A motion to adjourn until May 8th when the meeting will be held in Boscobel was made by Greenwood, seconded by Madison. **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