

LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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MINUTES OF THE JULY 10, 2008, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, July 10, 2008, at the Buena Vista Town Hall in Gotham, 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. Acknowledgment that the meeting was properly noticed was provided by Mark E. Cupp, Executive Director. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Don Greenwood, seconded by Fred Madison. **MOTION CARRIED.** The minutes of the June 12, 2008, meeting then were considered. A motion to approve was made by Ron Leys, seconded by Melody Moore. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chairman Lundberg. Correspondence was reviewed. Lundberg said Governor Doyle had sent a letter to all state agencies regarding the biennial budget process noting it will be a difficult budget cycle again this biennium. Lundberg said a thank you letter had been received from the Milwaukee River Working Group regarding Cupp's recent presentation. Lundberg reviewed a letter sent by Cupp to a wireless communications consultant regarding a proposed cell tower in the Town of Wyalusing, Grant County. Cupp thanked Brad Hutnik, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Riverway Forester for the technical assistance provided during the field inspection. Cupp reported the voyageur canoe trips were going well. Lundberg noted the canoe outings are a valuable public relations tool. Dorscheid said the trips help provide folks with an appreciation of the Riverway and said more county board supervisors should take advantage of the opportunity.

Committee appointments for the 2008 – 2009 fiscal year were considered. Lundberg said the Executive Committee had not heard from anyone wishing to change committees so the appointments would remain the same. A motion to accept the proposed committee structure (see below) was made by Jerry Dorscheid, seconded by Ritchie Brown. **MOTION CARRIED.**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:	Bill Lundberg (Chair) Melody Moore (Vice-Chair) Nick Nice (Secretary)
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:	Gerald Dorscheid (Chair) Ritchie Brown Ron Leys
PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:	Melody Moore (Chair) Don Greenwood Ritchie Brown
BUDGET & OFFICE COMMITTEE:	Nick Nice (Chair) Greg Greenheck Fred Madison
FOREST HEALTH AD HOC CMTE:	Bill Lundberg (Chair) Ritchie Brown Gerald Dorscheid Ron Leys

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chairman Dorscheid.

Brad Hutnik, DNR Riverway Forester, discussed permit applications for proposed timber harvests on state owned lands in the Riverway and extension requests for permits previously issued. Hutnik gave a power point presentation and described the harvest plans for the following parcels:

- Town of Mazomanie, Dane County – Cedar Hills;
- Town of Mazomanie, Dane County – Black Hawk Pine;
- Town of Muscoda, Grant County – String of Pearls;
- Town of Richwood, Richland County – Garner Lake Oak;
- Town of Spring Green, Sauk County – Monument Oak Bottoms;
- Town of Spring Green, Sauk County – Long Island East;
- Town of Pulaski, Iowa County – Lemanski Bottoms (extension);
- Town of Pulaski, Iowa County – Lemanski Pines (extension);
- Town of Troy, Sauk County – STH 60 Bottoms (extension);
- Town of Arena, Iowa County – Helena Bottoms (extension); and,
- Town of Buena Vista, Richland County – Gotham Sands Pine (extension)

Following the power point presentation, the following comments were heard. Lundberg asked about impacts of flooding on bottomland forests. Hutnik said the recent high flows may have washed some of the silver maple seeds out of the bottoms. He noted there isn't much regeneration of silver maple, cottonwood, river birch, and willow. Hutnik said the impacts on fauna, especially birdlife, should be considered and techniques to replicate a natural flood regime should be considered. John Nielsen, DNR Forestry Supervisor, said larger regeneration cuts may be needed to favor silver maple, river birch and cottonwood. Lundberg asked about slash movement resulting from flooding. Hutnik said there certainly is some movement of woody debris but ecologists he has spoken with feel the movement of the slash is part of the natural cycle and not a cause for great concern.

A motion was made by Greenwood, seconded by Moore, to approve issuance of permits with the standard conditions for the proposed harvests for which permits had not been previously issued. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve two year extensions for the other five harvest sites was made by Greenwood, seconded by Brown. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The request of Hannah Spaul for an extension to the management permit for the Nature Conservancy in the Town of Spring Green, Sauk County, was discussed. Dorscheid said the original field inspection was conducted by Mark Cupp, LWSRB Executive Director, on March 5, 1993. Field inspection revealed the bluff was slightly visible from the river from a distance of 3-4 miles. Field inspection revealed the management plan was consistent with the scenic beauty and natural value protection and preservation objectives for the Riverway and did not create a new visual intrusion of an existing structure. Department of Natural Resources approval of the plan was received. Since that time, several other field inspections have been conducted by Cupp, LWRB members, DNR officials and TNC personnel. Additional work is planned for red cedar and black locust removal in sections 35 and 36. In addition, work is now planned for an area in section 31 that was recently acquired by TNC.

Dorscheid made a motion, seconded by, to approve issuance of a two-year extension to the management permit with the following conditions:

- The activity shall not result in an existing structure becoming visible from the river;
- The LWSRB shall approve any modifications to the plans, as submitted;
- The landowner or his/her agent shall notify the LWSRB upon initiation and completion of the project.

MOTION CARRIED.

Cupp provided background on the proposed modification of a cell tower in the Town of Muscoda, Grant County. He noted the existing tower is located outside of the Riverway boundary, although the tower is visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. He said a consultant for a wireless communications company had approached him about adding 20 feet to the tower to accommodate co-location of another provider. Cupp said the additional height would be preferable to a new tower being built. He noted a 330 foot tower is located ¼ mile away. The additional height on the cell tower will still be less than 250 feet. He noted both cell phone companies involved have recognized the site is outside the boundary but still recognized the intent of the Riverway law and wished to minimize height to the greatest extent possible. A motion to send a letter indicating the additional 20 feet in height for the tower would be acceptable was made by Leys, seconded by Greenwood. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Crystal/Fish/Mud Lake District pumping project in the Town of Roxbury, Dane County, was discussed. Dana White-Quam, DNR Riverway Manager, said an emergency permit for bypass of the test cell was approved. Madison asked if the DNR was receiving good data. White-Quam said the consultant is responsible for tracking of numbers and sharing the data with the department. Greenwood asked about the condition of the outfall area. White-Quam said there appears to be significant erosion. Greenwood suggested the project has been a political boondoggle from the onset. He asked who will evaluate the data; DNR engineers or an outside consultant? White-Quam said the DNR personnel will evaluate the data. Leys noted the lakes all have significant algae blooms. Madison said the concept is flawed and said the pumping won't work because of groundwater conditions. He said the pumping project is absurd.

A project to protect the Dingman mound group in the Town of Eagle, Richland County, from erosion of a ravine adjacent to the mounds was discussed by John DiFulvio, DNR Recreation Specialist. He noted bids were received for the project but, when he met with the contractor, problems with the design and eventual removal of equipment were discovered. He said the department is now re-evaluating options for the site.

Cupp said he had issued one permit since the June meeting. A general permit was issued to Edward Achenbach for construction of a new shed in the Town of Marietta, Crawford County. The site is not visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions.

The Budget & Office Committee report was presented by Chairman Nice who reviewed the status of the FY 08 budget.

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.

Under board business, Madison said he recently returned from Washington, D.C., where a celebration of the 40th anniversary of the National Wild & Scenic Rivers legislation was held. Madison said he touted the success of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway project and said it is a project of which to be proud. Leys noted his re-appointment as Crawford County representative to the board has been made by Governor Doyle. Greenwood said he has not heard anything about his re-appointment.

The DNR reports were presented by DiFulvio and Nielsen. DiFulvio said there were no new acquisitions in the Riverway in the last month. Nielsen thanked Cupp for his willingness to assist with a tour for the Governor's Council on Forestry. He said the event was cancelled due to flooding but will be re-scheduled.

During the public comment session, Timm Zumm, Co-Chair of the Friends of the Lower Wisconsin River (FLOW), said the organization is prepared to assist with flood clean-up efforts and noted many members have assisted folks in the Spring Green area.

A motion to adjourn until August 14th when the meeting will be held at the Wyalusing State Park was made by Madison, seconded by Brown. **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