

LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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MINUTES OF THE MARCH 12, 2009, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, March 12, 2009, at the Kratochwill Memorial Building in Muscodia 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 exception of Fred Madison 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 Jerry Dorscheid, seconded by Nick Nice. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2009, meeting was made by Don Greenwood, seconded by Dorscheid. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chairman Lundberg who reviewed correspondence. Dave Erickson of Spring Green was present to provide information on a new documentary he intends to produce on the Wisconsin River. Erickson did a documentary on the river in 1994 entitled, "Gather Like the Waters." The new documentary will be entitled, "Rhythm of the River." He said a musical event to celebrate the Year of the Riverway is planned for Spring Green in September. Cupp noted the board previously approved a motion to send a letter in support of the project to assist with procurement of grant funds.

Lundberg noted three board members will have their terms expire on May 1st. Melody Moore, Dane County representative; Nick Nice, Grant County representative; and, Ritchie Brown, at-large member, will see their three year terms end at that time. Moore and Nice have expressed interest in seeking re-appointment.

Lundberg reviewed a letter received from the Public Service Commission in response to the board's letter expressing concerns with a potential new 765 kv line crossing the Riverway to bring electricity from wind turbines in the west to points east. Lundberg said the letter recommends sending correspondence to Public Service Commissions in Iowa and Minnesota and other governmental agencies. A motion directing Cupp to send letters to the agencies identified in the PSC letter was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Moore. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Lundberg said the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has announced that an environmental analysis (EA) would be done for the proposed Crystal/Fish/Mud Lake District pumping project. The EA is expected to be released in early April with public comment period following.

Cupp said invitations had been sent to state officials regarding the dedication of STH 60 as a Wisconsin Scenic Byway. The event will be held on April 27th. Invitations also will be sent regarding the ceremony recognizing the signing of the legislation that created the Riverway and Riverway Board. The event will be held on Sunday, August 2nd.

A presentation on the 2008 flooding near Spring Green was given by Don Greenwood and Greg Greenheck. Greenwood gave a PowerPoint presentation that described the conditions that set the stage for the flooding. He said the high water table with a foot of rain within a few days caused the problems. Since there is no outlet for flood waters, the water collected in low lying areas and the flat farm fields. The high water table and saturated soils meant there was no place for the water to go and so it remained for weeks or months. Possible ditching solutions were discussed but there has not been a formal ditching proposal presented as of yet. Ron Leys expressed concern regarding the cost of the ditching concept and the downstream effects. Don Golembiewski of Spring Green asked for more information on the outlet from one of the ditching proposals and

was told by Greenwood it would be near Bakken's Pond. Bill Mercer of Lone Rock expressed concern about water quality. Jeff Sprecher, a member of the Sauk County Drainage Board, said he would attend a future board meeting to make a presentation but wasn't prepared to offer comment at the present time.

In conjunction with the Year of the Riverway, Mark Guthmiller, DNR Regional Gypsy Moth Suppression Coordinator gave a presentation on invasive species challenges facing southern Wisconsin. Guthmiller discussed the gypsy moth infestation in Wisconsin. He describe the life cycle of the gypsy moth and noted where trapping and spray blocks sites would be located in 2009. Guthmiller also discussed the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infestation discovered near Newburg in eastern Wisconsin. He noted the EAB kills all ash trees as opposed to the gypsy moth that weakens the tree through defoliation allowing diseases and other insects to kill the tree. Guthmiller said river corridors seem to be natural conduits for spread of the EAB. He described the life cycle and symptoms of trees infested by EAB and noted it takes 2-3 years to see the effects of an infestation.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chairman Dorscheid. The permit request of Kevin Fry for modification of existing structure in the Town of Woodman, Grant County, was considered. A PowerPoint presentation was shown. Dorscheid noted a field inspection was conducted by Cupp on February 24, 2009. Mr. Fry and Dave Beinborn, the contractor, also were present for the field inspection. Field inspection revealed the site is visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. The site is located between STH 133 and the Wisconsin River on the former railroad bed of "The Dinky", the narrow gauge railroad that ran in the area. The site is upstream from the Big Green River (Woodman) boat landing.

Plans call for raising the structure 6-8 inches to accommodate pouring of a foundation. In addition, a screened room will be added to the west end (10 ft. x 16 ft. x 12 ft./height). The exterior colorization of the structure will be changed to light brown with dark brown trim and a brown roof. The current cottage is white with red trim. Windows will be replaced and shutters (brown) added. Adequate screening vegetation exists at the site. No vegetation will be removed in conjunction with the project.

Dorscheid made a motion, seconded by Nice, to approve issuance of a permit for the activity with the following permit conditions:

- The existing screening vegetation shall be maintained and replaced if damaged or destroyed;
- The height of the structure shall be limited so that the structure does not become visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions and shall not exceed one foot above the current height after construction;
- The exterior colorization of the structure (including roof color) shall harmonize with the natural surroundings during leaf-on conditions and shall be approved by the LWSRB prior to initiation of construction;
- There shall be a limited amount of glass or other reflective material;
- The LWSRB shall review any modifications to the plans, as submitted, for compliance with the applicable performance standards;
- The landowner or his/her agent shall notify the LWSRB upon initiation and completion of the project; and,
- The activity shall comply with all other federal, state and local regulations.

MOTION CARRIED.

The request of American Transmission Company for modification of existing power lines in the Town of Wauzeka, Crawford County, was considered. Dorscheid said a field inspection was conducted by Cupp on March 12, 2009. The Hummingbird Lane site is partially visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. Plans call for replacement of the existing poles with taller structures (5-10 feet) to achieve the necessary clearance between the lines and the ground. Recent highway reconstruction on STH 60 changed the topography and has necessitated the placement of new, taller poles to comply with federal standards. At Jeidy Hill Road, the situation is similar. Recent engineering review of clearance distances showed violations of federally mandated minimums. The new poles will be 5-10 feet taller than the existing structures. The Jeidy Hill Road site is not visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions.

Dorscheid made a motion, seconded by Leys, to approve issuance of a permit for the activity with the following permit conditions:

- All reasonable efforts shall be taken to minimize the visual impact of the utility facility;
- The new structures shall not be more than 10 feet taller than the existing structures without LWSRB review and approval;
- The LWSRB shall approve of any modification to the plans, as submitted; and,
- ATC or the consultant shall notify the board upon initiation and completion of the project.

MOTION CARRIED.

Dorscheid said Cupp had issued two permits since the last meeting. Cupp said the permits were issued to Brad Hutnik, DNR Riverway Forester, for management activities located in the Town of Clyde, Iowa County and the Town of Mazomanie, Dane County. Hutnik said the activity in the Town of Clyde will involve cutting of cottonwood and willow poles to be “planted” at a site on Long Island near Lone Rock in an attempt to control reed canary grass. The intent is for the trees to grow and shade out the reed canary grass. The activity in the Town of Mazomanie involves creation of fire breaks to facilitate a prescribed in the bottomlands near the Mazomanie Beach.

Cupp reported he and Hutnik had conducted a post-harvest field inspection at the Quackenbush & Maly property in the Town of Troy, Sauk County. The harvest was conducted by Nelson Hardwoods. Some harvesting was done in the River Edge Zone. Cupp said the harvest complied with the applicable performance standards.

The Budget & Office Committee report was presented by Chairman Nice who reviewed the status of the FY 09 budget. Cupp reported that the Executive budget. Cupp said the Governor’s budget proposal for the Riverway Board funded the board’s budget request but noted that all agencies are required to a 1% reduction.

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. Cupp said he would be at Canoecopia with a booth to be shared by the LWSRB, Cultural Landscape Legacies and Friends of the Lower Wisconsin.

There were no items to report under board members’ business.

The DNR report was given by Brian Hefty, Acting DNR Riverway Manager, who said a scenic easement was purchased on 145 acres in the Town of Marietta, Crawford County. Hefty said the Hwy. 14 boat landing at Spring Green is closed for the year due to bridge construction. An alternate temporary location is being sought.

There were no comments during the public comment session.

A motion to adjourn until April 9th when the meeting will be held in Sauk City was made by Greenheck, seconded by Moore. **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