

LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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MINUTES OF THE MARCH 11, 2010, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, March 11, 2010, 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. 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 Don Greenwood. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2010, meeting was made by Greenwood, seconded by Ritchie Brown. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chairman Lundberg who introduced Mark Guthmiller, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Gypsy Moth Suppression Coordinator. Guthmiller gave a presentation on the status of the gypsy moth and emerald ash borer in Wisconsin.

Correspondence was then reviewed. Lundberg said Cupp had received an electronic message from a local resident requesting that he appear at a hearing on the proposed Roth hog farm expansion in Crawford County. Cupp said the board's previous position had been to express concern for proper protection of surface water and groundwater and control of odor. The expansion is not regulated by the LWSRB. Cupp suggested a similar statement be provided to the DNR official conducting the hearing. A motion directing Cupp to do so was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Melody Moore. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cupp reported he had provided comments to DNR officials regarding the reconstruction of the boat landing at the USH 14 bridge. Cupp expressed support for the development of a separate canoe launch rather than a single landing used by both motorized craft and canoes. He noted the landing is one of the busiest on the river and warranted a separate canoe launch to minimize user conflicts. Timm Zumm, Co-Chair of the Friends of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway (FLOW), said his organization concurs with Cupp's vision for the redesigned landing. He asked if there would be an opportunity for public comment. Ryder Will, Acting DNR Riverway Manager, said he would have to check on the process and report back. A motion to concur with the statement provided by Cupp to DNR was made by Ron Leys, seconded by Greenwood. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Board member appointments were discussed. Cupp said Greg Greenheck, Gerald Dorscheid and Fred Madison had terms which expire on May 1, 2010. Melody Moore's term expired in 2009 but the Governor's office has taken no action on the appointment. Cupp described the processes by which members are appointed. County representatives are nominated by their respective county boards and then appointed by the Governor while the "at large" members are appointed directly by the Governor subject to Senate confirmation. Members continue to serve after their term has expired until they are re-appointed or someone is named in their place.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chairman Dorscheid. The permit application of Kurt and Wendy Schultz for construction of a garage in the Town of Wyoming, Iowa County, was considered. Dorscheid said a field inspection was conducted by Mark E. Cupp, Executive Director, on February 24, 2010. Ms. Schultz was present for the field inspection. Field inspection revealed the site is not visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. Plans call for construction of a garage that will be 30 ft. x 48 ft. x 19½ ft. (height) and will have beige colored side walls and a green roof/trim. The height of the structure will not result in the structure becoming visible from the river during leaf-on conditions. Retention of the existing screening vegetation will be required. The LWSRB previously approved a permit for construction of the log home at the site. The property is located west of Wintergreen and across the river from the Wisconsin Riverside Resort (formerly, Bob's Riverside).

A motion to approve issuance of a structure permit for the activity with the following conditions was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Greenwood:

- 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 20 feet;
- 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 completion of the project; and,
- The activity shall comply with all other federal, state and local regulations.

MOTION CARRIED.

Dorscheid said the proposed placement of a house by Bob Ewers for a site in the Town of Buena Vista, Richland County, had been withdrawn. Cupp explained that the house was to be procured from the Spring Green buy-out area but the deal fell through. No alternate plans have been presented at this time.

Cupp reported on the junk complaint in the Town of Orion, Richland County. The storage of junk vehicles had been brought to the board's attention. Cupp said he spoke with the landowner and the unlicensed vehicle will be removed in the spring. The other vehicles are licensed.

Cupp said he had met with representatives of the company that operates the Wauzeka quarry regarding a proposed expansion of the quarry. Will and Brad Hutnik, DNR Riverway Forester, also were present for the field inspection. Cupp noted the quarry is partially within the Riverway boundary but the area slated for expansion is outside the boundary. He noted the need for a boundary correction at the site. The expansion will have minimal, if any, impact on the aesthetic integrity of the Riverway. However, future expansion may be visible from the river.

The Crystal/Fish/Mud Lake District pumping project was discussed. At the board's request, Hutnik had obtained historical aerial photographs of the lakes. A PowerPoint presentation was shown. The photographs began in 1939 and included recent years. It was noted that there were drought conditions in the mid 1930's that may have led to low lake levels. Precipitation records for the years prior to the photographs being taken would be useful in evaluation the historic trends of lake levels. Zumm noted the petitioners who have challenged the DNR's issuance of a permit for the project will meet on March 15th to further discuss their differences. Cupp suggested the board consider placing a fixed date for completion of the repairs to the discharge site. No efforts have been made to complete the project and Will has not been contacted by the Lake District to begin amending the land use agreement. The matter will be placed on the April LWSRB meeting agenda. Madeline Gotkowitz, a hydrogeologist with the Wisconsin Natural and Geological Survey, will be the guest speaker.

Under permits issued by Executive Director, Cupp said he had amended the existing management permit issued by to the DNR for work at the Mazomanie Unit to include red pine research at a site not visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. Hutnik explained that a single tree will be removed from the site every other week for a period of two years for red pine research. The area is targeted for prairie/oak savanna restoration so the project is consistent with the long range management goals for the property.

The Budget & Office Committee report was presented by Chairman Nice who reviewed the status of the FY 10 budget.

There was no report from the Personnel Committee.

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The Executive Director's report was presented by Cupp who reviewed the materials in the board members' packets. He noted the Lower Wisconsin River Road (scenic byway) Steering Committee is working with the Great River Road group to establish a formal partnership agreement. The steering committee also is hoping to incorporate as a not for profit organization in the coming months.

Under board members' business, Leys noted that the LWSRB has persevered for over twenty years despite the anti-Riverway rhetoric that was strong in the early days. He noted that we reside in a democratic republic and must be sure we represent all people when considering an issue. He said the public is always welcome to attend board meetings but reminded the board of the need to consider both sides of an issue even when one side is not present at the meeting.

Greenwood said he had provided Cupp with a video link of Asian carp jumping in the Chicago River and said it would gravely alter the lower Wisconsin River if the carp become established here. Leys noted the carp always go upstream and said it is only a matter of time until they arrive.

The DNR report was given by Will who said there were no new acquisitions since the last meeting. Will said he is working with Cupp and a Muscoda group to establish a hiking trail around the village. He said the DNR website for the Riverway is in development. Crews are busy with litter pick up and spring maintenance. He said the USH 14 bridge project is near conclusion. Will said he made contact with Dale Page regarding concerns expressed to the board about recreational use and eagle protection at Prairie du Sac.

During the public comment session, Zumm said he hoped to clean up at Eagle Island on March 15th after the DNR meeting on the Lake District pumping project. FLOW will have a presence at Canoecopia and will distributed LWSRB and Cultural Landscape Legacies materials. He said he may have access to the "war canoes" owned by Carl Busjahn, which may make a nice complement to the voyageur canoes.

A motion to adjourn until April 8th when the meeting will be held in Sauk City was made by Brown, 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:

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