

# LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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## MINUTES OF THE APRIL 8, 2010, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, April 8, 2010, at the Sauk City Public Library 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 exception of Nick Nice, Fred Madison, Don Greenwood 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 Greg Greenheck. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2010, meeting was made by Ron Leys, seconded by Dorscheid. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Lundberg who noted the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) was developing a new water trails map for recreational users. The map will provide information on boat landings and river mileage. Cupp noted the LWSRB website contains new features. A blog entitled "Cupper's Travelers" will provide periodic reports on sites visited in the Riverway and a short weekly video clip will provide an update on river flow, weather forecasts and other items of interest. Cupp also noted the USH 14 boat landing will be reconstructed in conjunction with the bridge project and will include a separate canoe launch.

The guest speaker for the evening was Madeline Gotkowitz, Hydrogeologist with the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, who gave a presentation entitled, "Groundwater – Surface Water Interaction in Southern Wisconsin." Gotkowitz gave a primer on groundwater hydrology and then discussed the problems with high water levels at Crystal/Fish/Mud lakes.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chairman Dorscheid. The Lake District pumping project and erosion problems at the discharge site were discussed. Cupp noted the erosion control plan proposed by the Lake District and approved by the LWSRB had not been installed. Jeff Melville, a Lake District representative, said water levels have been too high to proceed with the project and the land use agreement with the DNR has not been modified to accommodate the work. Dorscheid suggested the board require the work to be completed by June 1<sup>st</sup> with the possibility of an extension if weather or high water prevented implementation of the erosion control plan. A motion to that effect was made by Leys, seconded by Dorscheid. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The permit application of Mark and Peggy Timmerman for a prairie restoration project in the Town of Buena Vista, Richland County, was considered. Dorscheid noted a field inspection was conducted by Cupp on June 16, 2009, in conjunction with another project. Ms. Timmerman was present for the field inspection. Previously, a field inspection was conducted by Brad Hutnik, DNR Riverway Forester. The landowner now wishes to expand the native plant community restoration work to sites not identified on the original permit. The work has been approved by Hutnik. Plans call for cutting of brush and non-oak/non-hickory species in conjunction with prescribed burning and cutting of aspen for regeneration purposes. The goal is to enhance the oak woodlot and improve habitat for ruffed grouse and other wildlife species. The sites are not visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions.

A motion to approve an amendment to the existing management permit for the activity with the following conditions was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Melody Moore:

- The activity shall be determined to be appropriate for the site by the DNR Riverway Forester;
- The mounds maintenance protocols developed by the board shall be followed;
- The activity shall not result in an existing structure becoming visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions;
- The LWSRB shall approve any modifications to the plans as submitted; and,
- The applicant or his/her agent shall notify the LWSRB upon initiation and completion of the project.

Cupp said a permit application had been received from the American Transmission Company (ATC) for replacement of poles crossing the river between the Town of Spring, Sauk County, and the Town of Arena, Iowa County. A field inspection will be conducted at the site on April 14, 2010. No action required at this time.

Cupp reported on the permits issued by the Executive Director since the last meeting. He said an extension to an existing management permit was provided to Jack Kussmaul for a prairie restoration project in the Town of Millville, Grant County. An extension of a previously issued general permit for a timber harvest in the Town of Milville, Grant County, was issued to Brad Wachter. Following consultation with the Executive Committee, a timber harvest permit was issued to Steve Williamson for the harvest of walnut trees in the Town of Eagle, Richland County.

The Budget Committee report was presented by Acting Chairman Greenheck who reviewed the status of the FY 10 budget.

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. Under board members business, Leys congratulated Hutnik on receiving an award for cooperating with wildlife biologists. The Special Service Award from the Bureau of Wildlife Management was presented to Hutnik in Wausau. The award was given for his recognition that maintaining wildlife habitat is integral to overall landscape management. Leys said he appreciated Huntik's broader perspective of forestry and land management.

The DNR report was presented by Ryder Will, Acting DNR Riverway Manager, who noted there were no new acquisitions since the last meeting. He said a meeting was held with Cupp and Muscoda residents to discuss development of a walking trail around Muscoda. Will said there are mountain bike enthusiasts who are interesting in establishing a trail in the Riverway. Will said any trail development would have to go through the proper procedures within the DNR. He noted the summer crew is back to work. Will said illegal dumping of waste continues to be a problem on state owned lands.

Hutnik reported the prescribed burn season is coming to a close. He said significant burns were done at the Avoca Prairie, Millville Unit, Helena Unit and Cedar Island. Hutnik said the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association field day held at Prairie du Bay attracted 25 participants.

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During the public comment period, Bill Mertens, Lone Rock, said he appreciated the opportunity to hear the guest speaker and said he learned a great deal from her. Timm Zumm, Spring Green, Co-Chair of the Friends of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway (FLOW), said FLOW members are prepared to assist with projects in the Riverway whenever asked to do so.

A motion to adjourn until May 13<sup>th</sup> when the meeting will be held in Boscobel was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Greenheck. **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:

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