

# LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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## MINUTES OF THE JUNE 10, 2010, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, June 10, 2010, at the Rhinelander Cabin in the Town of Mazomanie, Dane County, 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 exceptions of Ron Leys, Fred Madison and Nick Nice. 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.** The minutes of the May 13, 2010, meeting were considered. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Melody Moore, seconded by Greenwood. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chairman Lundberg. Correspondence was reviewed. Cupp said the annual landowner letter would be distributed before the next meeting. Lundberg noted the voyageur canoe trips would start soon. Cupp said the trips will begin on June 28<sup>th</sup> and conclude on July 12<sup>th</sup>.

Kevin Isenring, Riverway landowner, has requested time to address the board regarding his property, which adjoins the Black Hawk Unit. Lundberg noted the Operations Committee met with Isenring prior to the start of the board meeting. Isenring said he had offered the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) a land trade option that would have involved the DNR acquiring the bluff top with Isenring acquiring lands near the bottom of the bluff. Since that deal has not gone through, Isenring said he has little choice but to build a trail to access the property atop the bluff because the agreement he had with DNR to access the bluff from the Black Hawk Unit property has been taken away. He said his preference would be to avoid trail construction and the associated disturbance to the bluff if access through the state property could be restored. Isenring reviewed problems encountered with previous DNR staff.

He said he has volunteered many hours to clean up the river and noted he was recognized for his help with the Lake Delton clean up. Isenring asked for the board's assistance in resolving land issues/neighbor issues with the DNR. Cupp noted a new permanent DNR Riverway Manager soon will assume his new duties, which may bring some stability to the situation. Isenring said he viewed that as a positive development but felt his voice is not being heard.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chairman Dorscheid. A permit request from Thomas Kuczarski for construction of a new house in the Town of Buena Vista, Richland County, was discussed. Cupp noted the committee had visited the site earlier in the day but the applicant has requested that action be delayed until July. A PowerPoint presentation was shown. A motion to move the matter to the July meeting was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Ritchie Brown. **MOTION CARRIED.**

A permit request from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in the Town of Spring Green, Sauk County, or an extension to a previously issued permit was considered. Dorscheid said that plans call for continued work to restore the native plant community at the Spring Green Preserve. Cupp noted the board has issued numerous extensions to TNC for work at the site. Plans call for continued cedar removal and treatment of invasive species.

Dorscheid made a motion, seconded by Brown, to approve issuance of a two-year extension for the activity 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.**

The Crystal/Fish/Mud Lake District pumping project was discussed. Dorscheid noted the Operations Committee visited the site prior to the board meeting and met with representatives of the Lake District and DNR officials. A PowerPoint presentation was shown. Dorscheid said the board should decide whether to lift the deadline for implementation of the erosion control plan and postpone implementation indefinitely. He noted the DNR feels the site has stabilized and additional work may be counterproductive. Some additional site treatment, including trimming of geotextile and willow staking, could help with aesthetics. Continued monitoring of the site would occur if action was taken to postpone implementation of the erosion control plan. Dorscheid said the committee felt the Lake District should include the board in its distribution of water quality testing results and also should inform the board if pumping volumes were increased and/or if a new pump was installed.

Dorscheid made a motion to include the following actions:

- 1) Indefinitely postpone implementation of the erosion control plan with continued monitoring required;
- 2) The aboveground geotextile will be trimmed to minimize visibility;
- 3) Willow stakes will be planted at the site where minimal vegetation currently is established;
- 4) The LWSRB will be informed of any increases in pumping volumes or pumping capacity; and,
- 5) The LWSRB shall be added to the Lake District's TSS e-mail distribution list.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

The USH 14 Bridge and the reconstruction of the USH 14 boat landing near Spring Green both were discussed. Cupp noted the concrete staining had been accomplished. Some concerns were expressed with consistency of the staining but additional research is needed before conclusions can be drawn. There is a definite erosion problem as a result of stormwater discharge from the bridge on the fragile soils. Also, the canoe launch area doesn't appear to have a great deal of functionality. Complaints have been reserved about the reconstructed boat landing. Greenwood asked if the ramps are in the same location. Ryder Will, Acting DNR Riverway Manager, said the ramps are in almost the exact same place, which is what the DOT required the contractor to do. Greenwood said DOT should have incorporated a redesign into the bridge contract. Cupp said he was assured that it would be redesigned but it didn't happen. Will noted a number of concerns have been voiced by the public. Isenring asked if there were bathrooms at the site and Will replied in the affirmative. Zumm noted the Friends of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway (FLOW) will host a public meeting on the topic on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Greenwood said it was a good idea to get the public and DNR to work together and have DOT address the issue. He said he is concerned with the safety of the public having to back vehicles into the river to launch a boat.

Cupp reported he had met with Craig Hardy, Iowa County Highway Commissioner, DOT and DNR officials to discuss the possible reconstruction of CTH C between USH 14 and STH 23 in Iowa County near Spring Green. Cupp said the road was compromised with the heavy rains received in 2008. Emergency repairs have been instituted to keep the roadway in place. The road is highly visible from the river between Tower Hill State Park and the Frank Lloyd Wright Visitor Center. A PowerPoint presentation was shown. Cupp said the project will be challenging in terms of aesthetic protection. Cupp said he appreciated Hardy involving the LWSRB early on in the process so that problem areas may be identified and solutions sought. He said Iowa County will review options and costs and meet with the board at some point in the future.

Permits issued by the Executive Director were reviewed. Cupp said he issued a general permit to Brad Hutnik, DNR Riverway Forester, for the thinning of a pine plantation not visible from the river near Bakken's Pond in the Town of Spring Green, Sauk County. The Operations Committee also viewed the site prior to the board meeting.

The Budget & Office Committee report was presented by Acting Chairman Greenheck who reviewed the status of the FY 10 budget. Cupp said the committee approved purchase of kayak. He said he hopes to expand the information and education programming administered by the board as well as reinstate staff attendance at

conferences and training (in-state only) in FY 11. A formal proposal will be presented to the board after the FY 10 close-out. Cupp said he expected FY 11 fixed expenses to be similar to FY 10.

The Personnel Committee report was presented by Chairwoman Moore who said the Nominating Committee had met to develop a slate of officers for consideration by the board and said the committee recommended retaining the current suite of officers including Bill Lundberg as Chair, Melody Moore as Vice-Chair and Nick Nice as Secretary. She said no other board members had expressed interest in an officer position.

The office of Chair was considered. Moore nominated Bill Lundberg for the office of Chair and then thrice called for nominations from the floor. There were no nominations from the floor so a motion to close the ballot and cast a unanimous ballot for Lundberg was made by Greenwood, seconded by Dorscheid. **MOTION CARRIED.** The office of Vice-Chair was considered. Moore turned the committee chair over to Greenwood who nominated Melody Moore for the office of Vice-Chair and then thrice called for nominations from the floor. There were no nominations from the floor so a motion to close the ballot and cast a unanimous ballot for Moore was made by Lundberg, seconded by Dorscheid. **MOTION CARRIED.** The office of Secretary was considered. Moore resumed the committee chair. Moore nominated Nick Nice for the office of Secretary and then thrice called for nominations from the floor. There were no nominations from the floor so a motion to close the ballot and cast a unanimous ballot for Nice was made by Lundberg, seconded by Greenwood. **MOTION CARRIED.** Cupp thanked the re-elected officers for their leadership to the board.

Moore noted the Personnel Committee also reviewed the furlough plans for Nachtigal and Cupp. The plans will be same for FY 11 as they were in FY 10. A total of 64 hours will be required to be used a non-paid furlough leave time.

The Executive Director's report was given by Cupp who reviewed the materials in the board members' packets. He said standing room only crowds attended the lectures hosted by the LWSRB and co-sponsored by Cultural Landscape Legacies at the Muscoda Morel Mushroom Festival.

Under board business, Dorscheid noted a group of horse enthusiasts are interested in establishing an equestrian trail in the Arena. Preliminary discussions have take place and plans call for 10-20 mile loop on public and private lands. Lundberg asked if the trail could be used by cross country skiers in the winter. Dorscheid said it would be a possibility.

The DNR report was presented by Will who said there were no new acquisitions since the last meeting. The horse trail at Arena won't be established until the DNR Master Plan has been updated. He said regular clean-up activities continue. Will noted the new DNR website for the Riverway is up and running but is not completely finished.

Hutnik noted numbers for private timber harvesting contracts are on the rise. He said climate change modeling indicates that southwestern Wisconsin's climate of the future may resemble that of central Iowa to central Kansas. He said the Riverway scored highly on a recent DNR strategic assessment exercise.

During the public comment session, Zumm said FLOW will host a Clean Boats, Clean Waters workshop on June 19<sup>th</sup> in Sauk City. Also, Sauk Prairie River PAL will have a canoe outing on June 19<sup>th</sup>.

A motion to adjourn until July 8<sup>th</sup> when the meeting will be held in Gotham was made by Greenwood, seconded by Greenheck. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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