

LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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MINUTES OF THE JULY 8, 2010, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, July 8, 2010, 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 with the exception of Don Greenwood. 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 Fred Madison. **MOTION CARRIED.** The minutes of the June 10, 2010, meeting then were considered. A motion to approve was made by Ritchie Brown, seconded by Greg Greenheck. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chairman Lundberg. Lundberg noted Greenwood was absent due to a knee injury. Lundberg said a letter recently was sent to Riverway landowners detailing services offered by the board and contact information. A copy of the letter was included in the packets. Committee appointments were discussed. Lundberg said neither he nor Cupp had been contacted by board members wishing to change committees so he recommended the committee structure remain intact for the new fiscal year. A motion to continue with the current committee structure was made by Brown, seconded by Ron Leys. **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

Cupp reported the voyageur canoe trips were popular again this year and said the program continues to grow with over 160 people served in 2010. Trips will continue through July 12th and then the canoes will be returned to Navarino.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chairman Dorscheid. The request of Thomas Kuczarski for a structure permit in the Town of Buena Vista, Richland County, was discussed. Dorscheid said a field inspection was conducted by Cupp on April 29, 2010. Mr. Kuczarski and Greg Hilden, the former landowner, also were present for the field inspection. Previous field inspections have been conducted by the Operations Committee and Brad Hutnik, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Riverway Forester. The Operations Committee visited the site on June 10th. Field inspections revealed the site is visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. Plans call for construction of a ranch style house with attached garage. The exterior colorization will be brown and will harmonize with the natural surroundings during leaf on conditions. The existing screening vegetation appears adequate but may require the establishment of additional screening vegetation. The slope of the site is not an issue.

Kuczarski was in attendance and presented information to support the application. Diagrams and color samples were reviewed. The maximum height at the peak of the chimney will be 14 ft. 2 inches and the roof peak will be 12 feet 6 inches. There will be a limited amount of glass facing the river and a 32 inch overhang will reduce visibility. Leys asked about the plans for vegetative management between the house and the river. Kuczarski said it will be prairie with retention of the shoreline trees. Cupp said an assessment of the structure's visibility, when viewed from the river, will be conducted upon completion of the project to determine if additional screening vegetation will be required. Kuczarski said the house will have brown cedar siding and the roof will be brown with the chimney constructed of local stone. Lundberg asked if the trees on the river bank where the previous landowner had placed fill were showing signs of stress. Hutnik said the trees seemed to be doing fine and the other trees and shrubs planted according to the board's requirement were surviving. Cupp thanked Kuczarski for his cooperation throughout the process and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to be involved early on in the process.

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

- 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 18 feet;
- 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;
- A planting plan may be required following an assessment of the visibility of structure when viewed from the river following completion and, if necessary, the planting plan shall be developed in consultation with the DNR Riverway Forester and shall be approved by the LWSRB;
- 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.

A permit request from Vernon and Paul Luther for a timber harvest in the Town of Spring Green, Sauk County, was considered. Dorscheid said a field inspection had not yet been conducted at the site. Previous field inspections on adjacent parcels have been conducted by Cupp and the LWSRB Operations

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Committee. Previous field inspection revealed portions of the harvest area likely are visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. Plans call for the selective harvest of miscellaneous hardwoods. One parcel is located in the uplands both east and west of STH 23. The other parcel is located in the bottomlands south of STH 60. A future field inspection will be scheduled to assess visibility and review the marking of trees slated for harvest. Logging road construction, if any, also will be reviewed during the field inspection.

A motion to approve issuance of a permit with the following conditions was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Brown:

- The harvest shall comply with the basal area limits for the residual stand in the Bluff Zone and Riverview Zone, as detailed in Chapter NR 37, Wisconsin Administrative Code;
- In the Bluff Zone and Riverview Zone, all trees selected for harvest shall be appropriately marked and reviewed by the LWSRB for compliance with the applicable performance standards prior to initiation of the harvest;
- In the Bluff Zone and Riverview Zone, the harvest shall be limited to the times when the ground is frozen or dry and the leaves are off the deciduous trees;
- The LWSRB shall review the location and design of all new logging roads, if any, in the Bluff Zone and Riverview Zone;
- The new logging roads, if any, shall comply with the applicable performance standards regarding grade and erosion control and shall be re-seeded upon completion of the harvest;
- The LWSRB shall review the location and design of all small regeneration cuts, if any, in the Riverview Zone to assure compliance with the applicable performance standards;
- If necessary, the various zones shall be delineated prior to initiation of the harvest;
- The landowner or his/her agent shall notify the LWSRB within 10 working days upon completion of the harvest and, if necessary, the LWSRB shall conduct a post-harvest field inspection; and,
- The LWSRB shall review modification of the plans, as submitted, for compliance with the applicable performance standards.

MOTION CARRIED.

A permit request from Doug Koepcke for a timber harvest in the Town of Troy, Sauk County, was considered. Jim Carlson of Oakwood Forestry is the consultant. Dorscheid said a field inspection had not yet been conducted at the site. Cupp noted a general permit for construction of a permanent camping shelter was issued to Mr. Koepcke in 2001. Previous field inspections on adjacent parcels have been conducted by Cupp and the LWSRB Operations Committee. Previous field inspection revealed portions of the harvest area likely are visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. Plans call for the selective harvest of miscellaneous hardwoods as well as group selection harvesting. Oak wilt problems also will be addressed. The site is across from the Arena boat landing. A future field inspection will be scheduled to assess visibility and review the marking of trees slated for harvest. Logging road construction, if any, also will be reviewed during the field inspection. The marking will be done consistent with an MFL plan. Leys asked about the methods for addressing oak wilt. Hutnik said oak wilt occurs in pockets and the treatment is to cut the dead/diseased trees as well as a buffer zone around the pocket to deter the spread of the fungus via roots. Hutnik recommended the oak wilt treatment areas be identified by GPS.

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- The LWSRB shall review modification of the plans, as submitted, for compliance with the applicable performance standards.

MOTION CARRIED.

The Crystal/Fish/Mud Lake District pumping project in the Town of Roxbury, Dane County, was discussed. Cupp said he had received reports on water quality testing results as requested. Pumping continues and plans remain in place to increase pumping capacity utilizing funds from the Department of Commerce. Additional permits from DNR will be required.

Cupp reported on permits issued by the Executive Director since the June meeting. He said a general permit for the harvest of timber on a pine plantation in the Town of Muscoda, Grant County, was issued to the Reynolds Trust.

The Budget & Office Committee report was presented by Chairman Nick Nice who reviewed the status of the FY 10 budget. Cupp said he hoped to have the final FY 10 numbers for the August meeting. He said he is developing a proposal to expand information and education programming since funds are available within the supplies and services line. The funds are available because deficiencies in the salary line of the budget had been addressed with the allotment for the current biennium. Leys asked if the LWSRB budget should be reduced. Cupp said maintaining the status quo would be appropriate to assure board expenditures and unanticipated costs are covered.

There was no report from the Personnel Committee.

The Executive Director's report was presented by Cupp who reviewed materials in the board members' packets. Cupp thanked Dorscheid and Earl Cupp for their help on the voyageur canoe trips. Both gentlemen assisted by taking the stern of the other canoe on selected trips.

Under board members' business, Leys asked for an update on the USH 14 landing at Spring Green since he was absent for the June meeting. He said it appears to be poorly designed. Lundberg said erosion from the bridge's storm water discharge is an issue. Ryder Will, DNR Riverway Recreation Specialist, said he is discussing the matter with the Department of Transportation. Lundberg noted Timm Zumm, Co-Chair of the Friends of the Lower Wisconsin River (FLOW), has concerns about the utility of the landing for motorized watercraft. Cupp said the landing has been modified three times in the last twenty years. Nice said there also are problems at the Boscobel (Floyd Von Haden) boat landing. Leys said these issues should be discussed on a regular basis and action should be taken to correct problems with public access sites. Will noted that FLOW held a roundtable discussion on the USH 14 landing and offered suggestions for improvements. Leys said the landing may have to be relocated to a site upstream.

Dorscheid said he enjoyed the voyageur canoe trips that he was able to assist with this year and said he has a book entitled, A Man Called Baraboo, that provides an account of the voyageur lifestyle. He said he would be happy to share the book with anyone interested. Leys suggested Cupp check on the cost of acquiring a voyageur canoe(s) for board use and expansion of the popular guided tour program.

The DNR report was presented by Will who said the proposed equestrian trail near Arena would be considered during the updated DNR master planning process for the Riverway. He continues to work with the group clearing debris from Black Earth Creek. Routine summer activities continue for the Riverway crew. Will thanked the board for the opportunity to work with them during his tenure as Acting DNR Riverway Manager.

Brian Hefty was re-introduced to the board as the new permanent DNR Riverway Manager. He said he looks forward to working with the board and is excited about his new position. Hefty reviewed his responsibilities as DNR Riverway Manager and said he looks forward to filling vacant positions so that the project is fully staffed.

Hutnik said the new statewide forest strategy will focus on adjusting to new realities. He said a forest producers summit will be held in Muscoda on July 14th to enhance dialogue between DNR and the private sector. On July 17th, he and Cupp will give presentations to the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association Bad Axe Chapter summer meeting in Muscoda. Hutnik said he will present proposed timber sales on state owned lands to the board at the August meeting.

There were no comments from the public during the public comment session.

A motion to adjourn until August 12th when the meeting will be held at the Wyalusing State Park was made by Brown, seconded by Madison. **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