

LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 9, 2010, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, September 9, 2010, at Spring Green Public Library 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 Nick Nice and 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 Don Greenwood, seconded by Melody Moore. **MOTION CARRIED.** The minutes of the August 12, 2010, meeting then were considered. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ron Leys, seconded by Greg Greenheck. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chairman Lundberg who introduced the guest speaker for the meeting. Mike Mossman, DNR Research Scientist, then gave a presentation on the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Bird Survey. He noted the importance in obtaining good data to establish priorities, guide management decisions and indicate needed research. The inventory of bird life is important enhance the Riverway, which has been formally identified as an Important Bird Area (IBA).

Following the presentation, correspondence was reviewed. Lundberg noted the Public Service Commission (PSC) had responded to Cupp's letter regarding the Badger Coulee transmission line proposal. The PSC letter indicated the process for location of the proposed line is just beginning. The precise route and primary alternative have route not yet been identified.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chairman Dorscheid. The permit request of Rita Walker for the construction of a garage in the Town of Marietta, Crawford County, was discussed. Dorscheid noted the consultant is Greg Brown. He said a field was conducted by Cupp in conjunction with previous permit activity in the vicinity. A field inspection was conducted by Brad Hutnik, DNR Riverway Forester, on August 27, 2010. Hutnik GPS'd a waypoint to confirm the house and garage locations are within the Riverway boundary. Plans call for construction of a new garage with the following dimensions: 20 ft. x 24 ft. x 12 ft. (height). The exterior colorization will be brown with a brown roof to match the house. There will be a limited amount of glass or other reflective material. The slope of the site is less than 20%.

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

- 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 12 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;
- 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.

The request of Velma Lockman for a timber harvest permit in the Town of Arena, Iowa County was considered. Dorscheid said a field inspection was conducted by Cupp in conjunction with previous permit activity at the site. An additional field inspection will be conducted in September. Plans call for the selective harvest of merchantable hardwoods including oak, walnut and cherry. The existing road system will be utilized. The harvest will occur when the leaves are off the deciduous trees and the ground is frozen or dry. A permit for a timber harvest on the same parcel was approved by the LWSRB in 1998. A motion to approve a permit with the following conditions was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Brown. Conditions of the permit include:

- The harvest shall comply with the basal area limits for the residual stand in the Riverview Zone, as detailed in Chapter NR 37, Wisconsin Administrative Code;
- In the 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 approve of the location and design of all small regeneration cuts or shelterwood cuts, if any, in the Riverview Zone;
- The LWSRB shall approve the location and design of all new logging roads, if any, in the 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;
- If necessary, the Riverview Zone and Resource Management Zone shall be delineated prior to initiation of the harvest;
- All trees selected for harvest in the Riverview Zone shall be appropriately marked and approved by the LWSRB 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 the LWSRB shall conduct a post-harvest field inspection; and,
- The LWSRB shall review modifications to the plans, as submitted, for compliance with the applicable regulations.

MOTION CARRIED.

The permit request of Eric Brown for a timber harvest in the Town of Arena, Iowa County was considered. Dorscheid said the consultant is Jim Wilkinson. He noted a field inspection was conducted by Cupp in conjunction with previous permit activity in the vicinity. A field inspection will be conducted at the site in September. Plans call for the harvest of 12 walnut trees on a small parcel not visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. The harvest will be conducted when the ground is frozen or dry and the leaves are off the deciduous trees. No new roads will be constructed. A motion to approve a permit with the following conditions was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Greenwood. Conditions of the permit include:

- The harvest shall be limited to areas not visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions;
- 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.

Hutnik then gave a presentation on requested extensions to previously issued permits for timber harvests on state owned lands in the Riverway. Hutnik gave a PowerPoint presentation and described the harvest plans for the following parcels:

- DNR/Hutnik/Leone Rd (timber/general/extension)(Town of Spring Green, Sauk County)
- DNR/Hutnik/Lone Rock Pine(timber/general/extension)(Town of Buena Vista, Richland County)
- DNR/Hutnik/Tenney Aspen (timber/general/extension)(Town of Orion, Richland County)
- DNR/Hutnik/Tiny Pine (timber/general/extension)(Town of Muscoda, Grant County)
- DNR/Hutnik/Boneset Bluff (timber/general/extension)(Town of Troy, Sauk County)
- DNR/Hutnik/Gotham Sands Pine (timber/extension)(Town of Buena Vista, Richland County)
- DNR/Hutnik/Cedar Hills (timber/extension)(Town of Mazomanie, Dane County)
- DNR/Hutnik/Helena Bottoms (timber/extension)(Town of Arena, Iowa County)
- DNR/Hutnik/STH 60 Bottoms (timber/extension)(Town of Troy, Sauk County)
- DNR/Hutnik/Lemanski Bottoms (timber/extension)(Town of Pulaski, Iowa County)
- DNR/Hutnik/String of Pearls (timber/general/extension)(Town of Muscoda, Grant County)
- DNR/Hutnik/Garner Upland (timber/general/extension)(Town of Richwood, Richland County); and,
- DNR/Hutnik/Monument Oak (timber/general/extension)(Town of Spring Green, Sauk County).

Hutnik discussed management strategies and objectives. He noted changes in river hydrology due to construction of dams upstream are impacting the bottomlands. Species composition is changing and consideration of management options is important. Hutnik reviewed planning priorities and the need to establish long term harvest goals to comply with state law. He said non-indigenous invasive species continue to be a problem and take up more time and financial resources. He said the current goal is to harvest 643 acres annually on a 15-year cycle for state owned lands. A motion to approve two year extension for the permits was made by Leys, seconded by Greenwood. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Crystal/Fish/Mud Lake District pumping project in the Town of Roxbury, Dane County, was discussed. Cupp said recent water quality test results for total suspended solids (TSS) had forced the Lake District to shut down the pump. When the TSS levels decrease sufficiently, the pump will be re-started. Cupp asked Brian Hefty, DNR Riverway Manager, and Timm Zumm, Co-Chair of the Friends of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway (FLOW), for further information. Hefty noted a meeting between DNR and FLOW had transpired in an attempt to address FLOW concerns with the permitting process. Zumm said FLOW would meet as a group following the board meeting. FLOW member Dave Marshall said pursuing a contested case hearing remains a viable option.

The Budget Committee report was presented by Acting Chair Greenheck who reviewed the budget status for FY 11. Cupp then presented the preliminary budget request for the 2011-2013 biennium. He noted the request must be submitted to the Department of Administration by September 15th. Cupp said the request is a status quo budget or zero based budget with only minor changes in the fringe benefits line. Furloughs for employees remain in place and budget reduction scenarios likely will be required. The preliminary budget request would be \$202,700 for each year of the biennium. Cupp noted the board is funded from SEG funds, not GPR funds. A motion to approve the budget request was made by Greenwood, seconded by Moore. **MOTION CARRIED.**

There was no report from the Personnel Committee.

The Executive Director's report was given by Cupp who reviewed the materials in the board members' packets. Cupp said he served as a consultant on a movie filmed in the Riverway. The film is based on a book entitled, Waterwalk, which chronicles the journey of a father and son from Michigan to the Mississippi River as they retraced the voyage of Marquette and Joliet of 1673. He asked board members for suggestions on guest speakers at board meetings and noted a representative of Trout Unlimited would speak at the November meeting and said he hoped to schedule a speaker on the effects of the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico on migratory birds, which was a request from Greenheck.

Under board members' business, Dorscheid said he had designed the grate for the bat cave entrance highlighted in a newspaper article included in the meeting packets. Leys said he was impressed by the relative lack of litter on the river.

The DNR report was presented by DNR Riverway Manager Brian Hefty who said litter pick-up is conducted by Riverway staff. Also, roads and access site maintenance are being done by Riverway staff. Wildlife staff are working on mowing, road maintenance, agricultural damage claims, establishment of registration stations for deer hunting, and responding to nuisance animal complaints.

During the public comment session, Larry Koshkee, a Grant County landowner, discussed the Millville Unit and expressed concern with the lack of access to the Bergum Bottoms. He also noted a pioneer cemetery is being endangered by a sand pit operation. Hefty noted DNR continues to pursue access to the Bergum Bottoms via negotiations with the landowner as well as through research on alternative access routes.

Walter Mirk, a Grant County landowner, echoed Koshkee's concerns and added the degraded prairie at Bergum Bottoms needs attention. Hefty noted previous access to the site was allowed by the landowner on a voluntary basis, not through an easement or land use agreement. DNR is allowed access for habitat management.

Bill Howe of Prairie du Chien said public access opportunities on the Riverway should be increased. He said prescribed burning is an effective management tool and encouraged DNR to remain aggressive toward invasive species control. Howe stated his support for the carry out policy on trash. Hefty noted the DNR will revise the Master Plan for the Riverway at some point in the next few years and said public participation in the process will be important.

A motion to adjourn until October 14th when the meeting will be held at the Wauzeka Village Hall was made by Leys, 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:

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