

LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 9, 2010, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, December 9, 2010, at the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) office in Muscodia to conduct a regular monthly business meeting. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Bill Lundberg. Lundberg, Melody Moore and Nick Nice participated by teleconference. Greg Greenheck, Ron Leys and Jerry Dorscheid were present at the LWSRB office. Don Greenwood, Fred Madison and Ritchie Brown were absent. Acknowledgment that the meeting was properly noticed was provided by Mark E. Cupp, Executive Director. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Nice, seconded by Dorscheid. **MOTION CARRIED.** The minutes of the November 11, 2010, meeting then were considered. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Leys. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chairman Lundberg. He noted Cupp had contacted area legislators to provide information on Riverway related issues. Cupp said he had met with the staff from the offices of Representatives Nerison, Clark, Ripp, and Zepnick and Senators Schultz and Kapanke. He also had sent letters to Representatives-elect Tranel and Marklein. Cupp said he would continue to brief legislators on Riverway issues in the coming weeks.

In reviewing correspondence Cupp noted he had sent letters of support for two grant applications. A grant application submitted by Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Riverway State Natural Areas (SNA) Matt Zine for invasive species control on select SNA properties was supported by Cupp. A letter of support also was sent for Bruce Moffat to receive funding for work at Tippesaukee, a site on the National Register of Historic Places in Richland County.

Cupp said he had been contacted by a former Riverway landowner, Ron Winterhack who owned land in the Town of Millville, Grant County. Mr. Winterhack expressed frustration with the land acquisition process of DNR and said he was disappointed he was unable to complete a transaction to sell a portion of his land to the department. Cupp said he contacted Brian Hefty, DNR Riverway Manager, and Greg Markus, DNR Real Estate Specialist, for an explanation. Markus explained that there were problems with the appraisal that required time to work through but Mr. Winterhack was anxious to close on the property with another buyer and went ahead with the transaction. Cupp said it was unfortunate that it didn't work out because it would have been a key acquisition that joined two larger blocks of state ownership.

The proposed 2011 meeting schedule was reviewed. Cupp noted there were changes to meeting locations and months. The July meeting will be held in Muscodia instead of Gotham. The August and September meeting locations were reversed. The August meeting will be held in Spring Green and the September meeting will be held at Wyalusing State Park. A motion to approve the 2011 meeting schedule was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Moore. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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January 13, 2011	Muscoda	Kratochwill Memorial Building
February 10, 2011	Muscoda	Kratochwill Memorial Building
March 10, 2011	Muscoda	Kratochwill Memorial Building
April 14, 2011	Sauk City	Public Library
May 12, 2011	Boscobel	City Hall
June 9, 2011	Mazomanie	Black Hawk Unit (Rhineland Cabin)
July 14, 2011	Muscoda	Kratochwill Memorial Building
August 11, 2011	Spring Green	Public Library
September 8, 2011	Prairie du Chien	Wyalusing State Park
October 13, 2011	Wauzeka	Village Hall
November 10, 2011	Avoca	Village Hall
December 8, 2011	Muscoda	Kratochwill Memorial Building

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chairman Dorscheid. Dorscheid said the Operations Committee had conducted a field inspection at a site in the Town of Mazomanie, Dane County, where United Cooperative has proposed a grain facility along the railroad tracks. Cupp said he and Moore had met with Al Jentz from United Cooperative to discuss the project. Plans call for two 75 ft. (ht) grain bins with an elevator appendage that would be 136 ft. in height. Cupp said the site is not visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions but height is a concern. The performance standard for construction of a structure on lands not visible from the river requires the height to be limited so that the structure does not become visible from the river during leaf-on conditions. Cupp said he had requested technical assistance from DNR to provide visual imaging and viewshed analysis. Moore noted the site will require rezoning but that it would most likely be approved at the Town of Mazomanie level because the activity is consistent with the comprehensive plan. Moore said the presentation at the Planning Commission indicated 25-30 trains a year would go to the site while 2500 grain truck trips would be on CTH Y. Greenheck asked if the storage of empty rail cars on the tracks would continue. Moore said an alternative storage site would have to be found. Cupp said a permit application has not been submitted but one is expected in the near future.

Cupp reported he and Brad Hutnik, DNR Riverway Forester, had met with landowner Peter Pomerening to review a proposed timber harvest in the Town of Wauzeka, Crawford County. A condition of the previously issued permit required a site visit prior to initiation of the harvest. Cupp said portions of the parcel are visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. He said the area should be included in the boundary review process because some of the visible area is not within the Riverway boundary. Hutnik said the timber resource is relatively young and offered options for the Mr. Pomerening to consider. The trees slated for harvest have not yet been marked. An additional field inspection will be required if the landowner decides to proceed with a harvest.

Cupp said Jim Ringelstetter had contacted him regarding a parcel in the Town of Troy, Sauk County, for which a timber harvest permit previously was issued. Mr. Ringelstetter said the harvest would be delayed until next year and the proposed logging road also would not be installed until 2011. The landowner

indicated a new home site, originally planned for the bluff, is now proposed for a site closer to the existing homestead and likely not visible from the river. An application for the new house has not been received.

Cupp said he had issued one permit since the last meeting. A utility permit was issued to Alliant Energy for reconstruction of a power line east of Avoca along STH 133. Existing poles will be replaced and some poles in the marshy area between Bigelow Hill Road and Leaches' Crossing will be moved to the highway right of way. There will be no visual impact from the river.

The Budget Committee report was presented by Chairman Nice who reviewed the status of the FY 11 budget.

The Personnel Committee meeting was presented by Chairman Moore who said it was time for the annual performance evaluation of the Executive Director. The same process will be used this year as in recent years. Board members are asked to return the completed form to Moore by December 31st. A digital version of the form is available upon request.

The Executive Director's report was given by Cupp who reviewed the materials in the board members' packets. Cupp reiterated the Lower Wisconsin River Road Steering Committee will be directed by the Riverway Board staff for the foreseeable future. He noted a recent meeting resulted in good progress and organizational structure will be in place next year. He said the Spring Green West Basin Advisory Committee continues to meet. The public information meeting was well attended. Cultural Landscape Legacies will co-sponsor an event at Frank's Hill in Richland County in observance of the winter solstice.

Under board members' business, Nice asked if Boscobel Mayor Steve Wetter had been in contact with Cupp regarding the boat landing. Cupp said he and Mayor Wetter will meet soon to discuss possible changes at the Floyd Von Haden access site. Nice said he would like to be included if his schedule would permit.

Under DNR report, Hutnik said there are two active timber harvests on state owned lands in the Riverway. The String of Pearls harvest in the Town of Muscoda, Grant County, is nearing completion. The Monument Road harvest in the Town of Spring, Sauk County, recently was started. Hutnik reported Riverway staff have initiated a quarterly meeting schedule.

During the public comment session, Bill Howe of Prairie du Chien expressed support for passenger rail service, including service from Madison to Prairie du Chien. He provided information on regional rail efforts. Leys noted the condition of the rails is a big factor when considering high speed rail on existing tracks.

Timm Zumm of Spring Green, Co-Chair of the Friends of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway (FLOW) said Sauk Prairie River PAL will hold their annual meeting on December 16th. Eagle Days in Sauk Prairie will be January 14-15th. FLOW will have a booth at Canoecopia. The River Valley School District is working on development of a charter school that will be a project based learning system.

A motion to adjourn until January 13, 2011, when the meeting will be held in Muscoda was made by Leys, seconded by Greenheck. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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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