

# LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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## MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 13, 2011, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, January 13, 2011, at the Kratochwill Memorial Building in Muscodia to conduct a regular monthly business meeting. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Acting Chairman Melody Moore. All members were present with the exception of Bill Lundberg and Greg Greenheck. 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 Nick Nice. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2010, meeting was made by Ron Leys, seconded by Jerry Dorscheid. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Acting Chairman Moore who introduced Brad Hutnik, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Riverway Forester. Hutnik gave a presentation on the String of Pearls harvest in the Town of Muscodia, Grant County. He acknowledged an error in demarcation of the boundary between state lands and private property owned by the Reynolds family. Members of the Reynolds family were in attendance and Hutnik offered a public apology for the mistake. He also praised the Reynolds family for their cooperation in resolving the problem. Hutnik noted that the popular High Bank Road traverses a portion of the Reynolds property and said people should be aware of the public service provided by the family in allowing people to use the road on their property. Cupp asked members of the Reynolds family if they were satisfied with the outcome to which they replied in the affirmative. Hutnik also provided a brief update on active and pending timber sales on state lands in the Riverway.

The guest speaker for the evening was Kent Van Horn, DNR Migratory Bird Specialist, who gave a presentation entitled "Wisconsin Birds and the Gulf Oil Spill." A DVD produced by Milwaukee public television was shown that described diminishing coastal habitat for migratory waterfowl in Louisiana as well as the effects of the oil spill. Van Horn followed with a description of the number of birds killed and noted uncertainty about the amount of oil unaccounted for that may have impacts for years to come. Leys expressed concern about loons wintering in Gulf Coast areas as well as the loons that spend their formative years in that area. Van Horn said biologists are watching loon numbers. Leys expressed disappointment that non-game species, such as loons, don't receive the same amount of attention as ducks.

Moore then reviewed correspondence. Cupp said an article in Rider magazine focused on the Lower Wisconsin River Road (Hwy. 60). He noted Richland County LWSRB representative Greg Greenheck had been re-appointed by Governor Doyle. Cupp said he had been contacted by Steve Hiniker, Executive Director of 1000 Friends of Wisconsin, regarding possible recognition of conservation icon Harold "Bud" Jordahl. Cupp said he had met with Brian Hefty, DNR Riverway Manager, and Bill Ishmael, DNR Wildlife Biologist, to discuss naming a state owned tract in memory of Jordahl. An option emanating from that discussion would be to rename the Riverview Bluff Unit in the Town of Orion, Richland County, as the Jordahl Unit. Leys said he worked with Jordahl on various projects and felt Jordahl would be uncomfortable with that type of recognition. Fred Madison said he know Jordahl well and would like to speak to another colleague, Steve Born, about the matter. Greenwood noted honors of this kind are done for the living, such as family members, and said it might be best to delay action for a month. The consensus of the board was to delay formal action until the February LWSRB meeting.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chairman Dorscheid. The Boscobel Airport project was discussed. The project involving the Boscobel Airport had been approved by the LWSRB as an activity under the direction and supervision of the Department of Administration – Bureau of Aeronautics and involves an upgrade to equipment and landing systems. Some tree removal will occur and a planting plan will be

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implemented on the airport property, near the Prairie du Bay side channel. Hutnik has developed a planting plan for establishment of additional screening vegetation. At the west end of the airport, some tree removal will occur on DNR ownership. At the east end of the airport, on private lands, some tree cutting and grubbing of stumps will be conducted in anticipation of restoration of the native prairie. The DNR site and the privately held site are not visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. Separate management permits are required for the DNR site and the privately owned site.

The request of Dan Goltz, on behalf of Department of Natural Resources, for an extension to a previously issued management permit was considered. Dorscheid noted field inspections have been conducted by Cupp in conjunction with previous permit activity at the site. Trees and woody vegetation will be cut to accommodate additional clearance for planes using the Boscobel Airport. The native plant community will be enhanced. The site is not visible from the Wisconsin River. No new structures become visible from the river as a result of the activity. Dorscheid made a motion, seconded by Leys, to approve a two-year extension to the permit with retention of the following conditions.

- No existing structure(s) shall become visible from the river as a result of the activity;
- The LWSRB shall approve of any modification to the plans, as submitted; and,
- The landowner or his/her agent shall notify the LWSRB upon initiation and completion of the activity.

### **MOTION CARRIED.**

The permit application of Tony Gonzalez for a parcel in the Town of Boscobel, Grant County, was considered. Dorscheid noted field inspections were conducted by Cupp in conjunction with previous permit activity in the area. Trees and woody vegetation will be cut to accommodate additional clearance for planes using the Boscobel Airport. Slash will be removed and stumps will be grubbed to prepare the site for restoration of the native plant community (prairie). The site is not visible from the Wisconsin River. No new structures become visible from the river as a result of the activity. Dorscheid made a motion, seconded by Leys, to approve issuance of a permit with the following conditions:

- No existing structure(s) shall become visible from the river as a result of the activity;
- The LWSRB shall approve of any modification to the plans, as submitted; and,
- The landowner or his/her agent shall notify the LWSRB upon initiation and completion of the activity.

### **MOTION CARRIED.**

The permit request of United Cooperative for construction of a grain storage and transfer facility in the Town of Mazomanie, Dane County, was considered. Plans call for construction of two 85 ft. tall storage bins with a 135 ft. tall elevator adjacent to the rail line near the intersection of Hwy. 78 and Hwy. Y. Cupp said he had requested technical assistance from DNR to produce a viewshed analysis. He noted Hutnik had provided assistance in data collection regarding tree species and heights to augment the existing recon data. A PowerPoint presentation was shown. The computer model demonstrated that the elevator would be visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. Additional models were generated for lower heights. Cupp said he had requested alternative designs from United Cooperative that would lower the elevator height. Cupp reviewed the statutory references and said he had consulted with legal counsel to assure his interpretation was accurate. Leys said the structure likely would not be highly visible from the river but the statutes are clear in that the structure may not be visible. Madison asked if other sites have been considered. Cupp said he was aware of another site nearby that had been considered and that is outside of the Riverway boundary but negotiations between United Cooperative and the landowner had broken down. Madison asked if the storage of rail cars on the line would be an issue. Moore said the rail cars would have to be stored elsewhere. No further action was taken pending receipt of additional information from the applicant.

Dorscheid reported the Operations Committee had met with representatives of Jewell & Associates to review the Big Hollow flood control project in the Town of Spring Green, Sauk County. The committee met with Ed Lilla and Don Greenwood and conducted a field inspection at the outfall area. The board viewed a PowerPoint presentation. Dorscheid noted the project takes place outside of the Riverway boundary. The outfall area will impact lowlands on state owned property. Greenwood stepped away from his role as LWSRB member to describe the project as a member of Jewell & Associates staff. Dorscheid asked about vegetative maintenance in the swale and Greenwood said it would be maintained under cooperative agreements with landowners. Cupp noted the Big Hollow project is separate but related to the West Basin project of which he, Madison and Greenwood serve on a special advisory committee. Cupp expressed gratitude to Greenwood and Lilla for taking time to review the project with the Operations Committee.

The Crystal/Fish/Lake District pumping project was discussed. Cupp said he had not received any news on the project as of late.

Dorscheid noted the Operations Committee had visited the construction site at Wisconsin Riverside Resort in the Town of Spring Green, Sauk County. The LWSRB previously issued a permit for construction of a new commercial facility at the site. Dorscheid said the project is well underway. Leys noted Terry Shifflet has been an excellent cooperater throughout the permit process. The growing business serves an important Riverway constituency. Madison noted the project embodies the types of partnerships the LWSRB should be involved in to fulfill its mission.

Cupp noted logging roads were being constructed in conjunction with the Koepcke harvest in the Town of Troy, Sauk County. Hutnik provided a PowerPoint presentation that described the location and design of the new roads. Previously, the board had issued a permit for the activity. The consultant is Jim Carlson of Oakwood Forestry.

Cupp said he had reviewed a Department of Transportation project near Woodman where a storm sewer discharge will be constructed outside of the village limits. The site is not visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions.

Cupp said he had met with Boscobel Mayor Steve Wetter and LWSRB Grant County representative Nick Nice to discuss possible reconfiguration and/or improvements to the Floyd Von Haden boat landing. The project is in the conceptual stage but may result in development of a small campground, creation of a separate canoe launch area and physical changes to address concerns with a dangerous eddy at the mouth of the harbor. Leys noted the dangerous current at the site and said efforts should be made to improve the DNR landing upstream of the bridge for canoe use. Nice concurred that it is a dangerous place and felt congestion could be alleviated by having canoeists and livery operators use the DNR landing. Conflicts frequently arise between canoeists and motor boat users at the heavily used landing. Leys made a motion, seconded by Ritchie Brown, to encourage efforts by Grant County, the City of Boscobel and DNR to improve the upstream site as a canoe only facility. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cupp reported he had issued managements permits to Dan Goltz, DNR Wildlife Biologist, for maintenance of an archeological site on the former Wanek property in the Town of Richwood, Richland County. Two management permits were issued to Becky Roth, DNR Wildlife Biologist, for habitat work; one in the Town of Pulaski and one in the Town of Clyde, both Iowa County.

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

The Personnel Committee report was given by Chairman Moore who said the annual performance evaluation of Executive Director Cupp had been considered by the committee. Eight evaluations were received. She noted Cupp received the highest marks possible. The committee recommended Cupp receive an "excellent" rating for the performance of his duties as Executive Director. A motion to provide Cupp with an "excellent" rating was made by Madison, seconded by Brown. **MOTION CARRIED.** Moore noted Cupp had received an excellent rating for 21 years in a row. Cupp thanked the board for their continued support.

The Executive Director's report was presented by Cupp who reviewed the materials in the board members' packets. Cupp said he was asked to participate in a committee exploring water quality issues related to the Wisconsin River Central Basin, which may expand into a study of the entire river system.

Under board members' business, Leys noted Cupp had received a Friend of Forestry award from DNR. Hutnik described the award that was presented to Cupp in Madison earlier in the day.

The DNR report was given by Brian Hefty, DNR Riverway Manager, who said Riverway staff members are meeting on a quarterly basis. He reviewed work projects being undertaken by Riverway staff.

During the public comment session, Patrick Reinsma of the Department of Tourism introduced himself to the board and said he looked forward to working with board members and staff on matters of mutual interest.

A motion to adjourn until February 10<sup>th</sup> when the meeting will be held in Muscoda was made by Madison, seconded by Brown. **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