

LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 10, 2011, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, February 10, 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 Chairman Bill Lundberg. All members were present with the exceptions of Ron Leys and Ritchie Brown. Acknowledgment that the meeting was properly noticed was provided by Mark E. Cupp, Executive Director. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Fred Madison, seconded by Don Greenwood. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2011, meeting was made by Greenwood, seconded by Madison. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chairman Lundberg. He introduced the guest speaker for the evening, Sharon Jaffe, a PhD candidate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Jaffe gave a presentation entitled, "Climate Change in Wisconsin." Jaffe reviewed the empirical evidence that demonstrated the climate will be warmer and wetter in Wisconsin in the coming decades. She noted there has been an increase in extreme precipitation events and said several of the warmest years on record have occurred recently. Climate change will alter agricultural practices and natural resources management decisions.

Boscobel Mayor Steve Wetter then spoke regarding plans for improvements at the Floyd Von Haden boat landing. Wetter said students from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville are working on a plan for the site. He hopes the entrance to the lagoon will be redesigned and would like a campground established. Jerry Dorscheid noted there is a dangerous eddy at the entrance to the landing. Nick Nice concurred and said the broken concrete used for riprap also makes it dangerous for bank fishermen and children who clamber over the bank. Wetter said he would like to see the concrete replaced by locally quarried stone. Wetter said he will keep the board apprised of developments with the site. Brian Hefty, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Riverway Manager, said there are numerous requirements for siting of a campground and said any involvement of state ownership in the redesigned landing/campground would have to be scrutinized.

Under correspondence, Lundberg said Cupp had been in contact with Governor Scott Walker's office regarding the appointments process. Cupp said three year terms would end on May 1, 2011 for Lundberg, Leys and Greenwood. In addition, the re-appointments of Brown and Dorscheid were not acted on by former Governor James Doyle so those nominations have been withdrawn by the Walker administration. Dorscheid and Brown will have to renew their application for re-appointment. Leys is not eligible for re-appointment so a new Crawford County representative will be appointed.

A proposal to rename the Riverview Bluff Unit of the Riverway, located in Richland County, as the Bud Jordahl Unit was considered. Action on the item had been delayed at the January meeting. Cupp said he had drafted a letter to Jonathan Ela, Natural Resources Board Chair, in support of the proposal. He said the family endorses the location and said it was one of Jordahl's favorite sections of the river. Madison said he had discussed the concept with Steve Born, a close friend of Jordahl's, who agreed the action was appropriate. Madison then made a motion, seconded by Greenwood, to send the letter to Ela in support of the proposal. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chairman Dorscheid. The annual review of half of the management permits for activities on State Natural Areas (SNA) managed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) was conducted. Cupp explained that the board reviews the permits for a portion of SNA properties each year and receives an update on activities on SNA lands throughout the Riverway. He noted extensions are needed for the properties up for renewal. Cupp said the Operations Committee has conducted field inspections at most of the SNA properties in the Riverway. Dorscheid then asked Zine to provide an overview of SNA activities in the Riverway.

Zine said a new tool available via the Internet allows access to historic aerial photographs, which is useful to track landscape changes. He compared several SNA sites with recent aerial photographs in contrast to photographs from the 1930's. Zine described activities at specific sites including areas where burns are scheduled or where invasive species will be targeted. He said illegal access by ATVs, dirt bikes and 4-wheel drive pick-ups has caused damage to some SNA sites including Avoca Prairie, Gotham Sands, Woodman Sand Prairie and Blue River Barrens. Zine said access has been or will be limited at these sites. Hefty and Zine said closing access is necessary to protect the resource and said the roads probably should never have been there in the first place. Cupp said he disagreed with the action but noted it was a DNR management decision beyond the purview of the LWSRB.

The 2011 SNA permit extensions under consideration and the associated permit conditions were reviewed. A description of each is detailed below.

Adiantum Woods State Natural Area

The site is located in the Town of Millville, Grant County. Activities include the following: invasive species control, removal of buckthorn, honeysuckle and garlic mustard. The site is visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. A permit previously was issued for the activity.

Executive Director recommends extension of the existing permit until April 15, 2013. Conditions of the permit include the following:

- 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.

Avoca Prairie Natural Area

The site is located in the Town of Pulaski, Iowa County. Activities include the following: invasive species control (specifically, purple loosestrife); brush cutting; fire break development; and, prescribed burning. The site is visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. A permit previously was issued for the activity.

Executive Director recommends extension of the existing permit until April 15, 2013. Conditions of the permit include the following:

- 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.

Blue River Sand Barrens State Natural Area

The site is located in the Town of Muscoda, Grant County. Activities include the following: invasive species control (black locust); Brush cutting; black oak thinning; firebreak development; and, prescribed burning. The site is not visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. A permit previously was issued for the activity.

Executive Director recommends extension of the existing permit until April 15, 2013. Conditions of the permit include the following:

- 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.

Ferry Bluff State Natural Area

The site is located in the Town of Prairie du Sac, Sauk County. Activities include the following: invasive species control; brush cutting; fire break development; and, prescribed burning. The site is highly visible from the Wisconsin River. A permit previously was issued for the activity.

Executive Director recommends extension of the existing permit until April 15, 2013. Conditions of the permit include the following:

- 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.

Mazomanie Bottoms State Natural Area

The site is located in the Town of Mazomanie, Dane County. Activities include the following: invasive species control (buckthorn, garlic mustard, purple loosestrife) and brush cutting. A portion of the site is visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. A permit previously was issued for the activity.

Executive Director recommends extension of the existing permit until April 15, 2013. Conditions of the permit include the following:

- 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.

Richwood Bottoms State Natural Area

The site is located in the Town of Richwood, Richland County. Activities include the following: invasive species control (buckthorn, garlic mustard, purple loosestrife) and brush cutting. A portion of the site is visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. A permit previously was issued for the activity.

Executive Director recommends extension of the existing permit until April 15, 2013. Conditions of the permit include the following:

- 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.

Tower Hill Bottoms State Natural Area

The site is located in the Town of Wyoming, Iowa County. Activities include the following: invasive species control (buckthorn, garlic mustard, purple loosestrife) and brush cutting. A portion of the site is visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. A permit previously was issued for the activity.

Executive Director recommends extension of the existing permit until April 15, 2013. Conditions of the permit include the following:

- 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.

Wauzeka Bottoms State Natural Area

The site is located in the Town of Wauzeka, Crawford County. Activities include the following: invasive species control (buckthorn, garlic mustard, purple loosestrife) and brush cutting. A portion of the site is visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. A permit previously was issued for the activity.

Executive Director recommends extension of the existing permit until April 15, 2013. Conditions of the permit include the following:

- 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.

Woodman Sand Prairie and Dead Lake State Natural Area

The site is located in the Town of Woodman, Grant County. Activities include the following: invasive species control; cutting of cedar and spruce; firebreak development; and, prescribed burning. The site is not visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. A permit previously was issued for the activity.

Executive Director recommends extension of the existing permit until April 15, 2013. Conditions of the permit include the following:

- 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.

Wyalusing Hardwood Forest State Natural Area

The site is located in the Town of Wyalusing, Grant County. Activities include the following: invasive species control (buckthorn, honeysuckle, garlic mustard) and brush cutting. A portion of the site is visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. A permit previously was issued for the activity.

Executive Director recommends extension of the existing permit until April 15, 2013. Conditions of the permit include the following:

- 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.

Wyalusing Walnut Forest State Natural Area

The site is located in the Town of Wyalusing, Grant County. Activities include the following: invasive species control (buckthorn, honeysuckle, garlic mustard) and brush cutting. A portion of the site is visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. A permit previously was issued for the activity.

Executive Director recommends extension of the existing permit until April 15, 2013. Conditions of the permit include the following:

- 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.

A motion to approve issuance of two-year extensions with retention of the original permit conditions for each site was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Madison. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The permit request of Brad Hutnik, on behalf of DNR, for removal of black locust trees at the former WP&L tract in the Town of Pulaski, Iowa County, was considered. The site is not visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. Hutnik said plans call for a commercial firewood sale as the first step in a vegetative management process. The possible location of an archeological site in the vicinity may delay the harvest. Dorscheid made a motion, seconded by Melody Moore, to approve issuance of a two-year permit for the activity with the following standard conditions:

- 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.

The Crystal/Fish/Mud Lake District pumping project was discussed. Cupp said there are additional erosion problems at the discharge site. An on-site meeting between the Operations Committee and representatives of the Lake District will be held in March. Madison asked to be informed of the time and date of the field inspection.

The permit request of United Cooperative for construction of a grain storage and transfer facility in the Town of Mazomanie, Dane County, was considered. Greg Greenheck noted he is a member of the cooperative and would not vote on any matters related to issuance of a permit to avoid any conflict of interest. Al Jentz of United Cooperative was introduced. A viewshed analysis compiled by the DNR's Ann Runyard was reviewed. The analysis demonstrated visibility of the structure at 135 feet and at intermediate lower heights. Cupp said he had asked Jentz to determine if the height of the elevator appendage could be limited to 115 feet. Jentz then provided diagrams with the elevator height lowered to 115 feet.

Greenwood noted there likely would be some visibility at 115 feet and that colorization would be important. Jentz said United Cooperative would implement color treatments, if necessary. Greenwood asked if the elevator would have to be lit for airplanes to which Jentz replied in the negative. Dorscheid asked if other sites had been considered. Jentz said he had met with Cupp and Hefty to review other sites on DNR managed lands but no sites had been identified. He also looked at private lands along the rail corridor and could not find a suitable site with a willing seller. The site under consideration is the preferred site and an option has been taken. Greenwood asked about the condition of the railroad tracks. Jentz said the tracks are in good condition.

Nice asked if the proposed facility would be similar to the facility west of Boscobel. Cupp said he did not have information on the heights of the storage bins or elevator. The site is just outside the Riverway boundary so the permit requirements and performance standards of the Riverway law were not applicable. Cupp said the Boscobel facility is visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions.

Moore noted there have been concerns raised by the neighboring property owner. She added the town board intends to do a site visit before acting on the rezoning request. The site must be rezoned from exclusive agriculture to agri-business. Greenwood asked about the county's role in the rezoning process. Jentz said United Cooperative is beginning the process with the LWSRB, then going to the county and then to the Town of Mazomanie. Moore said a concern has been expressed regarding heavy truck use of CTH Y and asked about the number of trucks that would use the highway. Jentz said about 2500 trucks would use CTH Y on an annual basis.

Cupp suggested additional images be taken from the mouth of Honey Creek and from the bluffs on or near the Black Hawk Unit. Jentz asked if board thought lowering the height of the elevator to 115 feet will be approved. Lundberg said the general feeling is that 115 feet is better than 135 feet and that it is worth taken the next step in the process. He directed Cupp to continue with the process.

Cupp said he and Hutnik had met with Todd Kenefeck, Richland County Forester, to review harvest plans on the Galen Bremmer parcel in the Town of Orion, Richland County. Plans call for harvest of oak to contain an oak wilt problem. Cupp said the site is not visible from the river and is outside the boundary.

Under permits issued by the Executive Director, Cupp said he had issued a general permit for a timber harvest on property owned by John Onsager in the Town of Troy, Sauk County. The parcel is adjacent to an active harvest on a neighbor's property. Aspen and miscellaneous species will be removed on land not visible from the Wisconsin River. An extension to a management issued to Dan Goltz, DNR Wildlife Biologist, was approved for maintenance of an archeological site in the Town of Richwood, Richland County. An extension to a management permit issued to Becky Roth, DNR Wildlife Biologist, for a habitat work in the Town of Mazomanie, Dane County, was approved.

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

There was no report from the Personnel Committee.

The Executive Director's report was presented by Cupp who reviewed the materials in the board members' packets.

There were no items to report under board members' business.

The DNR report was given by Brian Hefty, Acting DNR Riverway Manager, who said DNR may be able to make minor improvements at the Boscobel DNR landing such as grading and gravel but no major improvements are planned. There is limited space to expand the parking area DNR officials will be involved in planning discussions for improvements to the Floyd Von Haden landing.

During the public comment session, Timm Zumm of Spring Green, Co-Chair of the Friends of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway (FLOW), reviewed upcoming FLOW events and noted FLOW will have a booth and Canoeocopia and will make a presentation on the Riverway.

A motion to adjourn until March 10th when the meeting will be held in Muscoda was made by Madison, seconded by Greenwood. **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