

LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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MINUTES OF THE MARCH 10, 2011, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, March 10, 2011, at the Kratochwill Memorial Building in Muscodas 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 Ritchie Brown. Acknowledgment that the meeting was properly noticed was provided by Mark E. Cupp, Executive Director. A motion to approve the agenda with a minor change in placement of an American Transmission Company item was made by Jerry Dorscheid, seconded by Don Greenwood. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2011, meeting was made by Fred Madison, seconded by Melody Moore. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chairman Lundberg. The first guest speaker of the evening was introduced. Mark Guthmiller, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Forest Health Specialist, gave a presentation on non-native invasive species and focused on the gypsy moth and emerald ash borer. The second guest speaker for the evening was Matt Krueger of the River Alliance of Wisconsin who spoke about aquatic invasive species and effort to curb the spread of species into the lower Wisconsin River and backwaters.

Under correspondence, Lundberg noted a letter had been received from Scott Teuber, owner of Wisconsin River Outings, regarding the two public access sites at Boscobel. Teuber offered his insights and possible options for consideration to improve the landings and decrease user conflicts. Lundberg said the Natural Resources Board will consider adoption of a resolution to rename the Riverway's Riverview Bluff Unit in the Town of Orion, Richland County, as the Bud Jordahl Unit in honor of the late Harold "Bud" Jordahl. Cupp said he will speak in favor of the action at the March 23rd Natural Resources Board meeting in Madison.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chairman Dorscheid. The permit request of Taliesin Preservation, Inc., for implementation of a new lighting plan for the parking lot and grounds at the Frank Lloyd Wright Visitor Center in the Town of Wyoming, Iowa County, was considered. Dorscheid said an initial field inspection was conducted by Cupp on October 21, 2010. Representatives of Taliesin Preservation, Mike Degen of the Town of Wyoming Plan Commission and LWSRB member Don Greenwood also were present for the field inspection. An additional field inspection was conducted by the LWSRB Operations Committee and Cupp on November 11, 2010. Ryan Houston, representing Taliesin Preservation, and gave a PowerPoint presentation on the project. Plans call for installation of three 20 ft. tall single headed poles with Dark Sky compliant lighting for the visitor parking area. The poles will be brown in color and will have on/off switches operated manually from the visitor center. There will be one 25 ft. tall pole installed in the employee parking area and two motion sensitive lights installed for the upper and lower delivery sites. New lighting will replace existing lighting for signage. Overall, there will be a reduction in the visual impact of the lighting for the visitor center when viewed from the river during leaf-on conditions. Ron Leys asked about the color of the lights. Houston said there are a neutral color and not an orange or pink as sometimes is seen. A member of the public, Timm Zumm of Spring Green, commended Taliesin Preservation for using Dark Sky compliant lighting. Cupp thanked Houston and his colleagues for their cooperation throughout the process. Houston reciprocated by thanking the board for their input and guidance.

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

- The existing screening vegetation shall be maintained and replaced if damaged or destroyed;
- All reasonable efforts shall be taken to minimize the visibility of the utility facility when viewed from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions;
- The LWSRB shall approve any modifications to the plans, as submitted;
- The applicant or agent shall notify the LWSRB upon initiation and completion of the activity; and,
- The activity shall comply with all other applicable federal, state and local regulations.

MOTION CARRIED.

The permit requested of American Transmission Company, as submitted by consultant John Wiater of Bonestroo, for modification of a utility facility was considered. The line from Boscobel to Lone Rock will be modified. Portions of the line fall within the Riverway boundary. The most visible portion of the line will be in Richland County in the Town of Orion and Town of Buena in the Bogus Bluff area. Dorscheid said a field inspection was conducted by Cupp in conjunction with previous permit activity in the vicinity. An additional field inspection with the consultant will be conducted prior to initiation of construction. Plans call for replacement of some existing poles with new structures and addition of new mid-span poles in some locations. The replacement poles will be the same height as the existing poles. The new mid-span poles will be lower in height than the existing poles. Some access roads will be required within the right of way. Soil disturbance will be minimized. The work will be done when the ground is frozen or dry.

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

- All reasonable efforts shall be taken to minimize the visual impact of the utility facility;
- The replacement structures and the new mid-span structures shall not exceed the height of the existing structures without LWSRB review and approval;
- If necessary, a planting plan developed by the DNR Riverway Forester shall be implemented by May 1, 2012;
- The LWSRB shall approve of any modification to the plans, as submitted; and,
- ATC or the consultant shall notify the board upon initiation and completion of the project.

MOTION CARRIED.

The permit request of American Transmission Company, as submitted by Environmental Project Manager Amy Lee, was considered. Plans call for the modification of the transmission line from the Prairie du Sac dam eastward in the Town of West Point, Columbia County. The existing lattice structures will be replaced by monopoles of similar height. Dorscheid said the Operations Committee had conducted a field inspection at the site earlier in the day. Some of the poles will be visible from the river but the change from the lattice structures to monopoles will be an improvement aesthetically. A PowerPoint presentation was shown. Madison asked for clarification on pole heights. Cupp said the monopoles will be the approximately the same height as the existing structures. Dorscheid made a motion, seconded by Madison, to approve issuance of a permit with the following conditions:

- All reasonable efforts shall be taken to minimize the visual impact of the utility facility;
- The replacement structures and the new mid-span structures shall not exceed the height of the existing structures without LWSRB review and approval;
- The LWSRB shall approve of any modification to the plans, as submitted; and,
- ATC or the consultant shall notify the board upon initiation and completion of the project.

MOTION CARRIED.

Dorscheid provided an update on a recently completed American Transmission Company project in the Town of Arena, Iowa County. Pole replacement along the river near Helena recently was completed. A condition of the permit required implementation of a plan. A field inspection conducted by Brad Hutnik, DNR Riverway Forester, revealed that establishment of additional screening vegetation would not be necessary due to the minimal vegetative disturbance that occurred during construction. A PowerPoint presentation was shown.

An update on the permit request of United Cooperative for construction of a grain storage and transfer facility in the Town of Mazomanie, Dane County, was provided. Lundberg noted the Operations Committee had conducted a field inspection at the mouth of Honey Creek near Ferry Bluff in the Town of Prairie du Sac, Sauk County, to gain a perspective on the potential visibility of the elevator appendage associated with the grain storage facility. Lundberg

said the site is miles away from that stretch of river and visibility would be minimal, especially if a gray patina was added to reduce reflectivity. He noted United Cooperative had agreed to reduce the maximum height of the elevator from 135 feet to 115 feet. Dorscheid noted the storage bins will not be visible. Leys said only a small portion, if any, of the structure will be visible and that will be further ameliorated if appropriate colorization is employed. Madison asked if the Town of Mazomanie had taken any action. Moore (Dane County LWSRB member and also a member of the Mazomanie town board) said the item was removed from the agenda in March at the request of United Cooperative. Cupp said he and Hutnik had intended to take digital images and GPS points to further assess visual impacts but weather had delayed that activity. Cupp said he told Al Jentz of United Cooperative that the matter would be considered at the April 14th LWSRB meeting.

The Crystal/Fish/Mud Lake District pumping project was discussed. Dorscheid said the committee and Cupp had visited the site earlier in the day. Dave Padley of the Lake District and Dan Hunt from DNR also were in attendance. Dorscheid said the pump is currently pumping at 540 gallons/minute. Lundberg noted the site of the level spreader appears stable although there has been some bank erosion due to natural river actions. Leys noted there are signs of beaver activity in the immediate vicinity. Cupp suggested the site be left in its current condition until additional erosion transpires that requires a response. Madison noted the climate change models indicate increased precipitation for the area around Crystal/Fish/Mud lakes.

Cupp said a landowner in the Town of Arena had contacted him regarding the proposed addition of a screened porch to a mobile home near the Arena boat landing. He said the application has not been received but may require action by the Executive Committee to approve issuance of a permit if there is a timeliness issue. Lundberg noted the committee has the authority to act in such matters and asked if there were any objections. None were expressed.

Under permits issued by the Executive Director, Cupp said he had issued extensions to two timber harvest permits. An extension was issued to Quentin Hurtz for property in the Town of Marion, Grant County, and to Greg Pomerening for a parcel in the Town of Wauzeka, Crawford. In each case, the harvest area will not be visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. Cupp said he has a field inspection scheduled with Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative to review the proposed construction of a new line near Boydtown in the Town of Wauzeka, Crawford County.

The Budget & Office Committee report was presented by Acting Chairman Greenheck who reviewed the status of the FY 11 budget. Cupp then reviewed Governor Walker's budget proposal for the LWSRB for the 2011-2013 biennium. The board's budget request was only reduced by a minor amount. Staff will pay more for health insurance and retirement contributions. The annual allocation will be \$202,600. The board is funded by a SEG account, the conservation fund. General tax dollars are not used for board salaries, fringes or operations. Cupp noted proposed changes in the Stewardship program likely will reduce the amount land purchased or eased by DNR in the Riverway.

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. Cupp said he met with area legislators to discuss the budget at the State Capitol on March 2nd. Cupp will attend a conference on Wisconsin River water quality in Stevens Point on March 11th. He will be a guest speaker and serve on a panel. Cupp noted he, Madison and Greenwood continue to participate in the Spring Green West Basin Flood Control Advisory Committee. Another well attended meeting was held at River Valley High School in Spring Green on February 18th. Cupp said the LWSRB will sponsor an event on Saturday, March 12th, to honor Aldo Leopold by reading from A Sand County Almanac and by screening the new documentary on Leopold's life and legacy entitled, "Green Fire." The board is partnering with the Muscoda Public Library on the event. Cupp said an event will be held at Frank's Hill in the Town of Eagle, Richland County, to observe the vernal equinox. There will be a sunset observance amidst the effigy mounds on Saturday evening, March 19th, and sunrise observance on Sunday morning, March 20th.

Under board members' business, Dorscheid said the Arena fire chief has expressed concern about night time river rescues and the frequent inability of recreational users to identify their location. Madison said skiers can rent personal GPS units, which may work for river users as well. Zumm noted most people have newer cell phones with locators built in. Dorscheid also asked about handicapped accessibility.

The DNR report was given by Ryder Will, DNR Riverway Recreation Specialist. He said the water trails map is being reprinted and a new full color brochure is in development

During the public comment session, Timm Zumm of Spring Green, Co-Chair of the Friends of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway (FLOW), noted the group will have a booth at Canoecopia 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 Greenheck, seconded by Madison. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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