

LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 8, 2011, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, December 8, 2011, 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 Acting Chairman Melody Moore. All members were present with the exceptions of Bill Lundberg, Don Greenwood 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 Nick Nice, seconded by Fred Madison. **MOTION CARRIED.** The minutes of the November 10, 2011, meeting then were considered. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ron Leys, seconded by Madison. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chair Moore. The Frac Sands Mining Conference hosted by the Riverway Board on December 2nd was discussed. Cupp said over 100 people attended and many positive comments were made. Jerry Dorscheid said the topics were well-covered by the presenters. Leys said it was an appropriate activity for the board and felt the sponsorship of the conference by the board was important. Moore noted the lack of zoning in Riverway municipalities is a concern but the fact that the hotbed of frac sand mining is further north gives local communities a chance to shore up their ordinances and prepare for future non-metallic mining. A member of the public, Bill Howe of Prairie du Chien noted geologist Bruce Brown, the first presenter, also spoke to a smaller group in the hallway about environmental problems associated with the fracking process.

A letter received from a Prairie du Chien resident regarding noise from a rail yard near her home was discussed. The letter said rail cars are loaded with frac sand at all hours of the day and the noise and dust affect the quality of life for residents of the nearby mobile home community. Leys said the rail yard appears to be well run. Cupp's response was reviewed. He explained that the LWSRB has no control over rail yard operations and encouraged the correspondent to contact local officials regarding the problem.

Correspondence regarding the Crystal/Fish/Mud Lake District pumping project were considered. Cupp said David Padley from the Lake District had responded to Cupp's letter about the need for better communication in regard to changes at the discharge site. Padley said changes were effected at the direction of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). A letter from Town of West Point resident Kevin Kessler to the Lake District expressing concerns with aspects of the pumping project were reviewed. Madison said Kessler makes several valid points, including questioning the validity of the high capacity wells as a solution to problems with high water levels at Crystal Lake.

Cupp said he had sent a letter of support for a grant proposal submitted by Dave Marshall to study nitrates in backwaters in the Spring Green and Lone Rock area. A copy of the letter of support was reviewed.

The proposed 2012 meeting schedule was reviewed. A motion to approve the 2012 meeting schedule was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Greenheck. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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January 12, 2012	Muscoda	Kratochwill Memorial Building
February 9, 2012	Muscoda	Kratochwill Memorial Building
March 8, 2012	Muscoda	Kratochwill Memorial Building
April 12, 2012	Sauk City	Public Library
May 10, 2012	Boscobel	City Hall
June 14, 2012	Mazomanie	Black Hawk Unit (Rhineland Cabin)
July 12, 2012	Muscoda	Kratochwill Memorial Building
August 9, 2012	Spring Green	Public Library
September 13, 2012	Prairie du Chien	Wyalusing State Park
October 11, 2012	Wauzeka	Village Hall
November 8, 2012	Avoca	Village Hall
December 13, 2012	Muscoda	Kratochwill Memorial Building

The 2009-2011 LWSRB Biennial Report was presented by Cupp. The report was sent to the Department of Administration and appropriate other individuals.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chairman Dorscheid. The permit request of Tim Mathews for a timber harvest on Coumbe Island in the Town of Watterstown, Grant County, was considered. Dorscheid said a field inspection was conducted by Cupp on December 1, 2011. Mr. Mathews was present for the field inspection. Previous field inspections have been conducted at the site in conjunction with timber harvests conducted by the former landowner. Mr. Mathews acquired the property in August of 2011. Plans call for the selective harvest of merchantable hardwoods on the interior of Coumbe Island. Minimal, if any, trees will be harvested in the River Edge Zone. An existing road system will provide access. No new roads will be constructed. The harvest will be conducted during leaf-off conditions and when the ground is frozen or dry. Mr. Mathews is interested in a horse logging procedure for the harvest. Brad Hutnik, DNR Riverway Forester, has provided contact information for area horse loggers.

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

- The harvest shall comply with the basal area limits for the residual stand in the River Edge Zone and Riverview Zone, as detailed in Chapter NR 37, Wisconsin Administrative Code;
- In the River Edge Zone and Riverview Zone, all trees selected for harvest shall be appropriately marked and reviewed by the LWSRB for compliance with the applicable performance standards prior to initiation of the harvest;
- In the River Edge Zone and 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 review the location and design of all new logging roads, if any, in the River Edge Zone and 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;

Conditions cont.:

- The LWSRB shall review the location and design of all small regeneration cuts, if any, in the Riverview Zone to assure compliance with the applicable performance standards;
- The River Edge Zone and Riverview Zone shall be delineated prior to initiation of the harvest, if necessary;
- 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 request of Brad Hutnik, DNR Riverway Forester, for an extension/amendment to a previously issued timber harvest permit for a parcel of state owned lands in the Town of Mazomanie, Dane County, was considered. Dorscheid said a field inspection was conducted by Cupp in conjunction with previous permit activity in the vicinity. The Operations Committee also has visited the site on several occasions. A portion of the harvest area is visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. Plans call for an intermediate improvement thinning with limited group designation and clearing. The goal of the harvest is to prepare the stand for uneven aged management. Dorscheid noted the amendment to the permit will reflect timber stand improvement activities and invasive species control which will be conducted prior to the next harvest.

A motion was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Madison, to approve a two year extension with the following conditions:

- The harvest shall comply with the basal area limits for the residual stand in the Riverview Zone and River Edge Zone as detailed in Chapter NR 37, Wisconsin Administrative Code;
- In the Riverview Zone and River Edge Zone, all trees selected for harvest shall be appropriately marked and reviewed by the LWSRB for compliance with the applicable performance standards prior to initiation of the harvest;
- In the Riverview Zone and River Edge 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 review the location and design of all new logging roads, if any, in the Riverview Zone and River Edge 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;
- The LWSRB shall review the location and design of all small regeneration cuts, if any, in the Riverview Zone to assure compliance with the applicable performance standards;
- If necessary, the various zones shall be delineated 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, 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.

Cupp said a management permit application had been received from Walter Whisler for invasive species control on a parcel in the Town of Clyde, Iowa County. Hutnik said the work will involve

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honeysuckle removal and management of other invasive species. Portions of the site are visible from the river but no new structures become visible from the river as a result of the activity and the activity is deemed appropriate for the site. Cupp said he would process the permit following the board meeting but that board action couldn't be taken since the application was received after the meeting notice was published. He noted the board has authorized to issue management permits.

Cupp said he is working with Frank Lloyd Wright/Taliesin representatives on a comprehensive management plan for the Taliesin grounds. A management permit will be issued with requirements for the Taliesin personnel to indicate the areas upon which work will be conducted prior to engagement in activities. The focus of the immediate work will be invasive species control and enhancement of native plant communities.

Cupp said he had issued one permit since the last meeting. An extension for a two-year period to a management permit issued to DNR for mounds maintenance activities at the Bloyer/Twin Lizard mound group was granted by Cupp. The mound group will be the site of a volunteer work day on December 10th.

The Budget Committee report was presented by Chairman Nice who reviewed the status of the FY 12 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 early January. 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.

Under board members' business, Leys reported on recent cougar sightings in Crawford County. Madison discussed the possibility of metallic mining, similar to the Ladysmith mine, at undetermined places around the state in the future, which could include the Riverway. Dorscheid asked if there was any word from the Governor's office on appointments. Cupp replied in the negative.

Under DNR report, Brian Hefty, DNR Riverway Manager, noted the amount of time and money expended to pick up garbage in the Riverway. He pointed to the Highbank Road west of Muscoda as an example where large amounts of garbage have been illegally dumped.

Hutnik said the Lemanski tract timber sale in the Town of Pulaski, Iowa County, has been closed out. No new timber harvesting on state lands is expected this winter. Leys noted the Operations Committee visited the Lemanski tract prior to the board meeting. He was impressed with the minimal disturbance at the site.

During the public comment session, Mary Prilsby of Muscoda noted she had recently moved to the area and was supportive of the Riverway project. She hopes to become more involved in helping to protect the scenic beauty and natural resources of the area.

Bill Howe of Prairie du Chien complimented the board on its work. He noted the recent sale of the Wisconsin and Southern Railroad. Howe said bridges over backwater sloughs should be looked at. He said the Kickapoo River clean-up was successful in removing debris from the river. Howe said hydroelectric

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generation is being considered for the Mississippi River. He thanked the board for the leadership in organizing the frac sands mining conference. Leys thanked Howe for his efforts to protect Wisconsin's resources.

A motion to adjourn until January 12, 2012, when the meeting will be held in Muscoda was made by Madison, 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