

LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

202 N. Wisconsin Avenue
P.O. Box 187
Muscodia, WI 53573
(608) 739-3188 or 1-800-221-3792

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 8, 2012, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, March 8, 2012, 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 exception of 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 Ron Leys, seconded by Melody Moore. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2012, meeting was made by Don Greenwood, seconded by Fred Madison. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chairman Lundberg who introduced guest speaker Mark Guthmiller, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Forest Health Specialist. Guthmiller gave a presentation on insects and diseases threatening Riverway forests. He discussed the gypsy moth (GM) and emerald ash borer (EAB) trapping programs as well as quarantines in effect for both GM and EAB. Guthmiller said the Asian Longhorn Beetle is a future threat to the region, particularly Northern Wisconsin. Silver maple would be a concern in the Riverway. Guthmiller then presented information on 1000 Cankers Disease, which affects walnut trees; Walnut Decline, again, a black walnut issue; Bur Oak Blight; and, Spruce Needlecast. He noted the importance of observation and early detection in combating the spread of non-native invasive species and diseases and stressed that people should not move firewood from quarantined areas.

Lundberg then asked Cupp to discuss correspondence. Cupp said he continues to gather information on gubernatorial appointments to the LWSRB but has nothing new to report for this meeting. Cupp said the donation of \$50 to the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway project approved by the LWSRB at the previous meeting would not be made because of statutory prohibitions. He noted the LWSRB, the Muscodia Library and Cultural Landscape Legacies are co-sponsoring the 2nd Annual Muscodia Reads Leopold event on March 10th.

Lundberg then noted the Executive Committee had approved a recommendation by the Personnel Committee to offer Discretionary Merit Compensation (DMC) to Cupp and to Marsha Nachtigal, Office Associate. He asked Moore to report on the committee's recommendation. Moore said Nachtigal is only eligible for a lump sum payment and said the recommendation of the Personnel Committee was for issuance of an award of \$1000 for meritorious service related to excellent customer service over an extended period of time and for taking on additional new responsibilities related to GIS technologies used in the office. Moore said Cupp would be eligible for a two-step increase, which was the recommendation of the committee. The DMC was based on length of service and outstanding job performance. The recommendation was reviewed by the Budget Committee, which determined the DMC offerings were fundable under the existing LWSRB allotment. A motion to approve the DMC for Cupp and Nachtigal was made by Lundberg, seconded by Madison. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chairman Dorscheid. Terry Shifflet of Wisconsin Riverside Resort in the Town of Spring Green, Sauk County, had requested the current permit be amended to include removal of trees for a parking lot expansion and to cover the possible placement of

a small wooden arch to be used for wedding ceremonies. Cupp said the proposed tree removal would not result in a structure becoming visible from the river and that the wooden arch would be brown in color. A PowerPoint presentation was shown. A motion was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Greenwood, to amend the permit to reflect the new activities with retention of the following permit conditions:

- The existing screening vegetation shall be maintained and replaced if damaged or destroyed;
- The LWSRB shall approve the removal of any existing trees at the site prior to initiation of construction;
- A planting plan shall be developed by the DNR Riverway Forester and implemented by June 1, 2011, following approval by the LWSRB; the planting plan shall include a variety of species to reach specified heights within 3 years of planting and with replacement of trees if mortality occurs;
- The height of the structure shall be limited so that the structure does not become visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions and shall not exceed 30 feet;
- The exterior colorization of the structure (including roof color) shall harmonize with the natural surroundings during leaf-on conditions and shall be approved by the LWSRB prior to initiation of construction;
- There shall be a limited amount of glass or other reflective material;
- The LWSRB shall review any modifications to the plans, as submitted, for compliance with the applicable performance standards;
- The landowner shall notify the LWSRB upon initiation and completion of the project; and,
- The activity shall comply with all other federal, state and local regulations.

MOTION CARRIED.

The permit request of Mike Hedemark and Arlyne Johnson for construction of storage shed in the Town of Clyde, Iowa County, was considered. Plans call for construction of a 40 ft. x 60 ft. pole shed. The approximate maximum height at the peak will be 22 ft. The exterior colorization will be brown with a brown roof. Minimal windows will face the river. Adequate screening vegetation exists at the site. A permit was issued to a previous landowner for modification of the existing house. A Power Point presentation was shown. Dorscheid made a motion, seconded by Greenwood, to approve issuance of a structure permit for the activity with the following conditions:

- The existing screening vegetation shall be maintained and replaced if damaged or destroyed;
- The height of the structure shall be limited so that the structure does not become visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions and shall not exceed 24 feet;
- The exterior colorization of the structure, including roof color, shall harmonize with the natural surroundings during leaf-on conditions and shall be reviewed for compliance with the Riverway regulations and approved prior to initiation on construction;
- There shall be a limited amount of glass or other reflective material visible from the river;
- The LWSRB shall review any modifications to the plans, as submitted, for compliance with the applicable performance standards;
- The landowner or his/her agent shall notify the LWSRB upon completion of the project; and,
- The activity shall comply with all other federal, state and local regulations.

MOTION CARRIED.

The request of Jack Kussmaul for an extension to an existing permit for a prairie restoration project in the Town of Millville, Grant County, was discussed. Cupp explained that Mr. Kussmaul obtained the original permit in 2002 and has received several extensions as work continues on the project. Periodic field inspections have been conducted by Cupp and the Operations Committee since issuance of the original permit. No structures become visible from the river as a result of the activity. Dorscheid made a motion, seconded by Nice, to approve issuance of a two-year extension with retention of the following permit conditions:

- The activity shall be appropriate for the site and shall be consistent with the objectives for the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway;
- The activity shall not result in an existing structure becoming visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions;
- The LWSRB shall approve any modifications to the plans as submitted; and,
- The applicant or his/her agent shall notify the LWSRB upon initiation and completion of the project.

MOTION CARRIED.

The request of American Transmission Company (ATC) for an extension to an existing permit was considered. Cupp said the LWSRB issued a permit for work in the Town of West Point, Columbia County, in 2011. Field inspection revealed portions of the power line are visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. Plans call for replacement of the existing lattice structures with monopoles. The new structures will not be more visible from the river than the existing structures. The work will be done when the ground is frozen or dry. The work has not been completed. ATC has requested an extension to the existing permit. Plans for the project remain the same. Madison noted the prep work has been done and the project is ready to proceed. Dorscheid made a motion, seconded by Greenwood, to approve issuance of a one-year extension with retention of the following permit conditions:

- All reasonable efforts shall be taken to minimize the visual impact of the utility facility;
- The replacement 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.

Cupp said he had conversations with two other ATC representatives on other projects in the Riverway. A pole will be moved on STH 60 in the Town of Troy, Sauk County, for safety purposes. No tree removal will be required and the site is not visible from the Wisconsin River. Cupp classified the project as a routine maintenance activity. No permit required. Cupp also spoke with an ATC official about relocation of the line along STH 60 in Richland County in conjunction with reconstruction of the highway. The exact location of the line hasn't been determined pending final decision plans for that stretch of roadway. The LWSRB will be involved in that process.

An update on the Crystal/Fish/Mud Lake District pumping project was provided. Pumping continues from Fish Lake to the discharge site. Action on pumping from Crystal Lake to Roxbury Creek

is being reviewed. The Operations Committee will visit the existing discharge site in the Town of Roxbury, Dane County, prior to the April LWSRB meeting as part of the monitoring plan.

Dorscheid said the committee met with Brett Bauers, Executive Director of Wisconsin Badger Camp, to discuss placement of a flagpole and construction of a communications tower on Badger Camp property in the Towns of Millville and Wyalusing, Grant County. Cupp noted a flagpole is not considered a structure under the Riverway law so no permit is required. The proposed site is on a point overlooking the intersection of Hwy. 18/35 and CTH C and is visible from the Wisconsin River. Cupp said he had encouraged Badger Camp to minimize the height of the pole to reduce visibility or to consider an alternate site. Dorscheid said the communications tower is necessary to accommodate new federal guidelines for two-way radios. Badger Camp wishes to erect a 180' tower on lands atop the bluff but outside the Riverway boundary. Therefore, the permit requirements and performance standards of the Riverway law are not applicable. Because of the special needs of Badger Camp clientele, reliable communications are important for the safety of staff and campers. Cupp noted the new tower will be visible from the river and will represent another visual intrusion, which is antithetical to the LWSRB mission. Cupp said he suggested Badger Camp consider co-location of equipment on the nearby US Cellular tower. Mr. Bauers said he would inquire on the feasibility of doing so. Cupp further noted the need for a boundary review and likely revision at Badger Camp.

Boundary review and revisions discussion continued. Cupp said a proposed timber harvest on the John Rasmussen property in the Town of Arena, Iowa County, again demonstrated the need for the Riverway boundary to be adjusted. The bluff is visible from the river but is not included within the boundary. Therefore, the proposed clearcutting of oak is not regulated by the board. Cupp said he has asked the timber buyer/consultant to avoid clearcutting on top of the bluff and, instead, only engage in selective harvesting to minimize visual impacts. However, Cupp noted the activity is not subject to the permit requirements and performance standards of the law.

Cupp reported DNR Conservation Warden David Youngquist assisted with processing of the written warning for Lee Gates for violation of the timber harvest regulations on the Daniel Frey property in the Town of Prairie du Sac, Sauk County. The warning and cover letter have been issued.

The Budget & Office Committee report was presented by Chairman Nice who reviewed the status of the FY 12 budget.

The Personnel Committee report was previously presented by Moore under Executive Committee business.

The Executive Director's report was presented by Cupp who reviewed the materials in the board members' packets. He noted that the CLL website will be moved to a different server in the near future but that links to the LWSRB website would be maintained. Cupp said the mounds work day at the Bloyer/Twin Lizard went well and expressed appreciation to the DNR forestry personnel who assisted. Cupp noted Canoeopia will be held on Madison on March 9-11. Friends of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway will have a booth and will sponsor a showing of the "Rhythm of the River" documentary.

Under board member business, Leys referred to a book entitled Searching for Yellowstone and read an excerpt that he felt was appropriate for the Riverway. The gist of the quote was that is sometimes take a generation or two for people to recognize the value of environmental protections and public ownership of special places.

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The DNR report was given by Brian Hefty, DNR Riverway Manager, who said the crew is working on signage, roads and parking lots. He is working on burn proposals and interviews for summer staff. Hutnik introduced Nick Morehouse, who will serve as Riverway Forester on an interim basis. Madison asked about timber prices. Lundberg noted prices typically are cyclical and then walnut prices are going down. He said a market remains for high value logs.

He said Brad Hutnik, DNR Riverway Forester, has accepted a new position as a silviculturalist working out of the DNR central office. Hefty said the wildlife staff is working on beaver dam removal and burning proposals.

During the public comment session, Mary Prilsby of Muscoda asked for more information on CLL. Cupp said CLL is a nonprofit organization with a mission of preserving rock art and effigy mound sites in the Upper Midwest and providing information and education on the cultures of the people who lived here prior to European contact.

A motion to adjourn until April 12th when the meeting will be held in Sauk City was made by Madison, seconded by Greenwood. **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