

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 APRIL 12, 2012, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, April 12, 2012, at the Sauk City Public Library to conduct a regular monthly business meeting. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Vice-Chair Melody Moore. All members were present with the exceptions of Ritchie Brown, Nick Nice and Bill Lundberg. 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 Jerry Dorscheid. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2012, meeting was made by Don Greenwood, seconded by Madison. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Moore who said the LWSRB was pleased to recognize Brad Hutnik, former Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Riverway Forester, for his ten years of service to the Riverway. Moore said Hutnik brought enthusiasm and passion to the position. Ron Leys said Hutnik was very good to work with and will be missed. Cupp said he has appreciated working with Hutnik and respects the unique skills and knowledge he has brought to the Riverway Forester position. Timm Zumm, Chair of the Friends of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway (FLOW), presented Hutnik with a plaque and expressed FLOW's gratitude for Hutnik's efforts on behalf of the project. Hutnik then discussed his experiences with the Riverway and said the model of public sector and private sector cooperation for a common goal should be emulated throughout state government.

Madison then introduced the guest speakers for the evening. John Attig and Eric Carson of the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey gave a presentation entitled "Wisconsin River Geology" and offered insights into the formation of the Wisconsin River valley from glacial times forward.

Moore then asked Cupp to report on correspondence. Cupp said he continues to work with Governor Scott Walker's staff on board appointments. He said the "Muscodia Reads Leopold" event went well and expressed appreciation to Senator Dale Schultz and the LWSRB members who participated. Cupp said an issue with signage for the Sauk Prairie Chamber of Commerce and the designation of STH 60 as a Wisconsin Scenic Byway has surfaced. The Department of Transportation (DOT) disallowed a digital sign for the Chamber of Commerce because it was considered "off premise" advertising.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chairman Dorscheid. The permit application of Lawrence Mayhew was discussed. Dorscheid noted Andrew Nelson of Nelson Hardwoods is the consultant. Dorscheid said a field inspection was conducted by Cupp on April 10, 2012. Mr. Mayhew and Mr. Nelson also were present for the field inspection. Cupp reported the site is highly visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. The harvest area encompasses the Bluff Zone and Riverview Zone and a small portion of Resource Management Zone. The harvest area is about 15 acres. An MFL plan was prepared by Mr. Nelson and includes aggressive treatment of oak wilt and overstory removal for the purpose of regenerating oak. To address the oak wilt problem, all mature oak and some smaller diameter oak will be removed in and around the oak wilt pocket. The overstory removal will result in removal of all mature oak and poorly formed smaller diameter oak. In the Bluff Zone, selective harvesting will be conducted with a 60-80 BA for the residual stand. The Bluff Zone was delineated by Cupp. One new road will be constructed in the Riverview Zone. The new road will comply with the applicable performance standards. An existing road system will be used to access the Bluff Zone and other portions of the Riverview Zone. The harvest will

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be conducted in the fall or winter of 2012(13) during the times when the leaves are off the deciduous trees and the ground is frozen or dry. Jason Sable, DNR Forester for Iowa County, will review the MFL plan and conduct an on-site field inspection within two weeks. A PowerPoint presentation was shown.

Dorscheid said the Operations Committee recommended action on the application be delayed until Sable has reviewed the management plan. A motion to table action on the application was made by Leys, seconded by Madison. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Dorscheid said the committee had visited the Radtke quarry site near Wauzeka to review the proposed expansion of the quarry. A PowerPoint presentation was shown. Cupp said the quarry was active at the time of enactment of the Riverway law and is “grandfathered” meaning a new permit for quarry expansion is not required. An affidavit is on file with the LWSRB indicating the quarry was active in 1989. Dorscheid said the expansion will be minimally visible from the river, if at all, during leaf-on conditions. The material from the quarry will be used for a nearby road project. Cupp noted the floor of quarry may be considered for frac sand purposes at some point in the future.

Cupp said a Wisconsin Gas maintenance project is underway on a buried line between Crawford and Grant counties. A PowerPoint presentation was shown. The gas company has been asked to minimize clearing of the right away on lands adjacent to the river.

Dorscheid said the committee had reviewed plans for a project on STH 23 south of the Wisconsin River bridge near Spring Green. He said the replacement of the beam guard at the end of the bridge near the Frank Lloyd Wright Visitor Center would be visible from the river. Cupp said he attended a meeting with DOT officials and other interested parties on April 5th. Design engineers will consider Riverway aesthetics when creating a plan for the south end of the bridge. Retention of existing screening vegetation and painting of the riverside of the beam guard will be incorporated in the plan.

An update on the Crystal/Fish/Mud Lake District pumping project was provided. Dorscheid said the committee had conducted a field inspection at the discharge site and had reviewed the proposed pumping from Crystal Lake to Roxbury Creek. A PowerPoint presentation was shown. Dave Padley from the Lake District addressed the board and said pumping continues from Fish Lake to the discharge site. Padley said he has staked additional willows at the discharge site but beavers have done damage to the existing vegetation. Action on pumping from Crystal Lake to Roxbury Creek is in the works with discussions between the Lake District, DNR and Friends of the Lower Wisconsin (FLOW) continuing. Leys suggested action should be taken to remove the beaver from the area so that the willows would have a better shot at survival. Leys made a motion, seconded by Madison, to encourage additional plantings at the discharge site and to request exploration of opportunities to remove the beavers from the immediate vicinity. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cupp reported he had met with the owner of a mining company from Iowa to discuss Riverway law and non-metallic mining. The company is seeking frac sand mining locations in Crawford County. Some of the proposed sites may fall within the Riverway boundary. Cupp said he explained the Riverway permit process and performance standards to the individual and provided maps with the Riverway boundary for areas within the Towns of Bridgeport and Wauzeka.

Cupp noted construction on the Kevin and Jacqueline Bartels house in the Town of Orion, Richland County, had been initiated. The board previously issued a permit for the activity. A condition of the permit required board approval of the garage door color. The landowner has not yet provided the sample door color but has been reminded of the need to do so.

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

The Personnel Committee report was previously presented by Chairman Moore who noted the DMC for Cupp and Marsha Nachtigal, LWSRB Office Associate, had been approved by OSER. Nachtigal will receive a lump sum and Cupp will receive an hourly wage increase. Moore said a memorandum regarding state employee involvement in political activities had been received and distributed to staff and the committee.

The Executive Director's report was presented by Cupp who reviewed the materials in the board members' packets. Cupp said attended the Wisconsin River Water Quality Symposium held at Stevens Point. He complimented FLOW members Timm Zumm and Dave Marshall for their presentation. He said the LWSRB and Cultural Landscape Legacies will partner to provide lectures at the Muscoda Morel Mushroom Festival on May 19th. Cupp noted author Steve Faulkner will be in Prairie du Sac on April 14th to discuss his book Waterwalk, which has been made into a movie with an initial release later in the month. The book is based on the author and his son retracing the voyage of Marquette and Joliet. The movie was filmed in part on the lower Wisconsin River.

Under board member business, Moore noted the Town of Mazomanie amended the town comprehensive plan to incorporate the intent of the Riverway aesthetic protection objectives for areas that are not formally within the Riverway boundary. She encouraged other municipalities to do likewise. Leys said he would like to hear a presentation on the effigy mound builders at a future meeting. Cupp said he has the topic in the queue for a future meeting.

The DNR report was given by Ryder Will, DNR Riverway Recreation Specialist, who said the crew is working on maintenance activities and preparing for the summer use season. Portable toilets have been placed at boat landings. Nick Morehouse, Interim DNR Riverway Forester, said over 40,000 seedlings have been planted on state lands. He noted bids for timber harvests on 220 acres of state lands are being solicited.

During the public comment session, FLOW Chair Zumm discussed a River Valley School District field trip to the Wisconsin River and the April 28th FLOW Spring Fun Day. He said the FLOW booth at Canoeopia saw a nonstop flow of people. Zumm said after attending the Water Quality Symposium at Stevens Point, he appreciates the value of the Riverway even more. Zumm noted the River Alliance of Wisconsin will hold an invasive species workshop in Muscoda on April 21st.

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

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Minutes submitted by:

Mark E. Cupp, Executive Director
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