

# LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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## MINUTES OF THE JUNE 14, 2012, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, June 14, 2012, at the Rhinelander Cabin on the Riverway's Black Hawk Unit to conduct a regular monthly business meeting. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chair William Lundberg. All members were present with the exceptions of Fred Madison, 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 Greg Greenheck, seconded by Melody Moore. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2012, meeting was made by Ron Leys, seconded by Nick Nice. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chairman Lundberg. He asked Cupp to report on appointments. Cupp said he continues to work with the Governor's office on updating appointments. The Dane County (Moore) and Grant County (Nice) appointments are up for renewal. Ritchie Brown and Bill Lundberg serve as "at-large" members representing recreational user groups. Both terms have expired. Lundberg has chosen not to seek re-appointment. No word from the Governor's office on filling those slots at this time. Cupp said he anticipated additional discussion with the Governor's staff with the June 5<sup>th</sup> election being over.

The initial guest speaker was Mark Dudzik, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Archeologist, who discussed the Native American mounds of Wisconsin. Dudzik reviewed the various mound forms (conical, linear, effigy and platform) and the periods in which each mound type likely was constructed. He discussed the influence of the Mississippian people who had a large settlement at Cahokia, east of St. Louis. The famed Wisconsin archeological site Aztalan is an outpost of the Mississippian culture. Dudzik noted Wisconsin is the center of the effigy mound building world. He emphasized the importance of talking about the influence of people on the landscape and when discussing natural resources and environmental protection.

Bill Wenzel, Sauk County Board member and Prairie du Sac resident, followed with a discussion of a proposed recreational trail that could follow the rail corridor from Mazomanie to Devil's Lake, including through Sauk City, Prairie du Sac and the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant grounds. The concept is known as the Great Sauk Trail and will fill a trail gap between Madison and LaCrosse by providing a crucial link between existing trails. Wenzel touted the economic development opportunity through increased tourism and the benefit for local residents to have a quality trail system for recreation in their backyard. Wenzel encouraged citizens to contact their legislators to express support for the project.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chairman Dorscheid. The permit application of Darlene Williams was considered. The consultant is Brian Nelson of Nelson Hardwoods. The property is located in the Town of Marietta, Crawford County. A field inspection was conducted by Cupp on June 6, 2012. Mr. Nelson and Mike Finlay, DNR Forester, also were present for the field inspection. Previous field inspections have been conducted by Cupp and others in conjunction with timber harvest and management activities. The site is highly visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. The harvest area encompasses the Bluff Zone and Riverview Zone and Resource Management Zone. Plans call for the selective harvest of merchantable hardwoods, mainly oak. No new roads are planned at this time. The harvest will be conducted during leaf-off conditions and when ground conditions are frozen or dry. There may be small regeneration cuts for aspen pockets. The trees slated for harvest have not been marked. An additional field inspection will be required after the marking has been completed.

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

- The harvest shall comply with the basal area limits for the residual stand in the Bluff Zone and Riverview Zone, as detailed in Chapter NR 37, Wisconsin Administrative Code;
- In the Bluff 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 Bluff 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 Bluff 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;
- 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 Bluff 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 permit request of Joann Shea for a timber harvest in the Town of Millville, Grant County, was discussed. The consultant is Craig Hollingsworth. Dorscheid noted a pine thinning was conducted at the property in the winter of 2011-2012. The consultant for that harvest was Bud Jelinek. Ms. Shea now wishes to conduct a hardwoods harvest. A field inspection was slated for June 11<sup>th</sup> but Mr. Hollingsworth cancelled due to a family emergency. The trees slated for harvest have been marked. Information on new road construction is not available. Portions of the harvest area likely will be visible from the river during leaf-on conditions. Cupp recommended delaying action on the permit until the field inspection can be accomplished. Dorscheid made a motion, seconded by Greenheck, to table action on the permit request. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The permit request of Becky Roth, DNR Wildlife Biologist, for invasive species control and native plant community management at the Cassel Prairie Unit in the Town of Troy, Sauk County, was considered. Dorscheid said a field inspection was conducted by Cupp in conjunction with previous permit activity in the vicinity. The site is not visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. Plans call for removal of buckthorn to aid in wood duck banding. Additional invasive species control may occur in the future.

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

- The activity shall not result in an existing structure becoming visible from the river;
- The LWSRB shall approve any modifications to the plans, as submitted;
- The landowner or his/her agent shall notify the LWSRB upon initiation and completion of the project.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Cupp reported pumping from Fish Lake to the discharge site on the river had ceased due to high Total Suspended Solids (TSS) levels. He said, according to a newspaper report, the Lake District has hired a hydrogeologist to assess Crystal Lake and the feasibility of pumping to achieve reduced lake levels.

Dorscheid said the Operations Committee met with representatives of Taliesin Preservation, Inc., (TPI) to discuss invasive species control and long term management of the steep riverbank in front of the Frank Lloyd Wright Visitor Center in the Town of Wyoming, Iowa County. Dan Vernon and Mike Degen of TPI met with the committee, Cupp and Finlay to review the site and explore options for tree and woody vegetation removal and future tree and shrub planting. In addition to invasive species, other undesirable or short lived species are present at the site. The committee has requested technical assistance from Finlay to assess the current state of the site and to prepare management recommendations that will consider both the board's aesthetic protection mission and TPI's objectives for the site. Dorscheid noted the reconstruction of CTH C may affect the plans. Cupp said he would contact the Iowa County Highway Commissioner to determine the status of CTH C work. Finlay is expected to present a report to the board at the July meeting regarding his findings.

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

There Personnel Committee report was presented by Chairman Moore who noted the DCA approved for Cupp and Marsha Nachtigal, LWSRB Office Associate, in March would soon be processed by the Department of Administration. Moore also said the committee had met on June 11<sup>th</sup> to function as the Nominating Committee to select a slate of officers for the 2012-2013 fiscal year. The committee had recommended retaining the current officers until gubernatorial appointments are made at which time a change in officers will be necessary.

The office of Chair was considered. Moore nominated Bill Lundberg for the office of Chair and then thrice called for nominations from the floor. There were no nominations from the floor so a motion to close the ballot and cast a unanimous ballot for Lundberg was made by Moore, seconded by Dorscheid. **MOTION CARRIED.** The office of Vice-Chair was considered. Moore turned the chair over to Lundberg who nominated Melody Moore for the office of Vice-Chair and then thrice called for nominations from the floor. There were no nominations from the floor so a motion to close the ballot and cast a unanimous ballot for Moore was made by Lundberg, seconded by Greenheck. **MOTION CARRIED.** The office of Secretary was considered. Moore resumed the committee chair. Moore nominated Nick Nice for the office of Secretary and then thrice called for nominations from the floor. There were no nominations from the floor so a motion to close the ballot and cast a unanimous ballot for Nice was made by Moore, seconded by Lundberg. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Director's report was presented by Cupp who reviewed the materials in the board members' packets. Cupp said the board partnered with Cultural Landscape Legacies and the Muscoda Chamber of Commerce for a series of lectures and mound tours in conjunction with the Muscoda Morel Mushroom Festival, which were well attended. He said work continues on the Lower Wisconsin River Road Scenic Byway project. Cupp noted the schedule for the voyageur replica canoe trips has been released with trips beginning on June 30<sup>th</sup> and concluding on July 13<sup>th</sup>.

The DNR report was given by Brian Hefty, DNR Riverway Manager, who said DNR has acquired a 5.5 acre parcel on Allen Island downstream of Boscobel. DNR Warden Supervisor Joe Frost said he has moved into the supervisor position and noted some changes in warden coverage on the Riverway.

During the public comment session, Timm Zumm, Friends of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway (FLOW), introduced Ryan and Amy Schmudlach, owners of Wisconsin Canoe Company, a recent addition to the livery operators on the Riverway with operations based in Spring Green. Zumm said FLOW participated in an event on the Madison lakes where the large paddlefish from the Rhythm of the River documentary piqued the curiosity of many spectators. Roger Reynolds of Lone Rock noted one spectator was concerned that the fish needed to be in the water rather than on the trailer when loading was completed.

Terry Askevold of Arena, owner of Trader's Bar, Trader's Campground and Trader's Canoe Livery, expressed concern about the Arena boat/canoe landing and the problems with the large sandbar that has rendered the popular access difficult to use. He expressed concern about the potential adverse effect on livery business and tourism in general from the complications of using the site. Askevold said he had requested permission from DNR for canoe livery operators to use ATVs on a limited part of the sandbar to haul canoes, gear and people back and forth from the landing to the good water. Warden Frost noted state law prohibits the use of motorized vehicles on the riverbed or sandbars. Frost said the DNR is looking at other solutions. Hefty noted he has looked for alternate sites to create a boat landing and would welcome suggestions from the public. He said canoeists can launch at the boat landing but should be respectful of other users. Zumm noted there is a narrow channel for boats and canoes to use as of current water levels. Askevold reiterated his concerns and hoped a temporary solution to allow the porters better access could be found in the near future.

A motion to adjourn until July 12<sup>th</sup> when the meeting will be held in Muscoda was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Greenheck. **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:

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Mark E. Cupp, Executive Director  
Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board