

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 AUGUST 9, 2012, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, August 9, 2012, at the Public Library in Spring Green 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 Ritchie Brown, Greg Greenheck and Fred Madison. Acknowledgment that the meeting was properly noticed was provided by Mark E. Cupp, Executive Director. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Don Greenwood, seconded by Nick Nice. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2012, meeting was made by Melody Moore, seconded by Jerry Dorscheid. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chairman Lundberg. Thank you notes from voyageur canoe trip participants were viewed. Greenwood discussed signage at boat landings and the need for bilingual signage for safety purposes. He noted the recent drowning incident at Peck's Landing and suggested a small sign with a Spanish translation of the warning message could be added to existing signage. He said, in general, educational efforts appear to be working as reflected the long stretch of time without a drowning on the Riverway. Ron Leys asked if there was a universal symbol that could be used. Brian Hefty, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Riverway Manager, said there is not a universal symbol. He said the question of non-English signage is difficult because there are many ethnic backgrounds that use the resource. Greenwood noted the number of Hispanic members of the local populace has risen dramatically in the past twenty years as has the number of Hispanic recreational users. Hefty said there also are difficulties with translation of the safety message. He said DNR is doing additional research on the issue and he will report back to the board.

Cupp reported on the appointments process. Moore and Nice have submitted the necessary paperwork for re-appointment. He has informed Ritchie Brown of the need to file documents with Governor Walker's office if he wishes to be considered for re-appointment. Two other individuals also have expressed interest in an "at-large" position.

Committee appointments were discussed. Due to Brown's schedule, he has been unable to attend board or Operations Committee meetings. Lundberg offered to fill-in as a committee member on a temporary basis. Greenwood said Brown could continue to serve on the Personnel Committee in the hope that he could participate by teleconference. A motion to appoint Lundberg to the Operations Committee was made by Leys, seconded by Greenwood. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chairman Dorscheid. He said a consultant had contacted Cupp regarding potential timber harvesting and/or management activities at the Alice Godfrey property in the Town of Pulaski, Iowa County. Plans call for restoration of oak woodlands, oak savanna and prairie habitat types on the parcel. Cupp noted portions of the parcel are visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. A scenic easement on the portion within the Riverway boundary requires a management plan to be developed for the parcel with DNR approval of the plan. The consultant currently is working with the landowner to refine the objectives and fine tune the management plan proposal. Dorscheid noted board action is not required at this time.

Vegetative management on the riverbank by the Frank Lloyd Wright Visitor Center in the Town of Wyoming, Iowa County, was discussed. Dorscheid said the committee met onsite with Dan Vernon and Mike Degen of Taliesin Preservation, Inc. (TPI) earlier in the day. Cupp said a report on the status of the site and management options had been developed by DNR Acting Riverway Forester Mike Finlay at the request of the

LWSRB. He said the phased approach to vegetative removal is appropriate to maintain the balance between

retention of existing screening vegetation and planning for long term objectives for both screening and for desirable species at the site. Cupp said the committee had agreed on a 5-point action plan for the site.

- 1) Removal of non-native invasive species and chemical treatment to control
- 2) Removal of elm trees and saplings with retention of the large elm in the “pocket”
- 3) Removal of all “x’d” trees indicating disease, storm damage or mortality
- 4) Assess need for additional tree planting
- 5) Discussion of removal of ash trees and other vegetation shall occur onsite before the next phase of the project is initiated

Cupp noted that the work would be done during leaf-off conditions. He asked Degen to confirm that TPI was comfortable with the approach taken by the committee. Degen concurred and affirmed that a phased approach to vegetative removal is appropriate. Degen said he appreciated the strong commitment to communication between the LWSRB and TPI and said the good working relationship with Cupp also is appreciated. Dorscheid made a motion, seconded by Greenwood, to convey the five-point plan to TPI and note the existing management plan is amended to reflect the plan. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Construction of a new house on the Kevin Bartels property in the Town of Orion, Richland County, was discussed. Cupp said construction continues under the LWSRB permit but a determination on the need for additional screening vegetation should be delayed until the siding has been completed.

Cupp noted the controversy associated with the introduction of blue dye into Lake Delton was under review by state officials. Leys questioned the authority of Lake Delton officials to order the dye job. Moore noted the \$30,000 seemed exorbitant for such a short term fix. Cupp noted the Army had disbanded the advisory committee at the Badger Army Ammunitions Plant. The Army will appoint a new advisory committee soon. The move has been criticized by people on the current committee and others familiar with the situation.

Cupp said he met with Department of Transportation (DOT) and DNR officials to discuss the road project on STH 60 between Gotham and Muscoda. Plans are being developed to address wetland and archeological concerns on the east end of the project. He said DOT hopes to meet with the LWSRB in October or November to discuss alternatives for the project.

Cupp said he attended a meeting of the Crawford County Board Special Committee on Frac Sand Mining. The committee is developing a model/draft ordinance for consideration by towns. Leys noted the Town of Marietta does not have village powers and, therefore, can't enact regulations to protect public health, safety and welfare. Cupp said the county moratorium expires in mid-October. Individual towns could enact a similar moratorium until an ordinance is adopted. The special committee will conclude their task within a few weeks.

The Budget & Office Committee report was presented by Chairman Nice who reviewed the final status of the FY 12 budget and current status of FY 13 budget. Cupp said he would present the biennial budget proposal for the 20-13-2015 period at the September meeting.

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. He noted river flow continues to be extremely low.

The DNR report was given by Brian Hefty, DNR Riverway Manager, who noted DNR currently is assessing a couple of parcels for potential acquisition. Bill Carlson, DNR Forestry Supervisor, said the process of filling the DNR Riverway Forester vacant position continues.

A motion to adjourn until September 13th when the meeting will be held at Wyalusing State Park was made by Greenwood, seconded by Moore. **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