

LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 13, 2012, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, September 13, 2012, at the Peterson Shelter, Wyalusing State Park, 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 Greg Greenheck, William Lundberg and Fred Madison. (NOTE: One vacancy exists.) Acknowledgment that the meeting was properly noticed was provided by Mark E. Cupp, Executive Director. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Jerry Dorscheid, seconded by Nick Nice. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2012, meeting was made by Ron Leys, seconded by Dorscheid. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Acting Chair Moore who noted her appointment as Dane County representative and Nice's appointment as Grant County representative had been formalized by Governor Scott Walker. Cupp reported the "at-large" position formally held by Ritchie Brown is considered a vacancy by the Governor because Brown's name was withdrawn from the selection process when Governor Walker took office. Brown has submitted paperwork for re-appointment and two other individuals have expressed interest in a board appointment.

Contacts regarding a potential high voltage transmission line in the Riverway were reviewed. Cupp said Rob Danielson, Secretary from the Energy Planning Information Committee (EPIC) from the Town of Stark near LaFarge, had contacted him about the possible Dubuque to Madison line that could cross the river near Spring Green. Correspondence from EPIC and from a concerned landowner in the Town of Wyoming, Iowa County, was distributed. Cupp said Danielson is slated to make a presentation at the November 8th LWSRB meeting, which has been moved from Avoca to Spring Green. Leys said the document provided by EPIC shows the new line would cross the river in two locations. Cupp said the board has sent letters to the Public Service Commission and American Transmission Company detailing the board's authority and citing Riverway regulations pertaining to high voltage transmission line construction.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chairman Dorscheid. The application of Terry and Suzanne Shifflet for modification of an existing structure in the Town of Spring Green, Sauk County, was considered. Dorscheid noted a field inspection was conducted by Cupp on September 11, 2012. Suzanne Shifflet was present for the field inspection. Plans call for additions to the existing house and an addition to the existing garage. Adequate screening vegetation exists at the site and the height of the existing structures will not increase. Exterior colorization will harmonize with the natural surroundings during leaf-on conditions but a final exterior colorization sample has not been submitted. Architectural renderings are expected soon and will include a stone exterior with brown siding, similar to but not exactly matching the nearby Wisconsin Riverside Resort, which is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Shifflet. The front addition will be 21 ft. x 24 ft. The northeast bedroom addition will be 14 ft. x 14 ft. The garage addition (one bay) will be 15 ft. x 24 ft. Photographs of the existing structure were reviewed.

Dorscheid made a motion, seconded by Don Greenwood, to approve issuance of a 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 the roofline of the existing structure;
- The exterior colorization of the structure 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.

A potential frac sand mine in the Town of Bridgeport, Crawford County, was discussed. Cupp said he continues to work with the Pattison Mining Company on the Riverway regulations relating non-metallic mining activities. The mining company is negotiating with landowners with portions of their properties within the Riverway boundary. A formal permit application(s) may be presented at the October 11th LWSRB meeting in Wauzeka.

Cupp said a consultant for a cell tower company had proposed placement of a cell tower in the former Haney Quarry in the Town of Buena Vista, Richland County. The site is at the top of a bluff near Point Jude. The consultant had identified a site that was outside the Riverway boundary. Cupp requested technical assistance from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Scott Lancaster, DNR Forestry, assisted with GPS delineation of the proposed site and creation of an aerial photograph with Riverway boundary overlay. The map showed the proposed tower site to be within the boundary by sixty feet. The tower would have to be moved sixty feet west to be outside the boundary, which the consultant indicated would be done. As a result, the board would have no jurisdiction. The tower height will be limited but likely will be visible from the river. Cupp said there may be issues with the Tri-County Airport. Leys expressed concern about lighting associated with towers.

Cupp reported that the management permit application of Alice Godfrey had not been completed by the consultant. The project has been delayed while the consultant works with DNR on plan requirements associated with the scenic easement on the property. Portions of the bluff are visible from the river during leaf-on conditions. The site is located east of Avoca in the Town of Pulaski, Iowa County.

Construction of a new house on the Kevin Bartels property in the Town of Orion, Richland County, was discussed. Dorscheid said construction continues under the LWSRB permit and the exterior colorization looks good to this point. Cupp said a determination on the need for additional screening vegetation will be delayed until the project has been completed.

The Crystal/Fish/Mud Lake District pumping project was discussed. Cupp said an article was included in the packets regarding dropping water levels. Decisions on future pumping from the lake(s) have not been made.

Cupp said zebra mussels have been discovered in the lower Wisconsin River. Jean Unmuth, DNR Water Resources Specialist, is working with the Wisconsin Heights School District and others to physically clean zebra mussels from the native mussels at the Mazomanie bed located near the CTH Y landing (Adler's Landing). The event will take place on September 18th. Leys noted the numbers of aquatic invasive species continues to grow. He said there are reports that native fish have adapted to eat the invaders.

Under permits issued by the Executive Director, Cupp said he had issued a utility permit to Ben Augustynowicz for a parcel in the Town of Muscoda, Grant County. The permit was for installation of a small propane tank on lands not visible from the river.

The Budget & Office Committee report was presented by Chairman Nice who reviewed the status of FY 13 budget. Cupp said presented the biennial budget proposal for the 2013-2015 period. He expressed appreciation to Cory Stinebrink and Scott Thornton from the Department of Administration for their assistance in completing the budget package. The LWSRB budget request for FY 14 would be \$208,700 and for FY 15, the budget request would be \$208,800. The budget request maintains the board's two FTE positions and includes standard budget

adjustments to represent full funding of the LWSRB budget. The request represents a 3% increase over the FY 13 budget. A motion to approve the budget request was made by Greenwood, seconded by Dorscheid. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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. Leys asked about water levels in upstream reservoirs. Cupp said he didn't have the information at the ready but speculated that statewide drought conditions have contributed to reduced water levels. As a result, the usual bump in flow for the Riverway in the fall likely will be subdued, if experienced at all. Cupp said observance of the autumnal equinox will occur at Frank's Hill on September 22nd. The Cultural Landscape Legacies annual tour will be held on October 13th. Work continues on the Lower Wisconsin River Road project with the next meeting to be held on October 10th in Sauk City.

Under board members' business, Moore noted multilingual signage was in place at Devil's Lake State Park. Signs are in English with smaller notations in Spanish and Hmong. Greenwood noted two of the recent drowning incidents at Peck's Landing near Spring Green involved a Hispanic person and a Hmong person. Leys said he strongly prefers warning signs to an outright prohibition of a use.

The DNR report was given by Brian Hefty, DNR Riverway Manager, who introduced Nick Morehouse as the new DNR Riverway Forester. Morehouse said he is transitioning from his current position at Poynette to the Riverway slot and hopes to be moved into the Tower Hill office at the end of the month. Hefty continued by reviewing the debris removal project undertaken at the Mazo Beach and commended Timm Zumm and FLOW for their efforts. Zumm thanked McFarlane's Equipment for use of the skid steer and Gauger's Salvage for assistance with hauling the debris away. Hefty reported the dumping of 25 old television sets on DNR land near Muscoda. He said background for the eventual Master Planning process is being developed.

During the public comment session, Ryan Schmudlach, Spring Green, asked Cupp if he knew the history behind the river crossing where the debris removal at Mazo Beach took place. Cupp said he had been told it was an old telephone line but noted that was second hand information. Zumm thanked all the FLOW volunteers for their help with the debris removal project and said great things can be accomplished when people and agencies work together. Roger Reynolds of Lone Rock said he is organizing a FLOW event to help non-hunters feel safe about being in the woods during hunting season. Details will be forthcoming. Mary Prilsby of Muscoda said Living Lands and Waters will assist with a river clean-up near Prairie du Chien.

A motion to adjourn until October 11th when the meeting will be held at Wauzeka was made by Greenwood, seconded by Dorscheid. **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