

LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 9, 2014, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, January 9, 2014, at the Muscodas village hall to conduct a regular monthly business meeting. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chair Don Greenwood. All members were present with the exception of Fred Madison and Melody Moore. 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 George Arimond. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2013, meeting was made by Ron Leys, seconded by Bob Cary. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chairman Greenwood who noted LWSRB Office Associate Marsha Nachtigal was in attendance to be recognized for her contributions to the board. Cupp noted Nachtigal had worked diligently during the nonmetallic mining application review process and handled a number of additional responsibilities and extra workload. LWSRB members present thanked Nachtigal for her service and commitment to the agency.

Cupp noted 2014 would mark the 25th anniversary of Riverway law enactment. He said the 20-year milestone was recognized in 1989 by a gubernatorial proclamation as the Year of the Riverway, recognition by the Legislature and other units of government, and a series of special events organized by the LWSRB. Cupp said he hoped to partner with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to highlight 25 years of Riverway existence and noted a teleconference to discuss the subject would be held on January 10th. He will report to the board on progress at the February meeting.

Greenwood noted a request had been made for a letter of support regarding lake planning grant applications to be submitted by Dave Marshall. The LWSRB previously had written letters of support for Marshall's study of the backwater lakes fishery in the Riverway. Cupp said the new applications will study ground water and surface water pollution at backwater lakes in the Spring Green area. The study will look at ways nutrients are entering the groundwater and resulting in significant algae blooms and associated adverse impacts on habitat in four backwater sloughs. Leys asked if the problem was related to winter spreading of manure. Greenwood said the main concern is transfer of nutrients leaching through the sand into the groundwater and then reaching the sloughs. Dave Martin asked if DNR had been involved. Cupp said he believed DNR and DATCP were aware of the issue. Arimond asked about the dollar amount for the grant and duration. Cupp said he would have to request information from Marshall.

Greenwood asked Cupp for an update on the pending court case in Crawford County regarding the board decision to deny nonmetallic mining permit applications for properties in the Town of Bridgeport. Cupp said the attorney for Pattison Sand Company had requested a transcript of the special board meeting held in Prairie du Chien on August 22, 2013. Cupp said he worked with Assistant Attorney General Mark Bromley to identify a court reporter to transcribe the meeting from the videotape. The report will be shared with Bromley and the Pattison attorney upon completion. Cupp said Bromley also had requested assistance in reviewing the official record of the board's review of the applications.

The draft report to the Legislature regarding the effectiveness of the Riverway law as it relates to nonmetallic mining was discussed. Greenwood noted Cupp had suggested minor changes and asked board

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members if there were any other comments. He noted that Cupp was researching protocol for sending the report to the Legislature and Governor Walker. Greenwood suggested action on the draft report be delayed until February.

Greenwood then asked Arimond to give a presentation on strategic planning. Arimond said the document should be a blue print for “where we’ve been”, “what we’ve achieved” and “where we are going.” He said the document should explain the reasons for the board’s existence. The plan should contain an Executive Summary, Acknowledgments, History and Fiscal Responsibility. He noted most people will only read the summary. Dorscheid noted many local residents still don’t understand the role of the LWSRB. Martin said the board should emphasize collaboration with state and local officials from the Governor to area legislators to county board members, etc. He said the board needs to excite local leaders about the importance and value of the project. Leys said the local government interest in the Riverway seems low. Cary said the board may need to explore other avenues to spread the Riverway mission and vision to the average citizen. Arimond said Minnesota is celebrating 50 years of their water trails program. He noted many local and state leaders were not aware of the origins of that important project in Minnesota. Greenwood thanked Arimond for his report and said strategic planning will continue to be on the LWSRB agenda in the coming months; such as, the draft report to the Legislature slated for the next meeting.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chairman Dorscheid. He said the color samples for the Kim and Andrew Bangert new house in the Town of Buena Vista, Richland County, had been received. He said the committee had approved the exterior colorization except for soffit and fascia colors because the committee felt the proposed color was too light. Cupp noted he did speak to the contractor who indicated a darker color will be submitted. A motion to approve the colors, other than soffit and fascia, was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Leys. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Under permits issued by Executive Director, Cupp said a permit was issued to DNR Wildlife Biologist Travis Anderson for a management plan near Sauk Prairie that would address removal of non-native invasive species. The activity will comply with the applicable performance standards.

The Budget & Office Committee report was presented by Chair Cary who reviewed the FY 14 budget.

The Personnel Committee report was given by Cupp who said the annual evaluation forms for his position had been completed by most board members but the committee had not met this month. No action to report.

The Executive Director’s report was presented by Cupp who reviewed the materials in the board members’ packets.

There were no comments made under board members’ business.

There was no DNR report.

During the public comment session, Timm Zumm, Friends of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway (FLOW) President, gave an update on FLOW activities and noted David Erickson of Sauk County will be recognized as a River Champion at the event. Erickson has produced numerous documentaries seen on public television, including two focused on the Riverway. Kathy Byrne, Crawford Stewardship Project (CSP) Co-Chair, said her organization would be willing to distribute LWSRB informational materials at the CSP table at

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area events. Mary Prilsby of Blue River said she like Arimond's concept for the LWSRB strategic plan and said the board should reach out to town boards, especially during their respective planning processes.

A motion to adjourn was made by Leys, seconded by Cary. **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