

# LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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## MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 14, 2014, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, August 14, 2014, 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 Donald Greenwood. All members were present with the exception of 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 Jerry Dorscheid, seconded by Bob Cary. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2014, meeting (with one correction in that Cary was reported as giving the Budget Committee report when it was actually Dave Martin) was made by Ron Leys, seconded by George Arimond. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chairman Greenwood. The guest speaker for the evening was Patrick Reinsma, Department of Tourism Regional Tourism Specialist, who gave a presentation entitled, "The Power of Tourism." Reinsma noted the tourism industry in Wisconsin contributes \$17.5 billion to the state's economy and employs about 186,000 people. Reinsma reviewed the changing customer base in the tourism industry and cited trends in the tourism economy. He noted that customer service is vitally important in the industry stating the 2/3 of survey respondents cited poor customer service as the reason they would not come back to a specific place. Reinsma said, without a strong tourism base in Wisconsin, the additional tax burden in the state would be about \$590/household on an annual basis.

Cupp then noted the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Riverway would be commemorated with an event on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, at the Wisconsin Riverside Resort near Spring Green. The program will begin at 1:00 p.m. Featured speakers are former Governor Tommy Thompson, State Senator Dale Schultz and former State Representative Spencer Black. All board members and guests are invited. The event is open to the public. Cupp also noted that a special field trip will be held in conjunction with the Year of the Riverway. Steve Richter and Eric Mark of The Nature Conservancy will lead a tour of the Spring Green Preserve on Thursday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. Cupp said there has been an excellent response from the public for the tour.

Greenwood asked Cupp to provide an update on the Pattison Sand Company court case. Cupp said Assistant Attorney General Mark Bromley had received communication from Pattison's attorney. Currently, Bromley is waiting for more information from the court. No action required by the board at this time.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chairman Dorscheid. A general permit for construction of a house with attached garage on the Doug Krachey property in the Town of Wauzeka was discussed. Dorscheid said a field inspection was conducted by Cupp on August 8, 2014. Mr. Krachey was present for the field inspection. Plans call for construction of a 56 ft. x 76 ft. x 16 ft. (height) house with attached garage. Roof will be dark brown and walls will be light brown (tentative). Adequate screening vegetation exists at the site. The height of the structure will not result in the structure being visible from the river during leaf-on conditions. An older farmhouse and barn existed at the site. The house burned and the old barn was razed recently. Neither structure was visible from the river before being destroyed. The new house will not be visible from the river during leaf-on conditions. Future plans may include construction of a storage shed but that structure is not included on this permit request.

Dorscheid made a motion, seconded by, to approve issuance of a general permit 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 exceed 20 feet;
- The LWSRB shall review any modifications to the plans, as submitted, for compliance with the applicable performance standards;
- The landowner or his/her agent shall notify the LWSRB upon completion of the project; and,
- The activity shall comply with all other federal, state and local regulations.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Dorscheid said the committee had conducted a field inspection at the Andrew and Kim Bangert property near Lone Rock to review the newly constructed house at the site. Mrs. Bangert was present for the field inspection. Compliance with the applicable performance standards was achieved with the exception of one tree that had died. Cupp will communicate with the Bangerts regarding the need to replace the tree.

Cupp reported that maintenance on power lines will occur near Mazomanie and between Lone Rock and Boscobel. All work will be conducted within the right of way. No major visibility issues when viewed from the river during leaf-on conditions.

Cupp said he was working with Matt Seguin, DNR Riverway Manager, on access point maintenance activities for backwater areas. Seguin explained there will be minor vegetative removal and possible laying of gravel to enhance access at select access sites. Cupp said the activities fall within the routine maintenance definition and do not require an LWSRB permit.

Cupp said he issued two extensions to permits since the last meeting. An extension was issued to Dick Limmex for a timber harvest in the Town of Wyoming, Iowa County. The consultant is Jeremie Cooper. An extension was issued to Larry Davis for a harvest in the Town of Spring Green, Sauk County. The consultant is Jim Carlson.

The Budget & Office Committee report was presented by Chairman Cary who reviewed the final report for FY 14 and the current status of the FY 15 budget. Cupp said he would present the biennial budget proposal for the 2015-2017 biennium 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.

Under board members' business, Leys noted a recent newspaper article regarding frac sand and the increased demand for the product.

The DNR report was given by Seguin who said the DNR was aware of concerns with the Arena boat landing and would consider options for improving the access point. He said there were no commitments to any specific idea at the present time. He said DNR had done a fly-over to get a snapshot perspective of canoes and sandbar use. He noted proponents of the proposed biking and hiking trail in the Boscobel area have been in

contact with DNR but he emphasized the trail proposal is not a DNR initiative. Travis Anderson, DNR

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**LWSRB MINUTES/AUGUST 14, 2014**

**Page -3-**

Wildlife Biologist, said wood duck banding continues with a goal of 300 ducks before the project is completed. He said invasive species control continues to take a lot of staff time. He said there have been bear sightings in Sauk and Iowa counties including a sow and two cubs.

During the public comment session, Timm Zumm, President of the Friends of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway (FLOW), noted a public meeting on the Arena boat landing will be held on August 19<sup>th</sup> in Arena. He said a recent count of river users late afternoon over the weekend resulted in 334 canoes/kayaks, 252 tents, 17 inner tubes and 15 boats. The Mazomanie to Spring Green segment was targeted for the count.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ritchie Brown, seconded by Arimond. **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