

LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2014, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, September 11, 2014, at Wyalusing State Park, Bagley, Wisconsin, to conduct a regular monthly business meeting. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Vice-Chair Fred Madison. All members were present with the exceptions of Dave Martin, Don Greenwood, Melody Moore and Ron Leys. Acknowledgment that the meeting was properly noticed was provided by Mark E. Cupp, Executive Director. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Bob Cary, seconded by Jerry Dorscheid. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2014, meeting was made by Dorscheid, seconded by George Arimond. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Madison who asked Cupp to review plans for the event to recognize the 25th anniversary of the Riverway. Cupp reviewed the details for the event to be held in Spring Green. He noted Tommy Thompson, Dale Schultz and Spencer Black would be the featured speakers.

Cupp reported no new developments in the court case regarding the frac sand mining permits for the Pattison Sand Company and four landowners in the Town of Bridgeport, Crawford County. Cupp said the attorneys for the board and for Pattison have been in communication.

Dorscheid reported on a meeting hosted by the Friends of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway (FLOW) regarding the Arena boat landing. He noted Department of Natural Resources (DNR) personnel also were in attendance. Dorscheid said a major concern involves response times for emergency officials. If the Arena landing is inaccessible or unusable for motor boats, an additional hour or more can be added to response times. Dorscheid said he would like to see DNR pursue options for making the landing functional. Matt Seguin, DNR Riverway Manager, said the dredging proposal is being evaluated. He added discussions are underway with local law enforcement and 911 dispatch centers. Also, alternative locations for a new boat landing(s) are being researched. Dorscheid asked if there was a schedule for obtaining some answers. Seguin said he hoped to have an answer to the dredging question within a couple of weeks but that other responses will take longer. Arimond suggested contacting the US Army Corps of Engineers about their experience with dredging.

Cupp reported a citizen contact expressing concern about low flying plans and adverse impacts on eagles and ospreys. He said a preliminary response had been received from DNR indicating that, by September, eagles will have fledged which may be an explanation for the absence of eagles around nests.

Arimond led a board discussion on key partnerships to cultivate. The list of partners will be shared with the board prior to the October meeting. The board will then prioritize the relationships that should be explored, initiated or strengthened.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chairman Dorscheid. Nick Morehouse, DNR Riverway Forester, reported on timber harvesting activities on state lands projected for the coming harvest season. He said the roads have been installed at the Burns Tract (Town of Orion, Richland County) but the harvest may be delayed until 2015. The logging company has two years to complete the harvest. He said bottomland harvests at Fish Trap Flowage (Town of Watterstown, Grant County) and Bigelow Hill (Town of Clyde, Iowa County) will occur if ground conditions are acceptable. Red pine plantation harvests are expected near Arena, Spring Green and Woodman. Morehouse noted the 600 acre/annum harvest goal for the Riverway.

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Cupp reported DNR Conservation Warden David Youngquist had identified an apparent violation at a cabin in the Town of Spring Green, Sauk County. A small deck was added to the structure and some shoreline vegetation was removed. Cupp said he would meet with the landowners on Saturday, September 13th.

The Budget Committee report was presented by Chairman Cary who reviewed the status of the FY 15 budget. Cupp then reviewed the biennial budget request for the 2015-2017 biennium. With standard budget adjustments and full funding of salaries and fringe benefits, the LWSRB request would be \$227,200 in FY 16 and \$227,400 in FY 17. A motion to approve the LWSRB budget request for the next biennium was made by Cary, seconded by Arimond. **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.

The DNR report was given by Seguin who noted the Zerwick shed in the Town of Mazomanie, Dane County, had been painted.

There were no comments during the public comment session.

A motion to adjourn was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Ritchie Brown. **MOTION CARRIED.**

END

For further information, corrections, additions or deletions to the minutes, contact Mark Cupp, Executive Director, at (608) 739-3188 or 1-800-221-3792.