

# LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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## MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 9, 2014, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, October 9, 2014, at the Wauzeka village hall to conduct a regular monthly business meeting. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Don Greenwood. All members were present with the exceptions of George Arimond 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 Melody Moore, seconded by Jerry Dorscheid. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2014, meeting was made by Bob Cary, seconded by Ritchie Brown. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chairman Greenwood. A follow-up on a meeting hosted by the Friends of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway (FLOW) and attended by Department of Natural Resources (DNR) officials and local citizens regarding the inaccessibility of the Arena boat landing was discussed. Brian Hefty, DNR Facilities and Lands Regional Supervisor, said DNR engineers and water regulations and zoning officials continue to assess the feasibility of dredging the area and hope for a response in a few weeks. Hefty said any identified option(s) would not be implemented until next year.

Cupp reported he attended an open house hosted by American Transmission Company regarding the Dubuque-Cardinal proposed line. Dorscheid had asked Cupp to attend to assure there were no Riverway implications. He had received a map that showed a possible river crossing near Spring Green. Cupp said the route to the Spring Green substation and then on to Middleton has been taken off the table and is no longer an option for ATC. However, a small portion of the study area may impact the Riverway in the Mazomanie area. Cupp said there does not appear to be any immediate impacts on the Riverway and the preferred route for ATC seems to be along the Hwy. 151 corridor. Cupp said he also will attend a meeting with ATC on a long term project affecting the line in the Lone Rock/Gotham/Avoca area. The meeting will occur on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

Wrap-up discussion on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration took place. Greenwood said it was a successful event. Cupp thanked all who participated or contributed to the event.

Cupp reported the attorneys for the LWSRB and for Pattison Sand Company are in communication regarding the Judge Craig Day's order regarding issuance of permits for the frac sand mine in the Town of Bridgeport, Crawford County. Nothing further to report at this time.

Cupp said he hopes to meet with aides from the offices of Senator Schultz and Senator Erpenbach regarding draft legislation to restructure the language of the nonmetallic mining regulations in the Riverway law. Dave Martin said the timing is important because the board should get in the queue for action by the Legislation Reference Bureau before the next legislation session begins.

Cupp noted George Arimond was unable to attend the meeting but will lead discussion on strategic planning at the next meeting. Cupp reviewed a memorandum detailing a list of current and proposed partners for the LWSRB and asked board members to evaluate the list for future discussion on prioritization. He said one element of strategic planning discussion in the past was to continue to develop a social media presence. Cupp noted the weekly video reports are gaining viewership which drives traffic to the LWSRB website and Facebook page. He will explore the possibility of using Twitter as another social media vehicle.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chairman Dorscheid who noted the committee had not met this month and asked Cupp for a report on activities. Cupp said he and DNR Riverway Forester Nick Morehouse had met with landowner Mike MacEachern regarding a proposed walnut harvest in the Town of Bridgeport, Crawford County. The consultant has yet to mark the trees so a follow-up field inspection will be required. No permit action necessary at this time. Cupp said he and Morehouse will conduct a field inspection to evaluate a walnut harvest on the Harold Gies property in the Town of Clyde, Iowa County. The existing permit may be amended to reflect harvest of additional trees. Cupp said Mark Mittlestadt of Blue Ox Forestry had requested approval of a walnut harvest at Wisconsin Badger Camp, Town of Millville, Grant County. Cupp said he and Morehouse will conduct a field inspection to determine compliance with the applicable performance standards. Cupp requested authorization to proceed with issuance of a permit for the walnut harvest at Wisconsin Badger Camp if the field inspection confirmed compliance with the performance standard will be achieved. A motion to that effect was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Moore. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cupp said he had issued a structure permit to Bill Falcon to address a violation in the Town of Spring Green, Sauk County. An old ground level deck on a cottage was replaced with the new deck being in larger in size. As a result, the construction required a permit and couldn't be considered a routine maintenance activity. In addition, some shoreline vegetation was removed, which constituted a violation. The landowner agreed to plant two trees to address the violation. No warning was issued. Cupp also said he issued an extension to a general permit issued to DNR/Nick Morehouse for activity in the Town of Woodman, Grant County.

The Budget Committee report was presented by Chairman Cary who reviewed the status of the FY 15 budget. Cupp noted the budget request for the 2015-2017 biennium had been submitted to the Department of Administration pursuant to the approval provided by the board 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 the Cultural Landscape Legacies annual tour will be held on Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, and will focus on mounds in West Bend and Horicon area.

Under LWSRB members business, Martin suggested listing the Wisconsin Wild & Scenic Rivers by name in the strategic planning memo. Ron Leys noted Jimson weed was discovered in Prairie du Chien but was eradicated by city staff. Cupp asked Leys about the proposed rail loading facility in Prairie du Chien. Leys said construction hasn't started yet. There may be issues with municipal zoning.

The DNR report was provided by Hefty who noted 2014 represents the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wisconsin Wild & Scenic Rivers program. Martin (author of the original legislation) noted the bill passed both houses of the Legislature unanimously. Hefty said the public comments for the Master Plan should be available soon.

During the public comment session, Richard Dieter reported on two projects he is working on in the region. One involves identification of trail marker trees and the other involves identifying old white oak trees that are studied by a UW-Platteville professor who is doing research on drought cycles.

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