

LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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MINUTES OF THE MAY 14, 2015, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, May 14, 2015, at the Boscobel City 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 George Arimond. Acknowledgment that the meeting was properly noticed was provided by Mark E. Cupp, Executive Director. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Fred Madison, seconded by Jerry Dorscheid. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2015, meeting was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Bob Cary. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chairman Greenwood. The initial guest speaker for the evening was Dan Goltz, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Wildlife Biologist. Goltz discussed activities on state owned lands related to habitat improvement and invasive species control. He also discussed an eagle banding project that will expand to the Riverway this summer. Eaglets will be banded and blood samples taken to test for heavy metals and other contaminants. Goltz reviewed the permits for which he will require extensions. The extensions will be considered at the June LWSRB meeting.

The second guest speaker was Mayor Steve Wetter from the City of Boscobel. Wetter gave a presentation on proposed improvements to the Floyd Von Haden boat landing at Boscobel. He noted the City recently acquired the boat landing from Grant County. Students from UW-Platteville have assisted with plans for the site. Changes to the configuration of the opening to the river from the backwater are proposed. Replacement of the existing broken concrete riprap with more aesthetically pleasing and appropriate riprap may occur. A separate canoe launch would be developed and the existing concrete pad for launching boats would be designed to accommodate two vehicles at the same time. Wetter said he would like to see primitive camping sites established. A pedestrian and bike trail from Boscobel to the boat landing along Hwy. 61 is in the works. Funding for the project has not yet been established. Ron Leys noted the LWSRB has gone on record in the past as being supportive of registration fees for canoes to assist with development of access sites.

Cupp said he and George Arimond continue to work on strategic planning details. Arimond will discuss his ideas at the June meeting.

Greenwood asked Melody Moore as Chair of the Personnel Committee if the committee again would serve as the Nominating Committee to present a slate of officers for FY 16 for consideration at the June LWSRB meeting. Moore indicated that persons interested in an officer role should contact her or Cupp by June 1st.

Cupp said he continues to work with the Governor's office on LWSRB appointments and re-appointments. He has not received a response from Dane County despite multiple attempts to contact individuals in county government. Governor Scott Walker's Appointments Director said no action has been taken regarding the "at-large" slots currently held by Fred Madison, Ritchie Brown and George Arimond.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chairman Dorscheid. Cupp provided an update on the proposed reconstruction of the Boscobel to Lone Rock 69kv line. He noted American Transmission Company (ATC) continues work on assessing environmental and aesthetic impacts related to maintaining the existing corridor or creating a new crossing and retiring the existing corridor. Cupp said DNR is asking for

additional information regarding the burial option. Cupp will meet with ATC officials on May 28th to conduct a river tour for the purpose of identifying locations for viewshed analyses and rendering of visual images for the existing crossing and proposed new crossing.

Dorscheid said Cupp had issued three permits since the last meeting. A general permit for modification of an existing structure was issued to Sarah Stroik and Dan Miles for a site in the Town of Buena Vista, Richland County. An addition will be built to an existing house that is not visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. A management permit was issued to Matt Seguin, DNR Riverway Manager, for native plant community enhancement. The removal of woody vegetation also will permit safe access and egress to the ATC power line for soil boring studies. A general permit for harvest to timber on lands not visible from the river during leaf-on condition was issued to Eric Fuller for property in the Town of Wyalusing, Grant County. A light selective harvest will occur on a small parcel. No new roads will be constructed.

The Budget & Office Committee report was presented by Chair Cary who reviewed the FY 15 budget. Cupp noted the Legislature's Joint Finance Committee (JFC) had approved the LWSRB budget request and approved the migration from the Department of Tourism to DNR as an attached board on a 16-0 vote.

The Personnel Committee report was given by Chair Moore. Cupp said he is determining if a new directive from DOA to use a different performance evaluation format will apply to LWSRB since the board previously completed the annual performance evaluations for both Marsha Curtis, LWSRB Office Associate, and Cupp.

The Executive Director's report was presented by Cupp who reviewed the materials in the board members' packets. Cupp said the Muscoda Morel Mushroom Festival would feature tours of the effigy mounds at Frank's Hill and nature hikes along the river at Victoria Riverside Park. He thanked DNR Wildlife Biologists Dan Goltz and Travis Anderson for giving their time on a Saturday to lead the hikes.

Under board members' business, Dave Martin expressed disappointment in JFC action to increase fees for state parks and the removal of public funding for the park system. He said the State of Wisconsin should be encouraging people to use the state parks and outdoors rather than erecting barriers for people to gain access to these places. Leys agreed this is a bad time to increase fees. Dorscheid expressed concerns about smaller parks in the system. Cary expressed his belief that the park system won't remain viable without some state funding.

The DNR report was presented by Matt Seguin, DNR Riverway Manager, who noted the drawdown above Long Lake continues. There have been many interesting bird sightings including a black necked stilt. Controlled burns on state lands in the Riverway have concluded for the season. He said Cupp will give a refresher on LWSRB regulations to DNR staff. Seguin said the crew is working on prairie plantings, sunflower plantings and usual maintenance activities. David Krier, Boscobel Dial Editor, asked about the DNR making improvements to the DNR landing at Boscobel. Seguin said the matter is being considered under the DNR master planning process. Dorscheid asked if there was any news on addressing access problems at the Arena landing. Seguin said there have been no new developments.

During the public comment session, Timm Zumm of Spring Green and Friends of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway (FLOW) President said FLOW continues to reach out on education related to safe use of the river. He said the Kids Don't Float campaign continues and kiosks with life jackets will be placed at key landings. A group of school children will visit the Battle of Wisconsin Heights site. Zumm said FLOW has a full page in the newly released Spring Green Visitor Guide.

Forest Jahnke, Coordinator of the Crawford Stewardship Project, distributed copies of the organization's newsletter.

Scott Teuber, Owner of Wisconsin River Outings, expressed opposition to the idea of canoe registration saying it would be a nightmare for canoe livery operators. Greenwood said the idea was to treat all river users the same.

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

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