

# LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

202 N. Wisconsin Avenue  
P.O. Box 187  
Muscodia, WI 53573  
(608) 739-3188 or 1-800-221-3792

## MINUTES OF THE JUNE 11, 2015, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, June 11, 2015, at the Rhinelander Cabin on the Riverway's Black Hawk Unit in the Town of Mazomanie, Dane County, to conduct a regular monthly business meeting. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Acting Chair Jerry Dorscheid. All members were present with the exceptions of Don Greenwood, Fred Madison and Dave Martin. 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 Melody Moore. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2015, meeting was made by Ron Leys, seconded by George Arimond. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Dorscheid who asked Arimond to discuss strategic planning. Arimond reviewed the action plan for Strategic Item 2.1 "Develop an Outreach Plan." Arimond distributed a document that outlined categories including audience, messages and method of delivery. The outreach plan will spread a positive message about the Riverway and the many attributes of the lower Wisconsin River. Arimond noted the use of social media is imperative. He also reviewed powerful ways to use the board's website and linkage to other sites. Arimond said Cupp will work with him on creation of a draft document summarizing the board's work on strategic plan revisions. The target date for delivery to the board is the September 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. Leys said the outreach plans appears to be a step toward promotion of the project. Arimond said it is important to replenish the pool of Riverway user groups. Cupp said the outreach plan also will assist with distributing the safety message to assure that users are well informed. Cary said he has been a long-time supporter of informational kiosks at boat landings. Matt Seguin, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Riverway Manager, said there are a number of informational signs at boat landings and offered to work with the board on additional signage as may be deemed necessary.

Cupp said Cary had been re-appointed to the board by Governor Scott Walker. Cary is the board's Grant County representative. Cupp said he and Moore had been working with Dane County on a replacement for Moore. A resolution offering nominees is expected to be introduced to the county board in the near future. Cupp said there was no word from the Governor's office on the re-appointments of George Arimond, Fred Madison or Ritchie Brown. All three slots are for recreational user groups and are appointed by the Governor subject to Senate confirmation.

Cupp said the schedule for voyageur canoe trips had been released. He said progress is being made on the board's migration from the Department of Tourism to the DNR. Implementation of the STAR Project, a new statewide administrative program, has been difficult. Michelle Young from DNR has been helpful in sorting out the necessary training requirements for LWSRB staff.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chair Dorscheid. The permit request of Steven and Mary Peterzak for a parcel in the Town of Spring Green, Sauk County, was discussed. Dorscheid said a field inspection was conducted by Cupp, on January 21, 2015. Mr. and Mrs. Peterzak were present for the field inspection. A field inspection was conducted by the Operations Committee and Cupp on February 12, 2015. An additional field inspection was conducted by Cupp on June 2, 2015. The Operations Committee also visited the site on June 11, 2015.

Plans call for construction of a new house and garage at an undeveloped lot on High Bank Lane. There is development on both sides of the lot (seasonal residences). The applicant has provided diagrams and an architectural model of the structure. The house will be ranch style with the garage attached by a breezeway. The exterior color will be sandy brown and the roof color will be a darker brown. Final approval of the colorization will be required. There will be a limited amount of glass or other reflective material. Adequate screening vegetation exists at the site. An architectural model was shown to the board.

A motion to approve issuance of a permit with the following conditions was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Leys:

- 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 exterior colorization of the structure, including roof color, shall harmonize with the natural surroundings during leaf-on conditions and shall be reviewed for compliance with the Riverway regulations and approved prior to initiation on construction;
- There shall be a limited amount of glass or other reflective material;
- 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.**

The permit request of Kristy Russell for a timber harvest in the Town of Wauzeka, Crawford County, was discussed. Dorscheid said a field inspection was conducted by Cupp, on May 20, 2015, on the adjoining property (Finney). Cupp had been informed of timber harvesting on the Russell property. The activity occurred without a permit being obtained from the LWSRB. Ms. Russell previously had received a timber harvest permit in 1999 with an extension issued in 2000. The field inspection confirmed a harvest had occurred. The harvest area is not visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. Cupp spoke with Ms. Russell about the situation. She indicated she had contacted the Gays Mills DNR Forestry office who had referred her to Boscobel DNR Forestry office who gave her a list of consulting foresters. She indicated that no one mentioned the need for a Riverway permit so she thought Governor Walker must have eliminated the Riverway Board so no permit would be required. She also noted that she had sold some of her property since the last time she received a permit and now owns about 20 acres. Cupp explained the need to obtain a permit. Ms. Russell then submitted a permit application. Cupp recommended issuance of general permit “after the fact” to address the situation since there was aesthetic impact from the harvest.

Dorscheid made a motion, seconded by Brown, to approve issuance of a general permit with conditions for the harvest. Leys noted his dislike of issuing a retroactive permit but said he would go along with the motion in this case. Conditions of the permit would include:

- The harvest shall be limited to areas not visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions; and,
- The harvest shall comply with all other applicable federal, state and local regulations.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Dorscheid said there were several extensions to management permits held by Dan Goltz, DNR Wildlife Biologist, for vegetative management activities on state owned lands. Goltz made a presentation to the board at the May 14, 2015, meeting regarding the extension requests for the following parcels:

- DNR/Goltz(management/extension)(Town of Marietta, Crawford County)
- DNR/Goltz(management/extension)(Town of Richwood, Richland County)
- DNR/Goltz(management/extension)(Town of Wauzeka, Crawford County)
- DNR/Goltz(management/extension)(Town of Muscoda, Grant County)
- DNR/Goltz(management/extension)(Town of Woodman, Grant County)
- DNR/Goltz(management/extension)(Town of Millville, Grant County)
- DNR/Goltz(management/extension)(Town of Wyalusing, Grant County)
- DNR/Goltz(management/extension)(Town of Muscoda, Grant County).

Dorscheid made a motion, seconded by Cary, to approve two-year extensions to the permits with the following conditions:

- No existing structures shall become visible from the river as a result of the activity;
- The LWSRB shall review any modifications to the plans, as submitted, for compliance with the applicable performance standards prior to implementation of the activity; and,
- The applicant shall notify the LWSRB upon initiation and completion of the activity.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Cupp said he had conducted a boat tour of the river with representatives of the American Transmission Company (ATC) and a subcontractor to identify points of view for visual imaging for the rebuild of the Boscobel to Lone Rock 69kv line. ATC is expected to make a presentation at the July board meeting. Cupp said he issued one permit since the last meeting. A general permit was issued to Jack Finney for a light selective harvest of walnut on lands not visible from the river in the Town of Wauzeka, Crawford County. The consultant was Cal Bunders.

The Budget & Office Committee report was presented by Chair Cary who reviewed the FY 15 budget. Cupp noted the biennial budget continues to make its way through the legislative process.

The Personnel Committee report was given by Chair Moore. Moore said performance evaluations for LWSRB staff had been completed using the new forms required by the Department of Administration. The information from the board's earlier evaluations was incorporated into the new forms.

Moore said the Nominating Committee had met to develop a slate of officers. She said the existing officers would be nominated because no board members had indicated a desire to run for a position. Moore then nominated Don Greenwood for Chair, seconded by Arimond. Moore thrice called for nominations from the floor. Hearing no further nominations, the **MOTION** to elect Greenwood as Chair **CARRIED**. Moore then nominated Fred Madison for Vice-Chair. She thrice called for nominations from the floor. Hearing no further nominations, the **MOTION** to elect Madison as Vice-Chair **CARRIED**. Moore then nominated Jerry Dorscheid as Secretary. She thrice called for nominations from the floor. Hearing no further nominations, the **MOTION** to elect Dorscheid as Secretary **CARRIED**. Moore thanked the officers for their service and willingness to continue for another term.

The Executive Director's report was presented by Cupp who reviewed the materials in the board members' packets. He said the mounds tours and nature hikes associated with the Muscoda Morel Mushroom Festival were well attended. Cupp said a solstice sunset observance will be held at Frank's Hill near Muscoda on June 20<sup>th</sup>.

Under board members' business, Cupp said LWSRB member Dave Martin will be the keynote speaker at a ceremony recognizing the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of enactment of Wisconsin "Wild Rivers" legislation. Martin was the author of the legislation to create the program when he served in the Assembly. The event will be held at the Wild Rivers Interpretative Center in Florence. Cupp said he would attend. Brown commented that elk had been re-introduced to the Jackson County Forest. Leys asked if there had been any developments regarding the court case involving the board and Pattison Sand Company (PSC). Cupp said he had just received documents from PSC attorney Dorothy Stroschein and was working with Assistant Attorney General Mark Bromley on a response. Cupp said the board is waiting for the signed order from Judge Craig Day before proceeding with issuance of permits.

There was no report from DNR.

During the public comment session, Forest Jahnke, Co-Coordinator of the Crawford Stewardship Project (CSP), noted the slowdown in fracking has slowed down extraction and shipping but has not eliminated demand. He said speculators continue to purchase land and mineral rights. Jahnke said CSP is monitoring the state task force on aerial spraying of manure. He noted the Roth Hog Farm nutrient management plan is incomplete and is being reviewed by state officials.

Linda Meadowcroft, Baraboo, said Pattison is looking to expand surface mines in Iowa and possibly Wisconsin.

A motion to adjourn was made by Arimond, 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.

Minutes submitted by:

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Mark E. Cupp, Executive Director  
Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board