

LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 10, 2015, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, September 10, 2015, at the Peterson Shelter in Wyalusing State Park, Bagley. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chair Donald Greenwood. All members were present with the exception of Melody Moore. 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 Ron Leys. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2015, meeting was made by Fred Madison, seconded by Bob Cary. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chairman Greenwood. Correspondence was reviewed. Cupp said he had been contacted by a river user who expressed disappointment with the number of hovercraft using the river during a recent canoe/camping trip. Cupp said he met with a landowner and Department of Transportation (DOT) officials regarding the STH 130 bridge at Lone Rock. Cupp said repairs will be made to the bridge piers in the near future with actual bridge replacement now scheduled for 2020 or 2021. Options for bridge alignments continue to be evaluated by DOT and the consultant. Cupp said a newspaper report on the new American Transmission Company (ATC) line across the river at the Prairie du Sac dam erroneously reported that the new line would cross the river 500 feet downstream of the dam. Cupp said the line will cross the river from the hill above the dam on the Sauk County side to a spot on the golf course near the existing pole on Columbia County side.

The proposed reconstruction of the ATC line from Boscobel to Lone Rock was discussed. Cupp circulated a draft memorandum to ATC indicating the preferred options adopted by the LWSRB at the August meeting. Mike Warwick of ATC was present for the discussion. Warwick said the LWSRB should offer comment during the Public Service Commission review period following the formal filing of an application by ATC. Warwick said ATC will follow a minimal vegetation removal buffer for the first 35 feet along the river and extending landward, which is one of the conditions of the LWSRB's proposal if an overhead line is determined to be the appropriate construction type. Cupp said he would send the memorandum to ATC and follow up with the Public Service Commission when the application process commences.

George Arimond reported the draft of revisions to the strategic plan should be available for LWSRB review at the November meeting.

Cupp said there had been no progress on appointments according to the Governor's Appointments Director.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chairman Dorscheid. The permit request of Don McGuire for a timber harvest in the Town of Bridgeport, Crawford County, was considered. Dorscheid said a field inspection was conducted by Cupp in conjunction with timber harvest activity on the adjoining property. Portions of the harvest area are visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. Plans call for a light selective harvest of walnut. No new roads will be constructed. Compliance with the basal area requirements for the Bluff Zone and Riverview Zone will be achieved. A motion to approve issuance of a permit with conditions was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Leys. Conditions of the permit include:

- The harvest shall comply with the basal area limits for the residual stand in the Bluff Zone and Riverview Zone, as detailed in Chapter NR 37, Wisconsin Administrative Code;
- In the Bluff Zone and Riverview Zone, all trees selected for harvest shall be appropriately marked and reviewed by the LWSRB for compliance with the applicable performance standards prior to initiation of the harvest;

- In the Bluff and Riverview Zone, the harvest shall be limited to the times when the ground is frozen or dry and the leaves are off the deciduous trees;
- The LWSRB shall review the location and design of all new logging roads, if any, in the Bluff Zone and Riverview Zone;
- The new logging roads, if any, shall comply with the applicable performance standards regarding grade and erosion control and shall be re-seeded upon completion of the harvest;
- The LWSRB shall review the location and design of all shelterwood or small regeneration cuts, if any, in the Riverview Zone to assure compliance with the applicable performance standards;
- The Bluff Zone and Riverview Zone shall be delineated prior to initiation of the harvest, if necessary;
- The landowner or his/her agent shall notify the LWSRB within 10 working days upon completion of the harvest and, if necessary, the LWSRB shall conduct a post-harvest field inspection; and,
- The LWSRB shall review modification of the plans, as submitted, for compliance with the applicable performance standards prior to initiation of the harvest.

MOTION CARRIED.

The request of Jeff Brownlee for a timber harvest on a parcel in the Town of Watterstown, Grant County, was discussed. Cupp said an application had been received but detailed information on the harvest and road construction had not been provided. A motion was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Dave Martin, to defer action on the application until additional information is obtained. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The request of Ken Baumgardt for construction of a storage shed on property in the Town of West Point, Columbia County, was discussed. Dorscheid said a field inspection was conducted by Cupp on August 27, 2015. Mr. Baumgardt also was present for the field inspection. Cupp said the site is visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. The site is located a short distance downstream of the Prairie du Sac dam. Plans call for construction of a 12 ft. x 24 ft. x 15 ft. (height) shed. The sides will be brown and the roof will be green. Adequate screening vegetation exists at the site. The height of the structure will not result in the structure being visible from the river. There will be a limited use of glass. A motion to approve issuance of a structure permit with condition was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Madison. Conditions of the permit include:

- 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 18 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.

Cupp said he would meet with Pattison Sand Company (PSC) representatives in October to review the “areas of concern” as detailed on maps previously provided to PSC and referred to in Judge Craig Day’s order. Cupp requested a board member accompany him on the field inspection. Leys encouraged Greenwood to participate if he will be available when a date is set.

Cupp said he had issued a general permit to Tom Waltz for construction of a disabled accessible pier on a backwater area near Woodman. The site is not visible from the Wisconsin River. He also processed permits for Kids Don't Float kiosks with more to come as approvals from municipalities are obtained by the Friends of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway. Cupp said Michael Nee will attend the October board meeting to discuss his prairie restoration project in Richland County. Cupp will issue an extension to a timber harvest permit for Phil Limmex for a parcel in the Town of Wyoming, Iowa County.

The Budget & Office Committee report was presented by Chairman Cary who reviewed the status of the FY 16 budget.

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'

Under board members' business, Leys spoke about the hassle with the park ranger as board members and the public attempted to enter Wyalusing State Park for the meeting. He said the experience was unpleasant and suggested the board hold the "Wyalusing" meeting at a site in Prairie du Chien. Leys said the board legally should not hold a public meeting at a location where the public is required to pay for entry. Martin questioned the reasoning for holding a meeting at Wyalusing and concurred that a venue in Prairie du Chien would be more appropriate. He suggested placing the item on the board's agenda for the October 8th meeting. Cupp said meetings have been held at Wyalusing State Park for many years because the board and DNR wished to highlight some of the Riverway resources and expose gems such as Wyalusing State Park to board members. He said it appears that attitude has changed. Greenwood said the matter will be placed on the agenda for discussion at the October meeting. Cupp said he will contact the DNR liaisons to the LWSRB to express concern over the problems of entering the park for the meeting.

Leys provided an update on the possible incorporation or annexation of the Town of Bridgeport, Crawford County. He said the matter had been put on hold for the time being.

There was no report from DNR.

During the public comment session, Forest Jahnke of the Crawford Stewardship Project (CSP) said the group has been monitoring nutrient management plans for the Roth hog farm in the Town of Wauzeka, Crawford County. He said MSHA inspections at the Pattison Sand Company mine in Bridgeport should be more frequent.

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

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