

LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 8, 2015, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, October 8, 2015, 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 Ritchie Brown, Melody Moore 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 Jerry Dorscheid seconded by Ron Leys. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2015, meeting was made by Dave Martin, seconded by Bob Cary. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chairman Greenwood. Cupp noted the passing of former LWSRB member Vincent Limmex of rural Spring Green. Limmex also served as Co-Chair of the Local Officials Advisory Committee during the Riverway planning process. He then served as the first LWSRB Chair in 1989.

A problem with access to Wyalusing State Park at the September LWSRB meeting was discussed. Cupp said Department of Natural Resources (DNR) officials Matt Seguin and Brian Hefty had contacted him to express apologies for the difficulties in entering the park for the September 10th meeting. Seguin then addressed the board and said it was a matter of a new employee who was unfamiliar with the LWSRB and the longstanding tradition of holding meetings at the Peterson Shelter. He apologized for the inconvenience and said the entrance fee would be waived for the board meeting going forward as had been the custom in the past. Leys asked if the fee also would be waived for the public to which Seguin answered in the affirmative. Martin then suggested the meeting slated for Wyalusing each year be moved to Prairie du Chien to better serve the public. Leys concurred. Greenwood said he appreciates the chance to hold a meeting at the park and suggested an every other year split between Wyalusing and Prairie du Chien. Cary said Prairie du Chien offers better meeting amenities and takes away concerns with weather. Dorscheid said he enjoys coming to the park for the beautiful view and the side benefit of offering the public a chance to come to the park for a meeting. Leys suggested the matter be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Cupp said Tom Oldenberg, Department of Transportation (DOT) Engineer, had contacted him about the Gotham to Muscodia project on STH 60. DOT will make a presentation to the board at the December 10th meeting in Muscodia.

Cupp said the 2013-2015 LWSRB Biennial Report would be due on October 15th. He said discussions on revisions to the LWSRB strategic plan will be moved to November. Cupp said there have been no developments with appointments for Dane County or the "at-large" positions according to the Governor's office.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chair Dorscheid. The permit request of Jeff Brownlee for a timber harvest on a parcel in the Town of Watterstown, Grant County, was discussed. Cupp said additional information on the proposed harvest has not been received. A motion to defer action on the application was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Cary. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The request of Michael Nee for prairie restoration on his property in the Town of Buena Vista, Richland County, was discussed. Dorscheid said a field inspection was conducted by Cupp on July 2, 2015. Mr. Nee was present for the field inspection. Also present were DNR officials (Mike Finley and Jason Sable) and the consultant, William Moore. Plans call for the restoration of the remnant upland prairie and additional vegetative management to restore the native plant community. The prairie is not visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions.

There is a small viewshed to the river from the top of the bluff. No new structures become visible from the river as a result of the activity. The DNR has determined the activity is appropriate for the site. Cupp noted Nee attended the July 9, 2015, LWSRB meeting and explained his project at that time. A motion to approve issuance of a management permit with condition was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Arimond. Conditions of the permit include:

- 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.

Three permit requests of Timm Zumm on behalf of Friends of the Lower Wisconsin for construction of “Kids Don’t Float” kiosks, were discussed. Dorscheid said a field inspection was conducted by Mark E. Cupp, Executive Director, on July 29, 2015. Mr. Zumm also was present for the field inspection. A prototype of the kiosk was viewed by the Operations Committee on August 13, 2015. Plans call for installation of 6 ft. x 6 ft. x 6 ft. (approximate dimensions) kiosks to provide free loaner life jackets to recreational users. Placement of the kiosks will take advantage of existing screening vegetation to the greatest extent possible. Colorization will harmonize with the natural surroundings during leaf-on conditions. The kiosks will be made of wood.

Cupp said the three locations under consideration at the meeting were for the Town of Buena Vista (Gotham) access site in Richland County; the Otter Creek landing in Iowa County and the Town of Mazomanie landing in Dane County. Zumm said the Gotham landing also may include a memorial to the young girl who drowned at the site earlier this year. He said the PFDs are being used at the Peck’s Landing site and the USH 14 landing kiosk has been installed as well.

A motion to approve issuance of the structure permits with the following conditions was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Martin. 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;
- The exterior colorization of the structure shall harmonize with the natural surroundings during leaf-on conditions;
- 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 and Seguin met at the West Point Unit in the Town of Roxbury, Dane County, to discuss installation of a fence along a property line in an effort to reduce illegal off road vehicle use. Cupp said he determined a permit would not be required due to the exemption for nonagricultural wire fences. Seguin said the project has been delayed until issues with the existing snowmobile trail have been worked through. Leys suggested smooth wire instead of barbed wire. Cupp reported the transmission line structures on the Prairie du Sac dam were removed by helicopter with the new poles on either side of the dam now in place. He said a field inspection at the

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Lee Pulda and Earl Pulda properties will be conducted on October 14th. Officials with the Pattison Sand Company will be in attendance. In addition to Cupp, Greenwood and Dorscheid will attend as board representatives.

Cupp said he had issued permits or extensions to the following individuals:

- DNR/Seguin (structure) (USH 14 Landing)(Kids Don't Float kiosk);
- Flora Barker (timber/extension)(Town of Millville, Grant County);
- Phillip Limmex(timber/extension)(Town of Wyoming, Iowa County); and,
- Jacob Brickl (structure)(general)(Town of Troy, Sauk County).

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

The Personnel Committee report was given by Cupp who said the LWSRB must revise the previously adopted policy on issuance of Discretionary Merit Compensation/Discretionary Equity or Retention Adjustment awards for staff. He is waiting for additional information from the Department of Administration.

The Executive Director's report was presented by Cupp who reviewed the materials in the board members' packets. He noted Ruth Offedahl of the Natural Resources Foundation is paddling the length of the Wisconsin River to raise awareness about the Foundation's work. Cupp and Zumm led a paddling tour of the Arena to Spring Green segment for environmental attorneys working on clean water issues along the Mississippi River and tributaries from Minnesota to Louisiana. He said the Cultural Landscape Legacies annual tour will be held on October 17th and will focus on mounds in northwestern Illinois. Cupp said an eagle release is tentatively planned for Frank's Hill on December 12th and will be sponsored by the Three Eagles Foundation. Martin encouraged everyone to attend.

Under LWSRB members business, Martin reported on a joint speaking engagement with Cupp before a group of state fiscal bureau analysts from the western U.S. Bob Lang, Director of the Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau, was the host for the event held at House on the Rock Resort. Martin described bipartisan efforts to establish the Wisconsin Wild Rivers program and other environmental accomplishments during the 1960's while Cupp described the bipartisan cooperation involved in creation of the Riverway.

The DNR report was provided by Seguin who said pheasant stocking is underway. Burn breaks are being installed. Long Lake water levels are increasing. Black bears and a wolf were sighted near Avoca. The former Burns tract is being harvested pursuant to the LWSRB permit.

During the public comment session, Zumm discussed Friends of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway (FLOW) projects and noted FLOW hosted 128 Girl Scouts on a paddling trip near Spring Green.

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