

LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 10, 2015, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, December 10, 2015, at the Kratochwill Memorial Building in Muscodia 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 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 Fred Madison. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2015, meeting was made by Madison, seconded by Bob Cary. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chairman Greenwood who noted Department of Transportation (DOT) officials were present to report on the status of the STH 60 project for the Gotham to Muscodia segment. Tom Oldenberg Steve Vetch, Dan Kleinetz and Andy Barta represented DOT. Oldenberg said the project is slated for 2020. A public information hearing will be held in March. Jim Chitwood, Richland County Highway Commissioner, noted the need for the project. The LWSRB will review design considerations with DOT in the coming weeks.

Patrick Reinsma, Department of Tourism, provided the board with an update regarding tourism matters. He said the Governor's Conference on Tourism will be held in Baraboo at the Ho-Chunk Casino on March 13-15, 2016. He noted the 2016 Tourism Travel Guide and Activity Guide will be combined and will include advertising.

Cupp reported the re-appointments of George Arimond and Ritchie Brown had been made by Governor Scott Walker. Action on the Dane County appointment is expected in the coming weeks. Cupp noted the 2016 meeting schedule was included in the board packets.

January 14, 2016	Muscodia	Kratochwill Memorial Building
February 11, 2016	Muscodia	Kratochwill Memorial Building
March 10, 2016	Muscodia	Kratochwill Memorial Building
April 14, 2016	Sauk City	Public Library
May 12, 2016	Boscobel	City Hall
June 9, 2016	Mazomanie	Black Hawk Unit (Rhinelander Cabin)
July 14, 2016	Muscodia	Kratochwill Memorial Building
August 11, 2016	Prairie du Chien	Wyalusing State Park
September 8, 2016	Spring Green	Public Library
October 13, 2016	Wauzeka	Village Hall
November 10, 2016	Avoca	Village Hall
December 8, 2016	Muscodia	Kratochwill Memorial Building

An update on strategic planning was presented by George Arimond. He said a final product for board review is expected in late winter or spring. Arimond would like to review the DNR Riverway Master Plan revisions, expected to be released in draft form in February, before completing revisions to the LWSRB Master Plan.

Cupp reported on a meeting he, Greenwood and DNR officials had held to discuss scenic easement purchases in the Riverway. Cupp said he asked for the meeting to again request that the purchase of scenic easements without public access from willing sellers in the Riverway be part of the DNR acquisition strategy. DNR officials at the meeting were Sanjay Olson, Mark Aquino and Brian Hefty. Cupp said the DNR is unlikely to purchase scenic easements in the Riverway in the near future due to funding restrictions and the Legislature's current posture on purchase of easements without public access.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chair Dorscheid. The permit request of Marty Limmex for a timber harvest in the Town of Wyoming, Iowa County, was considered. Dorscheid said a field inspection was conducted by Cupp on December 8, 2015. Mr. Limmex (landowner) and Jeremie Cooper (logger) also were present for the field inspection. Cupp said plans call for a selective harvest of miscellaneous bottomlands species including silver maple, river birch, basswood, ash and possibly some swamp white oak. The harvest will occur when the ground is frozen or dry and the leaves are off the deciduous trees. The harvest area encompasses the Resources Management Zone and potentially a few trees in the River Edge Zone. No new roads will be constructed. Dorscheid made a motion, seconded by Cary, to approve issuance of a timber permit with the following conditions:

- The harvest shall comply with the basal area limits for the residual stand in the River Edge Zone, as detailed in Chapter NR 37, Wisconsin Administrative Code;
- In the River Edge 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 River Edge 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 River Edge 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 River Edge 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.

Cupp then reported on pending permit applications including Jeff Brownlee for a timber harvest in the Town of Watterstown, Grant County; Walter Koehnlein for a timber harvest in the Town of Orion, Richland County; Judy Topol for a timber harvest in the Town of Clyde, Iowa County; and Joe Weisensel for a new structure in the Town of Troy, Sauk County. Cupp said he had issued management permits for invasive species control to Jim and Brenda Carlson for a parcel in the Town of Roxbury, Dane County, and to Travis Anderson, DNR Wildlife Biologist, for two sites in Iowa County (Towns of Arena and Wyoming).

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

Under Personnel Committee business, Cupp said he was communicating with DNR and the Department of Administration regarding performance evaluations for LWSRB staff. The timing of evaluations and forms are under review due to the board's migration from Tourism to DNR as an attached board.

The Executive Director's report was given by Cupp who reviewed the materials in the board members' packets. He noted the Three Eagles Foundation would host a winter solstice sunset observance at Frank's Hill near Muscoda on Sunday, December 20th.

Under board members business, Leys noted the large number of sandhill cranes and swans that remain in the area. He encouraged people to visit the Brownsville viewing station on the Mississippi River. Greenwood said he saw a whooping crane amongst a flock of sandhills near Spring Green/Arena.

The DNR report was presented by Matt Seguin, DNR Riverway Manager, who said there were no local accidents reported during the gun deer season. Jason Sable, DNR Forester, reported the Goodweiler Lake timber sale had been completed. The harvest on the former Burns tract is suspended until frozen ground conditions occur.

During public comment, the Crawford Stewardship Project reported a public hearing will be held regarding expansion of the Pattison Sand Company mine in Iowa. An additional 700+ acres is targeted for nonmetallic mining in the Town of Clayton.

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