

LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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MINUTES OF THE APRIL 14, 2016, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, April 14, 2016, at the Sauk City Public Library 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. 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 Dick McFarlane. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2016, meeting was made by Fred Madison, seconded by Dorscheid. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chairman Greenwood. Cupp noted the LWSRB comments to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on revisions to the DNR Riverway Master Plan had been submitted. He thanked the Executive Committee for their assistance in preparing the document. Also, Cupp said comments had been submitted to the Public Service Commission (PSC) regarding the American Transmission Company (ATC) proposal to rebuild the Boscobel to Lone Rock 69kv line. The PSC will consider the comments as the permitting process moves forward. Cupp said the memorandum to PSC reiterated the board's position as shared with ATC in 2015. Arimond reported that he continues to work on the revisions to the LWSRB strategic plan.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chairman Dorscheid. The request of Jason Sable, DNR Forester, for an extension to a general permit for a pine thinning on state owned lands at Paffenrath Lake in the Town of Muscodia, Grant County, was discussed. Sable noted the site is not visible from the river. A motion to approve a two-year extension was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Madison. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The request of Jason Sable, DNR Forester, for a general permit to complete the second phase of a shelterwood harvest on state owned lands in the Town of Spring Green, Sauk County, was considered. Sable noted the first phase of the shelterwood cut was completed in 2010. Adequate regeneration has been established so the site is ready for the second phase of the shelterwood cut. A motion to approve the general permit with standard conditions was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Bob Cary. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The permit request of John Jacobs for construction of a cabin on a bluff in the Town of Wauzeka, Crawford County, was considered. Dorscheid noted a field inspection was conducted by Cupp on April 1, 2016. The field inspection revealed the bluff site is visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. Plans call for construction of an Amish built cabin with a rough wood exterior and brown roof at the site. Adequate screening vegetation exists. Maximum height will be 20 feet. Slope is not a factor. A motion to approve a permit with the following conditions was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Madison:

- 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 24 feet;
- The exterior colorization of the structure shall harmonize with the natural surroundings during leaf-on conditions and shall be approved by the LWSRB prior to initiation of 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 and must provide approval of the modified plans prior to initiation of construction;
- The landowner shall notify the LWSRB upon initiation and completion of the project; and,
- The activity shall comply with all other federal, state and local regulations.

MOTION CARRIED.

The permit request of Paul Reid for construction of a new house in the Town of Wauzeka, Crawford County, was considered. Dorscheid said a field inspection was conducted by Cupp on April 1, 2016. Mr. Reid was present for the field inspection. Plans call for construction of a ranch style house. The maximum height will be 24 feet. The site is not visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. The height of the structure will not result in the structure becoming visible from the river. A motion to approve a general permit for the activity was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Madison. Conditions of the permit will include:

- The height of the structure shall be limited so that the structure does not become visible from the river and shall not exceed 24 feet;
- The LWSRB shall review any modifications to the plans for compliance with the applicable performance standards; and,
- The landowner or his/her agent shall notify the LWSRB upon initiation and completion of the activity.

MOTION CARRIED.

Under other business, Cupp reported he had a telephone conversation with landowner Phil Jennings regarding the native plant community restoration project on his property in the Town of Buena Vista, Richland County. Cupp said the property is located near the Button Cemetery on CTH JJ. Jennings is conducting a prairie restoration and oak woodland restoration on the upland parcel. Mike Finlay, DNR Forester, noted the project is progressing well and the response from native plants has been good. Cupp also noted he had been in contact with The Nature Conservancy regarding a prairie restoration project in the Town of Spring Green, Sauk County. The matter will be discussed at a future board meeting.

The Budget & Office Committee report was presented by Chairman Cary who reviewed the FY 16 budget. Cupp noted there will be an increase in the LWSRB Worker's Compensation premium.

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' packets.

Under board members' business, LWSRB Chair Don Greenwood was recognized for his years of service to the board. Greenwood tendered his resignation effective May 1, 2016. He noted it was a pleasure to serve and encouraged the public to remain engaged with the board and DNR on Riverway matters. He also encouraged greater diversity for future board appointments. Cupp thanked Greenwood

for his leadership and dedication and presented him with a plaque. Ned Hodgson, Treasurer for the Friends of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway (FLOW), also thanked Greenwood for his service and presented him with a gift.

The DNR report was presented by Matt Seguin, DNR Property Manager, who said 165 people attended the DNR open houses on the Master Plan and another 245 submitted e-mail comments. DNR will consider public input as the revisions to the plan are formalized. He noted a number of prescribed burns have taken place including a burn at the Bloyer/Twin Lizard mound group in the Town of Orion, Richland County. He said the most recent eagle survey conducted by airplane revealed many nesting eagles in the Riverway again this year. Dave Zebrow, DNR Acting Southern Region Director, introduced himself to the board.

During the public comment session, Timm Zumm, FLOW President, said the group had conducted a prescribed burn at the Doug & Sheryl Jones property in the Town of Spring Green, Sauk County. He said the FLOW Board of Directors concurred with the master plan comments submitted by the LWSRB. He said life jackets had been supplied to the Kids Don't Float kiosks on the upper portions of the Riverway. LWSRB member Ron Leys noted the City of Prairie du Chien will install kiosks at their boat landings this year.

Gene Unger of Ferry Bluff Eagle Council noted some new eagle nests in the area. He encouraged federal guidelines for protection of the nests be followed as DNR develops plan for state lands in the vicinity of the eagle nesting sites.

The guest speaker for the evening was Eric Carson, Geologist with the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, who gave a presentation entitled, "The river that flows uphill: Geologic evolution of the lower Wisconsin River valley, stream piracy, and reorganization of North American mid-continent rivers." Carson discussed the methodology and research behind his theory that Wisconsin River actually flowed north and east from Prairie du Chien toward the Great Lakes millions of years ago. He noted the glaciers dammed the river at some point in the distant past creating Glacial Lake Muscoda. Eventually, the drainage to the south following the current course of the Mississippi River was created. Carson referred to the northeast flowing watercourse as the Wyalusing River.

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