

# LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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## MINUTES OF THE MAY 12, 2016, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, May 12, 2016, at the Boscobel City Hall to conduct a regular monthly business meeting. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Acting Chair Fred Madison. All members were present with the exception of George Arimond. (NOTE: One vacancy exists.) 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 Jerry Dorscheid. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2016, meeting was made by Ron Leys, seconded by Dave Martin. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Acting Chairman Madison. The guest speaker for the evening was Dan Goltz, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Wildlife Biologist. Goltz discussed activities on state owned lands related to habitat improvement and invasive species control. He also discussed deer management, pheasant stocking and eagle surveys.

Under correspondence, Cupp noted he attended a public information meeting hosted by the Department of Transportation (DOT) and others at the Lone Rock Community Building regarding the proposed replacement of the STH 130 bridges at Lone Rock. He said the project has been pushed back to 2024. Cupp will attend another meeting with other agency representatives in a few weeks. Cupp said he received information from the consultant working on the Helena/Spring Green railroad bridge project. He will report in greater detail at the June meeting after he has an opportunity to discuss the project with the consultant. Cupp said the American Transmission Company will host open houses to discuss the Dubuque to Middleton project where a 345kv line is proposed. He noted the alternatives do not directly impact the Riverway. One alternative would be close to the Riverway in Iowa and Dane counties. Cupp noted officer elections will be held at the June meeting. He requested board members interested in the office of Chair, Vice-Chair or Secretary to contact him or Personnel Committee Chair Ritchie Brown.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chairman Dorscheid. The permit request of Christy Helms for construction of a patio and swimming pool was discussed. The property is located in the Town of Spring Green, Sauk County, near the Wisconsin Riverside Resort. Dorscheid noted a field inspection was conducted by Cupp on May 4, 2016. Shawn Kuhse, contractor, was present for the field inspection. An additional field inspection was conducted by the Operations Committee on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Kuhse again was present. The field inspections revealed the site is visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. The plans call for the construction of an in-ground swimming pool (20 ft. x 40 ft.) and at-grade stone patio/fire pit (16 ft. x 16 ft.). Adequate screening vegetation exists. Height and color will not be factors. Dorscheid noted there is very good screening vegetation at the site. Dorscheid made a motion, seconded by Leys, to approve issuance of a permit with the following conditions:

- The existing screening vegetation shall be maintained and replaced if damaged or destroyed;
- 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 Jason Sable, DNR Forester, for an extension to a previously issued permit was considered. The site is located in the Town of Watterstown, Grant County. Dorscheid said field inspections have been conducted by Cupp and the LWSRB Operations Committee in conjunction with previous permit activities at the site. The harvest is described as an intermediate thinning in a fully stocked bottomland hardwoods stand. The harvest has not been completed and an extension is requested. Dorscheid made a motion, seconded by Cary, to approve a two-year extension with retention of the following permit conditions;

- The harvest shall comply with the basal area limits for the residual stand in the Riverview Zone and River Edge Zone, as detailed in Chapter NR 37, Wisconsin Administrative Code;
- In the River Edge 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 River Edge Zone 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 River Edge 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 small regeneration cuts, if any, in the Riverview Zone to assure compliance with the applicable performance standards;
- The River Edge 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.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

The permit request of Brent Bowers on behalf of Wisconsin Badger Camp for construction of a new lodge to house physically and cognitively disabled clients was considered. The site is located in the Town of Millville, Grant County. Dorscheid said a field inspection was conducted by Cupp on April 21, 2016. The field inspection revealed the site is not visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. Plans call for construction of a 67 ft. x 83 ft. x 33 ft. (height) lodge for clients of Badger Camp. The structure will be similar to the previously permitted Eagle Lodge and will be adjacent to that structure. Adequate screening vegetation exists. Maximum height will not result in the structure becoming visible from the river during leaf-on conditions. Dorscheid made a motion, seconded by Martin, to approve issuance of a permit for the activity with the following conditions:

- The existing screening vegetation shall be maintained and replaced if damaged or destroyed;
- The height of the structure shall not result in the structure being visually conspicuous from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions and shall not exceed 33 feet;
- The activity shall comply with all other applicable federal, state or local regulations; and,
- The landowner or his/her agent shall notify the LWSRB upon initiation and completion of the activity.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

A motion to defer the permit request of Jeff Brownlee regarding a timber harvest in the Town of Watterstown, Grant County, was made Dorscheid, seconded by Cary. Additional information is required before board action. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The permit request of Terry Askevold for construction of a boat landing and placement of lighting at Trader's Island in the Town of Arena, Iowa County, was discussed. Dorscheid said a field inspection was conducted by Cupp in conjunction with previous permit activity at the site. Additionally, Cupp and the Operations Committee visited the site on May 12, 2016. The site is visible from the Wisconsin River. Plans call for installation of a boat ramp to be used by Mr. Askevold's customers and the general public. Dorscheid noted the new access site will improve response times for emergency services. In addition, a safety light is proposed for installation at the boat landing. Dorscheid made a motion, seconded by Brown, to approve both a public access site permit and utility permit with the following conditions.

The boat ramp (public access site) permit includes the following conditions:

- All reasonable efforts, as determined by the board, shall be taken to minimize the visual impact of the public access site,
- The landowner shall notify the board upon completion of the activity; and,
- The activity shall comply with all other federal, state and local regulations.

For the utility permit, the following conditions are included:

- All reasonable efforts shall be taken to minimize the visual impact of the utility facility;
- The LWSRB shall approve of any modification to the plans, as submitted; and,
- The landowner or consultant shall notify the board upon initiation and completion of the project.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Cupp reported he had issued permit extensions to Jack Wightman for a timber harvest on lands not visible from the river in the Town of Watterstown, Grant County; to George Ramsden for a timber harvest on lands not visible from the river in the Town of Clyde, Iowa County; and, to The Nature Conservancy for management activities at the Spring Green Preserve in the Town of Spring Green, Sauk County.

The Budget & Office Committee report was presented by Chair Cary who reviewed 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' packets.

The DNR report was presented by DNR Riverway Manager Matt Seguin who noted DNR staff confirmed there was a bear in the area of the Gotham Sands State Natural Area.

During the public comment session, Forest Jahnke of the Crawford Stewardship Project discussed concerns with manure spreading in karst areas and expansion of the Pattison Sand Company mine in Iowa.

A motion to adjourn was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Dick 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.