

# LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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## MINUTES OF THE JUNE 9, 2016, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, June 9, 2016, at the Rhinelander Cabin on the Riverway's Black Hawk Unit in the Town of Mazomanie, Dane County, 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. (NOTE: Two vacancies exist.). Acknowledgment that the meeting was properly noticed was provided by Mark E. Cupp, Executive Director. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Ron Leys, seconded by Bob Cary. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2016, meeting was made by Jerry Dorscheid, seconded by Dick McFarlane. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Madison who asked Cupp to report on items related to correspondence. Cupp said the STH 130 bridges at Lone Rock are slated for replacement in 2024. He introduced Susan Barker representing the consultant for the project. There will be some repair work done in 2018. The location of the new bridges has not been determined. The LWSRB will work with the Department of Transportation (DOT), Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and others regarding environmental impacts, aesthetic treatments and bridge locations. A motion directing Cupp to send a memorandum to DOT regarding the board's concerns was made by Cary, seconded by Leys. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cupp said the railroad bridge at Helena (Spring Green) is slated for reconstruction of the approaches on both east and west ends. There will be minimal aesthetic impacts when viewed from the river during leaf-on conditions. Work is expected to begin later in 2016. A motion directing to Cupp to contact the consultant indicating the board has reviewed and approved the project was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Ritchie Brown. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cupp noted environmental review and data collection continues regarding the STH 60 project between Gotham and Muscodia. Matt Seguin, DNR Riverway Manager, said a meeting was held to look at sites for boring samples on the rock west of Bogus Bluff. A long eared bat hibernaculum has been identified in the area. The LWSRB will continue to monitor the project and be involved where appropriate.

Cupp provided the board with information on a proposed cell tower at Avoca. He explained the tower would be 300 feet in height and would be visible from several miles on the river. The base of the tower would not fall within the Riverway boundary; therefore, the LWSRB would have no permitting authority or other regulatory jurisdiction. Leys expressed concern about lights being visible at night and the adverse effect on sandbar camping. Cupp suggested the board work through the consultant to request the tower height be limited or an alternate site be found. A motion directing Cupp to do so was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Cary. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cupp said the voyageur canoe trips would begin on June 30<sup>th</sup> and continue through July 20<sup>th</sup>. Many trips are already full with a waiting list. The LWSRB trip will be on July 14<sup>th</sup> prior to the regularly scheduled monthly meeting. Board members and guests should register for the trip as soon as possible.

Regarding LWSRB appointments, the Sauk County Board of Supervisors has forwarded the names of Gigi LaBudde and Don Golembieski to Governor Walker for consideration to fill the vacancy created by

the resignation of Don Greenwood. Two persons have expressed interest in the “at large” vacancy created by George Arimond’s resignation. No timetable has been provided for naming appointees to either the Sauk County slot or the at large slot.

Cupp said interim committee assignments would be considered at the July 14<sup>th</sup> LWSRB meeting. Anyone wishing to change committees should contact Cupp or Madison.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chair Dorscheid. The permit request of Corey Raimond for a management permit for a prairie/oak savanna restoration in the Town of Prairie du Sac, Sauk County was discussed. Dorscheid noted a field inspection was conducted by Cupp, in conjunction with previous permit activity in the vicinity. Also, a field inspection was conducted by Travis Anderson, DNR Wildlife Ecologist. Plans call for cutting of non-native invasive species; such as, buckthorn and honeysuckle; to enhance the oak woodlands/savanna and native prairie. The activity has been deemed appropriate for the site by Anderson. No structures will become visible from the river as a result of the activity. A small portion of the work area may be visible from the river. The parcel is adjacent to DNR lands where Mr. Raimond will conduct similar work on a volunteer basis. A motion to approve issuance of a permit with the following conditions was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Brown:

- 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.**

The request of Travis Anderson, DNR Wildlife Biologist, for a management permit for prairie/oak savanna restoration in the Town of Prairie du Sac, Sauk County was considered. Dorscheid noted a field inspection was conducted by Cupp in conjunction with previous permit activity in the vicinity. Plans call for cutting of non-native invasive species; such as, buckthorn and honeysuckle; to enhance the oak woodlands and native prairie. No structures will become visible from the river as a result of the activity. A small portion of the work area may be visible from the river. A motion to approve issuance of a permit with the following conditions was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Dave Martin:

- 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.**

The request of Dan Goltz, DNR Wildlife Biologist, for an extension to a previously issued management permit was considered. The site is located in the Town of Eagle, Richland County. Dorscheid said numerous field inspections have been conducted by Cupp and the Operations Committee at the Dingman and Hamilton mound groups. Plans call for continued maintenance of the mound sites by removing undesirable vegetation and continued efforts to maintain and expand the prairie restoration area.

No structures become visible from the river. The work area is not visible from the river. A motion to approve issuance of a two-year extension to the permit with the following standard conditions was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Cary:

- No existing structures shall become visible from the river as a result of the activity;
- The LWSRB shall approve of any modification to the plans, as submitted; and,
- The applicant shall notify the LWSRB upon initiation and completion of the activity.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Cupp said he had not issued any permits since the last meeting. He noted a landowner in the Town of Wauzeka, Crawford County, will construct a new shed for agricultural use. The structure will be visible from the river during leaf-on conditions but is covered under the agricultural use exemption in the Riverway law. Therefore, no permit from the LWSRB is required.

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

The Personnel Committee report was given by Ritchie Brown. He said staff performance evaluations will be conducted over the next month. Brown then gave the Nominating Committee report for election of officers. The two nominees for Chair were Fred Madison and Jerry Dorscheid. Brown called for nominations from the floor three times. A motion to close nominations was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Martin. **MOTION CARRIED.** Paper ballots were distributed to board members. Madison was elected Chair by a majority vote. The position of Vice-Chair was considered. A motion was made by McFarlane, seconded by Leys, to nominate Jerry Dorscheid as Vice-Chair. Brown thrice called for nominations from the floor. A motion to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Dorscheid was made by Cary, seconded by Martin. **MOTION CARRIED.** The position of Secretary was considered. A motion was made by Leys, seconded by McFarlane, to nominate Bob Cary for Secretary. Brown called for nominations from the floor three times. A motion was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Martin, to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Cary. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Brown said he and Madison had been contacted by Jennifer Gebert, DNR Deputy Director for Human Resources, regarding a possible reclassification of the Executive Director's position. Madison noted Cupp had not requested the change but that there was a request by the Kickapoo Management Reserve Board to change the classification of that Executive Director position. Brown said the board needed to go on record on supporting a reclassification. A motion was made by Brown, seconded by Cary. **MOTION CARRIED.** Cupp said he would like the board to aggressively pursue additional compensation for LWSRB Office Associate Marsha Curtis through a Discretionary Merit Compensation (DMC) award, a reclassification, or whatever other means may be available. He said new options may be presented after the new fiscal year begins and changes to the system may be in the offing. Cupp said, at the very least, a maximum lump sum payment should be endorsed. He noted Curtis is well-deserving of additional compensation.

The Executive Director's report was presented by Cupp who reviewed the materials in the board members' packets. He said the kiosk at the Gotham boat landing was dedicated in memory of the child who drowned there last year. He thanked Timm Zumm of the Friends of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway (FLOW) and DNR for their efforts to get the kiosks installed at six locations from Mazomanie to Gotham. Cupp said he will continue to work with municipalities further downstream to see if kiosks can be placed at

other landings. Leys noted there are two new kiosks at Prairie du Chien. Seguin noted FLOW involvement has been vital to the success of the project in the Riverway. Cupp also thanked Zumm for filling in for him on the Natural Resources Foundation tour of the river using the voyageur canoes. A family medical emergency prevented Cupp from participating.

The DNR Report was given by Mike Finlay, DNR Forestry Supervisor, who said two timber harvests on state owned lands in the Riverway had been sold; one in Grant County and one in Sauk County. He noted Cupp had requested a meeting with DNR forestry staff to discuss impacts on aesthetics resulting from ecological management activities in the Riverway. The meeting will take place on June 17<sup>th</sup>.

During the public comment session, Zumm said the River Alliance of Wisconsin will sponsor the annual Fool's Flotilla in Madison on June 12<sup>th</sup>.

A motion to adjourn was made by Leys, 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.