

LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 8, 2016, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, December 8, 2016, 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 Fred Madison. All members were present with the exception of Ritchie Brown. (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 with the addition of a discussion item on the Sauk City Railroad Bridge was made by Ron Leys, seconded by Gigi LaBudde. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2016, meeting was made by Jerry Dorscheid, seconded by Bob Cary. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chairman Madison who noted Governor Scott Walker had appointed Steve Williamson as the new Richland County representative to the board. Cupp introduced Williamson and noted he is a landowner in the Riverway. Williamson then spoke to the board about his background and said he looks forward to serving on the LWSRB. He also currently serves on the Richland County Board of Supervisors and the Town of Eagle Board. Cupp then reviewed a memorandum sent to the Department of Transportation regarding the proposed replacement of the STH 130 bridges at Lone Rock. He reviewed the various alternatives and said the document affirms the board's position taken at the November meeting to have Alternative 1P as the favored build option (near alignment, two bridges).

Cupp noted the 2016 meeting schedule was included in the board packets.

January 12, 2017	Muscodia	Kratochwill Memorial Building
February 9, 2017	Muscodia	Kratochwill Memorial Building
March 9, 2017	Muscodia	Kratochwill Memorial Building
April 13, 2017	Sauk City	Public Library
May 11, 2017	Boscobel	City Hall
June 8, 2017	Mazomanie	Black Hawk Unit (Rhineland Cabin)
July 13, 2017	Muscodia	Kratochwill Memorial Building
August 10, 2017	Prairie du Chien	Wyalusing State Park
September 14, 2017	Spring Green	Public Library
October 12, 2017	Wauzeka	Village Hall
November 9, 2017	Avoca	Village Hall
December 14, 2017	Muscodia	Kratochwill Memorial Building

A motion to approve the meeting schedule was made by LaBudde, seconded by Leys. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Interim committee assignments were reviewed. A motion to replace Dave Martin with Williamson on the Budget Committee was made by Dick McFarlane, seconded by Dorscheid. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chair Dorscheid. The applications of Frank Zillner for a timber harvest and management of a native plant community were considered. Dorscheid noted the consultant is TD Haukereid. A field inspection was conducted by Cupp on November 17, 2016. Mr. Zillner, Mr. Haukereid, and Jason Sable, DNR Forester, also were present for the field inspection. Previous field inspections have been conducted by Cupp in conjunction with other permit activities conducted by the former landowner (Donald Nichols).

Field inspection revealed portions of the property are highly visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. Plans call for the commercial harvest of merchantable hardwoods, mainly oak, and small regeneration cuts for aspen

regeneration. An area of oak wilt will be treated and will be partially visible from the river. However, substantial screening vegetation will remain to mitigate aesthetic impacts. One new road may be required. The Bluff Zone has been delineated with little, if any, harvesting to occur in the Bluff Zone. Sable will work with the consultant on road location and design, if necessary, as well as delineation of small regeneration cuts in the Riverview Zone.

Additional plans call for removal of ironwood and other undesirable trees species in the understory as well as non-native invasive species to enhance the oak component of the woodlot. No existing structures will become visible from the river as a result of the management activity. Sable has determined the timber stand improvement project (management activity) is appropriate for the site.

Dorscheid made a motion, seconded by Cary, to approve issuance of a timber harvest permit with the following conditions:

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

Dorscheid made a motion, seconded by Cary, to approve issuance of a two-year management permit for the prairie restoration with the following standard permit conditions:

- No existing structure(s) 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 landowner or his/her agent shall notify the LWSRB upon initiation and completion of the activity.

MOTION CARRIED.

Cupp said the Sauk City Railroad Bridge has been determined to be in bad shape by engineers and divers who have recommended portions of the bridge be removed before spring. Dorscheid noted one of the piers is totally undercut while other piers have been compromised. The Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission is expected to receive a report on the bridge at a future meeting. Leys noted it is important that no debris from demolition pollute the river.

Cupp then reported a prescribed burn had been conducted at the Mary Burke property in the Town of Troy, Sauk County, pursuant to the recently issued management permit. Cupp said a CAFO expansion in the Town of Buena Vista, Richland County, was being considered. The site is not in the Riverway but is near Gotham and the Riverway boundary.

Also, a 300 foot tall communications tower has been proposed to be located in Town of Buena Vista, Richland County, again near Gotham and outside of the Riverway boundary. Cupp said the tower will be visible from the river but the board has no permitting authority because the base of the tower is not located with the LWSR boundary. Cupp said he had issued a general permit to Julie and John Grogan for a new shed in the Town of Wyalusing, Grant County. The structure will not be visible from the river during leaf-on conditions.

The Budget Committee report was presented by Chairman Cary who reviewed the status of the FY 17 budget. Dorscheid asked if there was an update regarding the board's amended budget request for the next biennium. Cupp said he had requested an update from the DNR budget office but had not received any news yet.

There was no report from the Personnel Committee.

The Executive Director's report was given by Cupp who reviewed the materials in the board members' packets.

Under board members business, McFarlane distributed a booklet for landowners created by the Aldo Leopold Foundation and noted his business is supporting publication and distribution of the document. He said cranes have been congregating and have attracted a number of visitors to the area.

The DNR report was presented by Matt Seguin, DNR Riverway Manager, who said early totals from the deer gun hunt show harvest numbers are down slightly but there were no accidents this year. He said pheasant stocking has been completed for the year and staff is working on late fall burns and general end of season activities. He reviewed DNR lands sales and purchases in response to a question from the board. Dorscheid asked about the new deer registration system. Seguin said it will take time for hunters to adjust and there was some confusion but the focus is on education so people understand the process. Cary said the people who he talked to didn't like it.

During the public comment session, Tom Spicer of Clyde suggested the Lone Rock bridges utilize a butterfly bridge design like the one Frank Lloyd Wright had proposed for STH 23.

A motion to adjourn was made by LaBudde, 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.