

# LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

202 N. Wisconsin Avenue  
P.O. Box 187  
Muscodia, WI 53573  
(608) 739-3188 or 1-800-221-3792

## MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 12, 2017, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, January 12, 2017, 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 exceptions of Ritchie Brown and Dick McFarlane. (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 Jerry Dorscheid, seconded by Bob Cary. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2016, meeting was made by Ron Leys, seconded by Gigi LaBudde. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chairman Madison who asked Cupp for an update on appointments. Cupp said Randy Poelma of LaCrosse has submitted an application for the vacant position formerly held by George Arimond. Also, three members will have terms that expire on May 1, 2017. There has been no news regarding the re-appointment of Madison so he continues to serve until re-appointed or a replacement is named.

Cupp also noted the concept of a canoe/kayak registration fee, similar to the boat registration program, has been raised. He said the LWSRB previously has supported the notion and asked for board's affirmation or reversal of that long held position. Leys said he supported the idea because of equity for all recreational users of our state's waters. Cary asked about details of the plan and Cupp said it is very much in the conceptual stage. He noted it could be a potential source of funding for the LWSRB if the revenues were placed in a segregated account. Leys made a motion to support the concept of a canoe registration fee if the revenues are placed in a segregated account for use in developing canoe launches or for LWSRB funding. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Sauk City Railroad Bridge was discussed. Cupp said the issue of signage was discussed at a recent Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission meeting according to the minutes of that meeting. Dorscheid suggested additional safety warnings should be placed at access sites upstream. Leys asked if the board should formalize that idea. Matt Seguin, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Riverway Manager, said he would communicate the board's concerns to the proper officials.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chair Dorscheid. The permit request of Dillman Bros. LLC for a timber harvest in the Town of Wauzeka, Crawford County was considered. Dorscheid said a field inspection was conducted by Cupp on December 21, 2016. Dale Slama, the consultant and logger, and Jason Sable, DNR Forester, also were present for the field inspection. Plans call for the selective harvest of merchantable hardwoods. No new roads will be constructed. Portions of the harvest area are visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions.

Dorscheid made a motion, seconded by Leys, 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, for compliance with the applicable performance standards;
- 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.**

The permit extension request of Colin O’Keefe for management of a native plant community in the Town of Wyoming, Iowa County, was considered. Dorscheid said a field inspection was conducted by Cupp in January of 2015. Previously, Nick Morehouse, DNR Riverway Forester, conducted a field inspection at the site. Mr. O’Keefe was present for the field inspection. Plans call for the removal of invasive species for the purpose of restoration of the native prairie and oak savanna. Species targeted for removal include honeysuckle, multiflora rose, prickly ash, black locusts, red cedar, aspen, etc. Burning will assist with control in the future. Replanting of native grasses and forbs will take place after the site has been prepped. The schedule calls for removal of the invasive species during the winter with burning to follow in the spring. A small portion of the property is visible from the river and is currently a meadow. No new structure will become visible from the river as a result of the activity. The activity has been deemed appropriate for the site by Morehouse.

The restoration activity continues at the site. Mr. O’Keefe had provided photographs of the prairie restoration and black locust removal. He requested an extension to the existing permit.

Dorscheid made a motion, seconded by Cary, to approve issuance of a two-year extension of the management permit with retention of the following 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 introduced Travis Anderson, DNR Wildlife Biologist, who discussed requests for extensions of management permits. Anderson reported on the efforts to control invasive species and restore native plant communities on sites on the east half of the Riverway. He said the activities will not be visible from the river during leaf-on conditions. The sites are located in the Town of Spring Green, Sauk County; Town of Wyoming, Iowa County; Town of Pulaski, Iowa County; and, Town of Buena Vista, Richland County. Anderson noted the crew has access to FECON (brush cutting) equipment on a limited basis and tries to get as much done as possible when the equipment is available. Steve Williamson asked about funding. Anderson said the main sources of funding are the turkey stamp program and the Paul Brandt fund from the Natural Resources Foundation. He noted that black locust is extremely difficult to work with and will react strongly if “you make it mad”; in other words, it re-sprouts vigorously when disturbed. LaBudde asked about use of herbicide. Meg Ziegler, DNR Wildlife Technician, said a variety of techniques are used including herbicide. She noted that patience is the key to battling black locust. Cupp noted he had issued an extension for activities in the Town of Mazomanie, Dane County, to facilitate work being conducted there while FECON equipment was available.

A motion to approve two-year extensions for the aforementioned management permits with retention of the original permit conditions was made by Dorscheid, seconded by LaBudde. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cupp reported that a new communications tower was planned for the Town of Troy, Sauk County. The base of the tower will not be located within the Riverway boundary so the board has no jurisdiction. Williamson reported another tower will be near Gotham in the Town of Buena Vista, Richland County. The base of the 196 ft. tower will not be located within the Riverway boundary. LWSRB lamented the erosion of local control regarding communications tower siting due to legislative action to limit local units of governments from regulating towers. Cupp added a new tower has been completed in the Town of Muscoda, Grant County. Again, the base of the tower is not within the Riverway boundary.

Cupp said there was a new structure permit request for modification of an existing structure in the Town of Mazomanie, Dane County. An extension request was received for a structure permit in the Town of Wauzeka, Crawford County. Both requests will be discussed at the February meeting. Cupp said he had issued a general permit to Dillman Bros. LLC for a timber harvest not visible from the river in the Town of Wauzeka, Crawford County, a companion to the permit earlier approved by the board; and, the permit to Anderson for the activity in the Town of Mazomanie previously discussed.

The Budget Committee report was presented by Chairman Cary who reviewed the status of the FY 17 budget. Cupp distributed a memorandum sent to Wayne Hurlbut, State Budget Director, detailing the need for the LWSRB's amended FY 18 & 19 budget request update.

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. Cupp noted river flow continues to be above normal based on the 100 year average for this time of year. He noted the FLOW annual meeting will be held in Plain on January 28<sup>th</sup>.

Under board members business, Cary asked Seguin how things would change for the Riverway if the DNR would be split up as proposed by some legislators. Seguin said the Master Plan would remain in place and would guide management of the Riverway's public lands. Leys noted these are uncomfortable times for DNR personnel.

The DNR report was presented by Seguin who noted a 93 acre parcel near Spring Green had been purchased. The parcel will protect 300 feet of shoreline and important bottomlands habitat. Mike Finlay, DNR Forestry Supervisor, said management of timber resources on state owned lands is likely to increase. Anderson then reported on an exciting new deer and predator study that has been initiated with Iowa County being the epicenter of the research.

During public comment, Forest Jahnke, Coordinator of the Crawford Stewardship Project, invited the board to the Love of the Land fundraiser in Gays Mills on February 4<sup>th</sup>.

A motion to adjourn was made by Williamson, seconded by LaBudde. **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.