

# LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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## MINUTES OF THE MARCH 9, 2017, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, March 9, 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 exception of 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 Gigi LaBudde. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2017, meeting was made by LaBudde, seconded by Bob Cary. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chairman Madison who asked Cupp to report on correspondence. Cupp noted the semi-annual report from Pattison Sand Company regarding the sand mine in the Town of Bridgeport, Crawford County, had been received and indicated there has not been any mining activity with the Riverway boundary. Cupp distributed a memorandum providing background on the Riverway Board's amended budget request to include an additional \$14,500 as well as "talking points" for board members to review before talking to their legislator(s), if they would choose to do so. Cupp noted he continues to communicate with Riverway legislators and their respective staff persons regarding the Riverway Board's agency budget request. He noted he remains in contact with Governor Walker's Appointments Director regarding the vacancy in a recreational user slot (formerly George Arimond's position). Cupp said Ritchie Brown had appeared before the Senate Natural Resources Committee regarding his re-appointment to the board.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chair Dorscheid. The permit request of Jeffery Dederich for a timber harvest in the Town of Prairie du Sac, Sauk County, was considered. The consultant is Rick Livingston of Driftless Area Forestry. Dorscheid said a field inspection was conducted by Cupp on March 9, 2017. Jason Sable, DNR Forester, also was present for the field inspection. Field inspection revealed a small portion of the harvest area is visible from the Wisconsin River. The harvest will occur under an MFL plan. Plans call for harvest of mature and over-mature hardwoods and some group selection cuts. No new roads will be constructed. The harvest will occur during leaf-off conditions and when the ground is frozen or dry. The harvest will encompass the Bluff Zone and Resource Management Zone. The marking of trees slated for harvest in the Bluff Zone is consistent with the required basal area performance standard for the residual stand. Dorscheid made a motion, seconded by LaBudde, to approve issuance of a permit for the activity with the following conditions:

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

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The permit request of Christy Helms for construction of a treehouse in the Town of Spring Green, Sauk County, was considered. Dorscheid noted the Operations Committee had visited the site prior to the board meeting. Cupp said the landowner wishes to construct a large treehouse near the river. The dimensions for the treehouse have changed from the time Cupp initially met with the contractor, Shawn Kuhse, and have become larger. Cupp said the applicant also has not received clearance from the Sauk County Zoning Department to proceed since the site is located within the floodplain zoned area. Dorscheid expressed concern about using 3-4 trees as the support for the structure. Leys noted it is difficult to make a treehouse “visually inconspicuous” and suggested the board revisit the site during leaf-on conditions. He noted the landowner has not finalized the plans for the treehouse. LaBudde noted this will be a large structure. Cary said it will be difficult to minimize the visibility of the proposed structure. He added that the area near the Wisconsin Riverside Resort and a distance downstream should be reviewed for removal from the formal Riverway boundary in the future due to the intensive nature of housing and other development along that stretch. Dorscheid made a motion, seconded by Cary, to defer action on the permit request until additional information is received. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Nate Fayram, DNR Ecologist, gave a presentation on State Natural Areas (SNA) in the Riverway. Each year, approximately half of the SNA permits for the DNR’s SNAs are reviewed by the LWSRB. Work on the SNAs includes prescribed burning, brush removal and invasive species control. Fayram said invasive species control varies by site but includes reed canary grass, purple loosestrife, garlic mustard, crowned vetch, spotted knapweed, buckthorn, honeysuckle, red cedar, etc. He noted two new SNAs were added as part of the Master Plan revision process: the Millville SNA and Boscobel SNA. The Millville SNA is a 1200 acre piece in Grant County and the Boscobel SNA is a 360 acre parcel managed by the Mississippi Valley Conservancy, a portion of which is located within the Riverway. Following questions from board members regarding funding sources, mowing of trails, invasive species and prescribed burning, a motion to approve two-year extensions for the following management permits was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Cary:

- Adiantum Woods SNA (Town of Millville, Grant County)
- Avoca Prairie SNA (Town of Avoca, Iowa County)
- Blue River Sand Barrens SNA (Town of Watterstown, Grant County)
- Ferry Bluff SNA (Town of Prairie du Sac, Sauk County)
- Mazomanie Bottoms SNA (Town of Mazomanie, Dane County)
- Richwood Bottoms SNA (Town of Richwood, Richland County)
- Tower Hill Bottoms SNA (Town of Arena, Iowa County)
- Wauzeka Bottoms SNA (Town of Wauzeka, Crawford County)
- Woodman Sand Prairie SNA (Town of Woodman, Grant County)
- Wyalusing Hardwoods SNA (Town of Wyalusing, Grant County)
- Wyalusing Walnut SNA (Town of Wyalusing, Grant County)

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Cupp reported he and Dorscheid had met with Steven Harrington to discuss Mr. Harrington’s neighbor’s property in the Town of Arena, Iowa County. The neighbor is an absentee landowner and had questions about establishment of pedestrian hiking trails on the property. After reviewing the site and proposed location of trails, it was determined that an LWSRB issued permit would not be required.

Cupp said a meeting will be held with Department of Transportation (DOT) officials regarding the geological investigations report for the STH 60 Gotham to Muscoda project. The meeting will take place at DOT headquarters on LaCrosse on March 14<sup>th</sup>. Cupp also noted that the DNR had commented on the proposed replacement of the STH 130 bridges at Lone Rock and indicated that, if new bridges are to be built, DNR would concur with the LWSRB preferred option of the near alignment downstream design. Cupp said a volunteer work day led by DNR and organized by Friends of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway (FLOW) at the Blue River Barrens SNA took place on Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. There were no permits issued by the Executive Director since the February meeting.

The Budget Committee report was presented by Chair Cary who reviewed the status of the FY 17 budget. Cupp said there was nothing new to report on the biennial budget bill at this time.

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 unusually high river flows continue with records being set for some days. He noted FLOW will be at the annual Canoecopia event in Madison.

Under board members business, LaBudde noted there are many wonderful field trips offered by the Natural Resources Foundation. She encouraged board members and the public to review the list and take part. A modest membership fee is required and there are costs for most trips.

The DNR report was given by Matt Seguin, DNR Riverway Manager, who said personnel are working on prescribed burns, invasive species control and wildfire suppression. Jason Sable, DNR Forester, said he intends to submit permits for timber harvest/management activities on sites in Grant and Iowa counties before the next meeting.

During public comment, representatives of the Mazomanie Riverway Alliance were on hand to introduce their organization and to offer assistance to the LWSRB and DNR. The Alliance is interested in opening public lands near the Mazo Beach area. The area was closed by DNR administrative order due to enforcement problems at the site. The Alliance representatives indicated their willingness to become involved in the process of finding solutions to the problems and to assist in planning for redevelopment of the area as a day use site.

A motion to adjourn was made by Brown, 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.