

LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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MINUTES OF THE JUNE 8, 2017, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, June 8, 2017, 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 Chair Fred Madison. All members were present with the exceptions of Ritchie Brown and Gigi LaBudde. (NOTE: One vacancy exists.). Acknowledgment that the meeting was properly noticed was provided by Mark E. Cupp, Executive Director. A moment of silence in memory of former LWSRB member Lloyd B. "Nick" Nice was observed. 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 May 11, 2017, meeting was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Dick McFarlane. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Madison who introduced guest speaker Pete Jopke, Dane County Water Resources Planner. Jopke gave a presentation entitled, "Innovative Resource Management in Dane County." Jopke discussed efforts undertaken to enhance water quality and reduce runoff in the county. He highlighted the use of digesters, harvestable buffers, problems with legacy phosphorus and storm water management. He also noted efforts in regard to carp management in conjunction with the clean lakes initiative. Jopke concluded with a discussion of the department's forestry program as related to Emerald Ash Borer and repurposing of wood products from ash tree removal in area parks.

Under correspondence, Cupp noted a letter from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to the Mazomanie Riverway Alliance regarding the Mazomanie Wildlife Area. Cupp said the issue would be discussed later in the agenda. He also said correspondence had been sent between the Department of Transportation (DOT) and a landowner along STH 60 between Gotham and Muscodia. Bill Rowe was in attendance and told the board he was disappointed in the communication between DOT and landowners regarding the STH 60 project. He suggested the LWSRB should be concerned about all trees that provide screening of the roadway and not just trees in certain areas.

Cupp said the voyageur canoe trips would begin on June 29th and continue through July 19th. Many trips are already full with a waiting list. The LWSRB trip will be on July 13th prior to the regularly scheduled monthly meeting. Board members and guests should register for the trip as soon as possible. There has been no word from the Governor's office regarding appointments or re-appointments. A motion to appoint Steve Williamson as an alternate to the Personnel Committee was made by McFarlane, seconded by Cary. **MOTION CARRIED.** Cupp said anyone wishing to change committee assignments for FY 18 should contact him by the end of the month.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chair Dorscheid. The permit request of Matt Seguin on behalf of DNR for a management permit for woody vegetative management and invasive species control in the Town of Mazomanie, Dane County was discussed. The site is located on Conservation Drive in the area formerly known as the Mazo Beach. Dorscheid noted plans call for cutting of woody vegetation, including invasive species, followed by herbicide treatment. Cutting will be conducted with a forestry mower. Following removal of woody vegetation, efforts will be made to create public use areas for recreational purposes (picnicking, hiking). Future permits will address creation of a new canoe only public

access site, additional trails, and timber harvesting. Structure permits may be required for a picnic shelter(s) or other permit structures. Parking lot improvements and establishment of additional parking also will take place. The Operations Committee met with DNR officials at the site prior to the June 8, 2017, LWSRB meeting. Improvements to parking areas and new parking areas, proposed trail locations, cutting of woody vegetation, timber harvesting and timber stand improvements and a possible pulpwood sale were discussed. The activities will occur in the coming months with the hope of having the area opened for public use in 2018.

A motion to approve issuance of a management permit with the following conditions for the cutting of woody vegetation 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 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 board discussed a structure permit issued to Kathy Santos and Kehli Mason for a new structure in the Town of Clyde, Iowa County. Cupp provided photographs of the site when viewed from the river. Previously, the board had required planting of additional screening vegetation as a condition of the permit. Cupp suggested that the existing screening vegetation was adequate and recommended deletion of the condition requiring planting of more trees. A motion to delete that condition of the permit was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Leys. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cupp noted he had issued an extension to a general permit for a pine thinning on state owned lands not visible from the river in the Town of Muscoda, Grant County. The extended permit was granted to Jason Sable on behalf of DNR.

The Budget & Office Committee report was presented by Chair Cary who reviewed the FY 17 budget. Cupp said the balance is being monitored closely but it appears there will be adequate funds to cover expenses in the salaries and fringe benefits lines via a transfer from supplies and services. Cupp said the LWSRB amended budget request was approved by the Legislature's Joint Committee on Finance on a unanimous vote. He thanked the work of State Senator Howard Marklein and Senator Jon Erpenbach for assisting with the process. Cupp said a 16-0 vote at the finance committee is a good sign that the LWSRB budget will be approved by the Legislature. He cautioned that it is not totally a done deal yet.

The Personnel Committee report was given by Acting Chair McFarlane who noted staff evaluations are due by the end of the fiscal year. Cupp will complete the evaluation for Executive Assistant Marsha Curtis. LWSRB members should complete the evaluation forms for Cupp and return the document to the LWSRB office. McFarlane said the committee had met prior to the board meeting to function as the Nominating Committee for officers for FY 18. McFarlane said the current slate of officers would be put forward for re-election since there was no expressed interest in an officer position by other board members. McFarlane nominated Fred Madison for Chair and called for nominations from the floor three times. A motion to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Madison was made by Williamson, seconded by Dorscheid. **MOTION CARRIED.** The position of Vice-Chair was considered. McFarlane nominated Jerry Dorscheid for Vice-Chair and called for nominations from the floor three times. A motion was made

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by Madison, seconded by Williamson to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Dorscheid. **MOTION CARRIED.** The position of Secretary was considered. McFarlane nominated Bob Cary for Secretary and thrice called for nominations from the floor. A motion was made by Madison, seconded by Leys, to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Cary. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cupp thanked the officers for their dedication and leadership in the past year.

The Executive Director's report was presented by Cupp who reviewed the materials in the board members' packets. Cupp said he and Dan Goltz, DNR Wildlife Biologist, led an eaglet banding trip on the river using the voyageur canoes as a fundraiser for the Natural Resources Foundation. Cupp said it was a great experience despite the weather.

The DNR Report was given by Matt Seguin, DNR Riverway Manager, who reviewed seasonal activities undertaken by staff in the Riverway. He noted the Natural Resources Foundation trips in the Riverway were well attended and well received.

During the public comment session, Forest Jahnke, Co-Coordinator of the Crawford Stewardship Project, said the group had received additional grant funds to conduct karst surveys. Educational opportunities regarding karst geography will be held.

Dan Deneen, Mazomanie, described the activities of the Friends of the Mazomanie Marsh (FOMM). Seguin thanked FOMM for the volunteer work on trail development.

Timm Zumm, President of the Friends of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway (FLOW), requested the islands in the closed area near the Mazo Beach be opened immediately. His research shows the islands are in Sauk County, not Dane County. He said existing signage is confusing. Ned Hodgson, FLOW member, briefed the board on the first annual Wisconsin River Symposium to be held on September 16 & 17, 2017. He noted Cupp will be a speaker. The event will be held at Wisconsin Riverside Resort.

A motion to adjourn was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Leys. **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.