

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 NOVEMBER 9, 2017, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, November 9, 2017, at the Avoca Village Hall 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. (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 Gigi LaBudde, seconded by Jerry Dorscheid. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2017, meeting was made by Ron Leys, seconded by Steve Williamson. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was given by Madison who said there was no correspondence of note to consider.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Dorscheid. Cupp said a new landowner in the Riverway, Chad Carl, had expressed interest in conducting a timber harvest in the Town of Millville, Grant County. Cupp said the property formerly had been owned by Flora Barker. The logger would be Jordan Mulrooney. Cupp said Mike Finlay, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Forestry Supervisor, met with Carl and Mulrooney onsite to discuss the proposed harvest. Finlay noted a stream crossing permit will be necessary and a road in the Resource Management Zone will be re-opened or constructed. The landowner has not yet filed a permit application. Cupp said he had conducted field inspections at the property in the past in conjunction with previous permit activity. The site is near the Millville boat landing and includes a prominent bluff with steep slopes. No action required at this time.

Cupp then reviewed correspondence regarding the proposed demolition of the Sauk City Railroad Bridge. Bids will be let with removal targeted for late winter or early spring. Minimal explosives will be used. The specifications for removal are very restrictive regarding debris entering the river and subsequent removal.

Cupp said he had been contacted by American Transmission Company regarding relocation of a portion of the line between Boscobel and Lone Rock. A segment of the line in the Town of Pulaski, Iowa County, will be located within the Riverway boundary but not visible from the river. Cupp explained that the relocation would be considered in conjunction with review of the formal permit application for the rebuild of the entire line.

Cupp said he had met with Larry Anding regarding a riprap project in the Town of Arena, Iowa County. Also in attendance at the site were representatives from DNR, Jewell & Associates and Dorscheid. Plans call for extension of the existing riprap by an additional 500 feet upstream. Vegetation removal will be minimized. Cupp said the Anding family has been excellent to work with in the past and have been very cooperative on this project as well. He said no action is required by the board at this time.

Cupp noted a number of new communications towers have been or are being erected near the Riverway. Some of the towers are/will be visible from the river during leaf-on conditions. Cupp said the board has no jurisdiction over construction of towers unless the base of the tower is located within the Riverway boundary. Also, state legislation has removed most local control over tower placement.

Cupp said the proposed removal of a row of older oak trees along STH 60 east of Spring Green had generated concern by local residents regarding the scenic quality of that stretch. He said he had contacted the Department of Transportation (DOT) officials who indicated the trees are located within the "clear zone" of DOT right of way and are slated to be removed for safety reasons. LaBudde said she was interested in more specific

information about accident data at the site and affirmed the scenic quality of the highway, which is part of the Lower Wisconsin River Road Scenic Byway. She said her outreach to a local EMT indicated no memory of serious accidents involving those trees. Leys said he would support removal of the trees in the interest of safety if deemed necessary by DOT and related a story about his experience with a car/telephone pole accident. Cupp said local legislators have been made aware of concerns by Spring Green area residents.

There were no permits issued by the Executive Director since the October meeting.

There was no report from the Personnel Committee.

The Budget & Office Committee report was presented by Chair Cary who reviewed the FY 18 budget. Cupp said the Budget Committee will meet prior to the January – 2018 board meeting to assess line balances at the fiscal year mid-point. The Budget Committee then will recommend additional austerity measures, including the likely cancellation of the February LWSRB meeting. At the end of the third quarter, implementation of employee furloughs to accrue additional savings will be considered. Austerity measures already in place include a freeze on all purchases of office supplies, elimination of reimbursement for Executive Director travel expenses, elimination of all training and conferences for employees. Cancellation of the popular voyageur canoe trips or a reduction in that service to the public also may be considered. Cupp affirmed his commitment to assuring that the high level of service provided by the LWSRB to the public will be maintained regardless of the lack of adequate state funding, even if it means shouldering those costs personally. LaBudde expressed her displeasure at the specter of employees losing travel reimbursement and not having financial resources to do their jobs. Williamson noted some Richland County employees have had hours cut. McFarlane suggested Cupp maintain a record of travel expenses even if reimbursement isn't provided. In response to a suggestion that outside sources of funds could be solicited, Leys urged caution in accepting financial assistance from private organizations.

The Executive Director's report was presented by Cupp who reviewed the materials in the board members' packets. Cupp said he attended a conference in Elkhart Lake regarding Food, Land & Water in Wisconsin. He had served as a member of the steering committee for the past two years. Cupp said the conference was well-attended and thought provoking.

Under board members' business, LaBudde made the board aware of activities of the Sauk County Conservation Network and Wisconsin Greenfire.

The DNR report was given by Matt Sequin, DNR Riverway Property Manager, who reviewed activities undertaken by DNR staff including installation of burn breaks, maintenance of service roads, invasive species control, etc. He said big head carp were discovered below the Prairie du Sac dam during annual sturgeon and walleye surveys. Sequin said he had received a promotion within DNR but will continue to function as DNR Riverway Property Manager and DNR Liaison to the LWSRB until a replacement is named.

During the public comment session, Forest Jahnke of the Crawford Stewardship Project (CSP) said the karst citizen science event in Prairie du Chien on November 3rd was a success. He also distributed the latest CSP newsletter.

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