

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 DECEMBER 14, 2017, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, December 14, 2017, at the Muscodia 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 Jerry Dorscheid, seconded by Bob Cary. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2017, meeting was made by Ron Leys, seconded by Gigi LaBudde. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Madison. Cupp distributed a packet of thank you notes from the Highland School District 8th graders. He had given a tour of Frank's Hill to the group. Cupp requested direction from the board regarding two projects that have reached out to him for participation. The first is a project to establish 50 miles of hiking trails connecting state parks and points of interest in the Iowa County region. The National Park Service and Driftless Area Land Conservancy are two of the organizational participants. A motion directing Cupp to participate was made by Leys, seconded by Cary. **MOTION CARRIED.** The second project involves the Lower Wisconsin River Road Scenic Byway. James Schneider, Grant County Extension Agent, asked Cupp to assist in implementing waypoints directing travelers to points of interest along STH 60 from Lodi to Prairie du Chien. The consensus of the board was to allow Cupp to explore the project. The initial request from Schneider was for 10-12 hours of Cupp's time in the first quarter of the new year. The board then discussed the 2018 meeting scheduled. The LWSRB may forego the February meeting as a cost savings measure. Elimination of the July meeting also will be on the table for discussion in the spring. Meeting dates and locations include the following.

January 11, 2018	Muscodia	Kratochwill Memorial Building
February 8, 2018	Muscodia	Kratochwill Memorial Building
March 8, 2018	Muscodia	Kratochwill Memorial Building
April 12, 20178	Sauk City	Public Library
May 10, 2018	Boscobel	City Hall
June 14, 2018	Mazomanie	Black Hawk Unit (Rhineland Cabin)
July 12, 2018	Muscodia	Kratochwill Memorial Building
August 9, 2018	Prairie du Chien	TBD
September 13, 2018	Spring Green	Public Library
October 11, 2018	Wauzeka	Village Hall
November 8, 2018	Avoca	Village Hall
December 13, 2018	Muscodia	Kratochwill Memorial Building

The Operations Committee report was presented by Dorscheid. The request of Mike Finlay on behalf of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for a timber harvest on lands not visible from the river in the Town of Mazomanie, Dane County, was considered. Finlay explained the harvest would be conducted on 30 acres using a processor. The intent is to re-establish the oak component of the woodlot. The harvest will occur during leaf-off conditions. A motion to approve the permit with the standard conditions was made by Steve Williamson, seconded by Dick McFarlane. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cupp said TD Haukeried, a consulting forester, had contacted him about extensions to management permits and timber permits for Joel Fait and Frank Zillner. The adjoining properties are located in the Town of Wyoming, Iowa County. Activities continue regarding invasive species control, timber stand improvement projects and selective harvesting. Extensions to permits are needed. Cupp said the extensions should be synchronized so that all

four permits expire in December of 2019. A motion to approve the extensions until December of 2019 was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Cary. **MOTION CARRIED.** Cupp noted that Haukeried also is working with landowners Kurt and Wendy Schultz on another parcel in the Town of Wyoming but a permit application has not yet been received.

Cupp said Matt Seguin, DNR Riverway Property Manager, had met with him regarding the proposed construction of a new hiking trail at the Mazomanie Unit. At this point, no LWSRB permits will be required. However, if bridges or boardwalks are needed, permitting would be required. The trail is not visible from the river. The Friends of the Mazomanie Marsh are donating time and funds for the project.

Cupp said he learned the Wisconsin & Southern Railroad will be repairing a railroad bridge near Wauzeka. The bridge is not visible from the river. There will be minimal environmental impacts. Materials and equipment will be hauled in on the tracks.

Cupp noted bids for the proposed demolition of the Sauk City Railroad Bridge will be opened soon. Removal of the bridge is expected to occur during the winter and early spring of 2018.

Cupp said he met with Jon Calloway of American Transmission Company (ATC) regarding the reconstruction of the Boscobel to Lone Rock 69kv line. The Public Service Commission has approved the project. ATC will come before the board in the coming months to request approval of the project. Staging of materials and some right of way maintenance will occur in the coming weeks.

Cupp said Tom Oldenberg, Department of Transportation (DOT) Design Engineer, for the STH 60 Muscoda to Gotham project, requested a letter from the LWSRB approving the DOT proposal for the segment between Bogus Bluff and the Bremmer corner. Oldenberg described the proposal to the board at a previous meeting. At that time, the board had concurred with the preliminary design. Nothing has changed since that meeting regarding the widening of the road in that stretch. A motion to express the board's concurrence was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Cary. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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 Executive Director's report was presented by Cupp who reviewed the materials in the board members' packets. Cupp said the LWSRB sponsored a lecture on Indian mounds at the Muscoda Library. There was a standing room only crowd for the event. He noted a winter solstice observance will take place on Frank's Hill at sunset on December 21st.

Under board members' business, McFarlane encouraged LWSRB members to read the new book "A Driftless Reader." He said the book is compilation of writings about the region. He noted Riverway landowner Kevin Isenring from the Town of Mazomanie, Dane County, had passed away.

The DNR report was given by Finlay who reviewed activities undertaken by DNR staff including maintenance of service roads and trails, signage invasive species control, etc. He said timber harvests are underway

on state lands in the Town of Millville, Grant County, and Town of Mazomanie, Dane County. Finlay said there have been two new hires for the forestry staff. Ben Ross and Nick Gilman.

During the public comment session, Timm Zumm, President of the Friends of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway (FLOW), said a volunteer work day will be held at the Blue River Barrens on January 6th. Eagle watching days will be held in Sauk Prairie on January 12th-13th. The FLOW annual meeting will be held on January 27th in Plain. He said FLOW supports the Sauk County Conservation Network. Zumm said a program on Industrial Agriculture in the Driftless will be held on January 20th. Zumm said long time Riverway supporter Larry Neumeier was in critical condition due to heart problems.

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.