

LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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MINUTES OF THE MARCH 8, 2018, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, March 8, 2018, 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. (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 Bob Cary, seconded by Jerry Dorscheid. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2018, meeting was made by Gigi LaBudde, seconded by Steve Williamson. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chairman Madison who asked Cupp to report on correspondence. Cupp said the Pattison Sand Company had filed their semi-annual report. There has been no mining on lands within the Riverway.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chair Dorscheid. The permit extension request of Brian Frank for a timber harvest in the Town of Spring Green, Sauk County, was considered. The consultant is Rick Livingston of Driftless Area Forestry. Dorscheid said the initial field inspection was conducted by Mark E. Cupp, Executive Director, on December 6, 1995. Field inspection revealed the harvest area includes a bluff visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. The visible portion of the Wisconsin River is located downstream from the USH 14 Bridge at Spring Green. Plans call for a selective harvest for the purpose of crop tree release. Cupp noted the landowner wishes to conduct another harvest with a different consultant (Livingston). The parcel has been marked for a selective harvest in the Bluff Zone. No new roads will be constructed. The harvest will comply with the basal area performance standards for the Bluff Zone. Harvest will be conducted in frozen or dry ground conditions in fall or winter. Dorscheid made a motion, seconded by Ron Leys, to approve issuance of a two-year extension for the activity 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, 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 approve of the location and design of all small regeneration cuts or shelterwood cuts, if any, in the Riverview Zone;
- The LWSRB shall approve the location and design of all new logging roads, if any, in the Bluff Zone and Riverview 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;
- If necessary, the Bluff Zone, Riverview Zone and Resource Management Zone shall be delineated prior to initiation of the harvest;
- All trees selected for harvest in the Bluff Zone and Riverview Zone shall be appropriately marked and approved by the LWSRB prior to initiation of the harvest;
- An on-site meeting between the consultant and the DNR Riverway Forester shall occur prior to initiation of the harvest;
- The landowner or his/her agent shall notify the LWSRB within 10 working days upon completion of the harvest and the LWSRB shall conduct a post-harvest field inspection; and,
- The LWSRB shall review modifications to the plans, as submitted, for compliance with the applicable regulations.

MOTION CARRIED.

Cupp introduced Jared Urban, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Ecologist, who 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. Urban 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. Urban highlighted work done by volunteers at the Blue River Barrens and Twin Lizard Mound Group. A motion to approve two-year extensions for the following management permits was made by Brown, seconded by Cary:

Arena Pines SNA (Town of Arena, Iowa County)
Smith Slough SNA (Town of Buena Vista, Richland County)
Mazo Barrens SNA (Town of Mazomanie, Dane County)
Gotham Sands SNA (Town of Buena Vista, Richland County)
Blue River Bluffs SNA/Chezik (Town of Watterstown, Grant County)
Blue River Bluffs SNA/Ellenbolt (Town of Watterstown, Grant County)
Bakken's Pond SNA (Town of Spring Green, Sauk County)

MOTION CARRIED.

Cupp said demolition of the Sauk City Railroad Bridge is underway. The project is slated to be done by March 31st. He extended his appreciation to Dick McFarlane and others for sharing photographs of the progress. No permits were issued by the Executive Director since the January 18th meeting.

The Budget Committee report was presented by Chair Cary who reviewed the status of the FY 18 budget.

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.

Under board members business, topics were raised regarding Natural Resources Foundation field trips, house finches, Lone Rock STH 130 Bridge and completion of the Helms tree house.

There was no additional DNR report beyond that given by Urban on SNAs.

During public comment, concern was expressed about the closure of Hay Lane (access road to the Avoca Prairie) and tree/brush cutting along highways. Timm Zumm reported FLOW is opposed to the proposed ATC line in the Driftless Area. He said FLOW would be at Canoeocopia. He noted planning for the second Riverway symposium is underway.

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