

# LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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## MINUTES OF THE APRIL 12, 2018, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, April 12, 2018, at the Sauk City Public Library to conduct a regular monthly business meeting. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Acting Chair Jerry Dorscheid. All members were present with the exception of Fred Madison. (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 Steve Williamson. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2018, meeting was made by Ron Leys, seconded by Dick McFarlane. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Dorscheid. McFarlane introduced Jim Anderson, Sauk City Village President, and Tywana German, Sauk Prairie Chamber of Commerce Director, who gave a presentation on changes planned for August Derleth Park, including the riverfront. The \$1.7 million will be partially funded by a grant. The intent is to make the park a recreational destination for local users as well tourists. Soccer fields will be developed for tournaments. Tree removal will occur, including ash tree liquidation. Considerable discussion took place regarding winter recreational use and eagles. German noted that Prairie du Sac also is working on riverfront developments.

Laurie Elwell gave an update on her Master Naturalist project. The "Riparian Landowners Guide" she has developed is near the final stages. She is working on developing a mailing list and will work with Cupp on a press release to get the word out. She also is working with UW Arboretum officials on an urban version of the guide.

Cupp noted he has been asked to provide an affidavit or deposition regarding the closure of Hay Lane Road in the Town of Pulaski, Iowa County. The road was closed by a private landowner who recently purchased property on both sides of the lane. The road provides access to the Avoca Prairie. The Town of Pulaski is challenging the legality of the road closure.

Cupp noted the appointments of Ritchie Brown, Dick McFarlane and Bob Cary will expire on May 1, 2018. Each member continues to serve until a replacement is named or re-appointment occurs. Brown and McFarlane have agreed to seek re-appointment. Cary remains undecided.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chairman Dorscheid who discussed the permit request of Chad Carl for a timber harvest in the Town of Millville, Grant County. He noted a field inspection will be conducted by Cupp on April 17, 2018. Previously, field inspections have been conducted by Cupp and others in conjunction with timber harvest activities. Most recently, Mike Finlay, DNR Forestry Supervisor, met with the landowner and logger to discuss the Riverway regulations. A portion of the harvest area is visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. A variety of management techniques will be employed including selective harvesting, small regeneration cuts and oak wilt control (clear cut). Plans call for a removal of merchantable hardwoods. One new road may be constructed. A stream crossing permit will be required.

Dorscheid made a motion, seconded by McFarlane, 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 and Riverview Zone and as detailed in Chapter NR 37, Wisconsin Administrative Code;
- In the Bluff Zone and Riverview Zone, all trees selected for harvest or leave trees 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 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 review the location and design of all new logging roads, if any, in the 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;
- The LWSRB shall review the location and design of all small regeneration cuts and shelterwood cuts in the Riverview Zone to assure compliance with the applicable performance standards;
- If necessary, the various zones shall be delineated 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, 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.**

The permit request of Terry Shifflet for modification of an existing structure in the Town of Spring Green, Sauk County, was discussed. Dorscheid said a field inspection was conducted by Cupp on April 5, 2018. Mr. & Mrs. Shifflet were present for the field inspection. Plans call for the addition of a roof to the outdoor stage. The Operations Committee visited the site on April 12<sup>th</sup>. Dorscheid made a motion, seconded by Cary, to approve issuance of a permit for the activity with the following conditions:

- The existing screening vegetation shall be maintained and replaced if damaged or destroyed;
- The height of the structure shall be limited so that the structure does not become visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions and shall not exceed 10 feet;
- The exterior colorization of the structure shall harmonize with the natural surroundings during leaf-on conditions and shall be approved by the LWSRB prior to initiation of construction;
- There shall be a limited amount of glass or other reflective material;
- The LWSRB shall review any modifications to the plans, as submitted, for compliance with the applicable performance standards;
- The landowner shall notify the LWSRB upon initiation and completion of the project; and,
- The activity shall comply with all other federal, state and local regulations.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

The permit request of Joe Hartung on behalf of Hartung Brothers, Inc. for a timber harvest on lands not visible from the river in the Town of Arena, Iowa County, was considered. Dorscheid noted LWSRB Steve Williamson works for the company and will abstain from voting. A field inspection was conducted by Cupp on April 5, 2018. Steve Williamson and Jerry Dorscheid also were present for the field inspection. Pine rows and miscellaneous species will be removed at the edge of an agricultural field. The site is near a tertiary channel of the Wisconsin River but is not visible from the main channel during leaf-on conditions. Dorscheid made a motion, seconded by Leys, to approve issuance of a general permit for the activity with the following conditions:

- The harvest shall be limited to areas not visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions;
- 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 with one abstention (Williamson).**

A permit application for placement of a Kids Don't Float kiosk at the Big Green landing near Woodman was considered. The boat landing is maintained by the Grant County Highway Department. Dorscheid said a field inspection was conducted by Cupp on March 13, 2018. Dennis Kirschbaum was present as was FLOW representative Ned Hodgson. Plans call for installation of a 6 ft. x 6 ft. x 6 ft. (approximate dimensions) kiosk to provide free loaner life jackets to recreational users. Placement of the kiosks will take advantage of existing screening vegetation to the greatest extent possible. Colorization will harmonize with the natural surroundings during leaf-on conditions. The kiosks will be made of wood. Dorscheid made a motion, seconded by LaBudde, to approve issuance of a permit for the activity with the following conditions:

- The existing screening vegetation shall be maintained and replaced if damaged or destroyed;
- The height of the structure shall be limited so that the structure does not become visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions;
- The exterior colorization of the structure shall harmonize with the natural surroundings during leaf-on conditions;
- There shall be a limited amount of glass or other reflective material;
- The LWSRB shall review any modifications to the plans, as submitted, for compliance with the applicable performance standards;
- The landowner or his/her agent shall notify the LWSRB upon completion of the project; and,
- The activity shall comply with all other federal, state and local regulations.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Cupp said he had been in contact with Craig Hardy, Iowa County Highway Commissioner, regarding tree cutting along STH 133 in the Town of Clyde and CTH C in the Town of Wyoming. The tree cutting occurred within the road right of way. Cupp requested notification when cuttings will occur in the areas between Bigelow Hill Road and the Otter Creek boat landing and between STH 23 and Tower Hill State Park.

Cupp noted the Sauk City Railroad Bridge removal has been completed. He said the STH 130 Bridge at Lone Rock will be closed from July 9<sup>th</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>. The Operations Committee viewed the completed garage at the Weisensel property in the Town of Troy, Sauk County, and the completed treehouse at the Helms property in the Town of Spring Green, Sauk County. Cupp said he has been in contact with a number of landowners, realtors and prospective buyers of Riverway property to provide assistance regarding Riverway regulations.

The Budget & Office Committee report was presented by Chair Cary who reviewed the FY 18 budget. Cupp said Pay Plan and Fringe Benefit supplement requests have been made to the Department Administration. No timetable for learning of approval/denial of the requests.

There was no report from the Personnel Committee.

The Executive Director's report was presented by Cupp who reviewed the materials in the board members' packets. Cupp said there was a good turnout for the vernal equinox event held at Frank's Hill in southern Richland County. Cupp said he and former LWSRB members Don Greenwood and Melody Moore had investigated a possible linear or effigy mound at Walking Iron County Park in the Town of Mazomanie, Dane County. Cupp said the manmade earthwork should be treated as a mound.

Under board members' business, Williamson asked if there had been any legislative action to require canoe registration. Cupp responded in the negative. McFarlane said he appreciated the local attendance at the meeting. He inquired about voyageur canoe trips. Cupp said he is committed to doing trips despite the lack of adequate funding.

The DNR report was presented by DNR Forestry Supervisor Mike Finlay who reviewed management and timber harvest activities on state owned lands.

During the public comment session, Timm Zumm, President of the Friends of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway (FLOW) said the FLOW booth at Canoecopia was well-received and many positive contacts were made. He said there will be a volunteer work day at the Bloyer/Twin Lizard mound group on May 20<sup>th</sup>. The second annual Riverway symposium will take place in Sauk City on October 12<sup>th</sup>. Other comments were heard regarding trails and bluebirds at the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant and agricultural activities at a farm along STH 60 in the Town of Prairie du Sac, Sauk County.

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