

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 AUGUST 9, 2018, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, August 9, 2018, at the Crawford County Administration Building 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 exception of Dick McFarlane. (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 Ron Leys. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2018, meeting was made by Bob Cary, seconded by Gigi LaBudde. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was given by Chair Madison who discussed correspondence. Cupp said a request was received from Patrick Patterson to have a letter sent from the board in opposition to the proposed construction of a high voltage transmission line through southwestern Wisconsin. Cupp explained the proposed routes are not within the Riverway boundary. Previously, the LWSRB had sent a letter in opposition of the line if it were to infringe on the Riverway. He recommended the board stand on the merits of the earlier letter and not send another. Cupp noted individual board members could send letters in opposition or join forces with those who oppose the project, which is known as the Cardinal-Hickory Creek line.

LaBudde noted a number of government entities have come out in opposition to the line and said the board should do so as well because of the general issue of protecting the landscape of the Driftless Area. Leys noted he had fought against use of the region for Air National Guard training and was successful. In this case, Leys said the LWSRB doesn't have direct jurisdiction. Cary said the board should avoid taking a position on an issue that is outside the boundary and board jurisdiction. Steve Williamson noted the Public Service Commission is in place to evaluate these projects and look out for the local populace. Cupp reviewed the board's statutory duties and responsibilities. LaBudde maintained the board should consider a letter in opposition. Leys made a motion to delay action on a letter at this time, seconded by Ritchie Brown. **MOTION CARRIED.** LaBudde suggested board members educate themselves on the issue and suggested going to the Driftless Defenders website. Leys said the board should also listen to the proponents if the idea of a letter is pursued.

Cupp said the Grant County Tourism Council is soliciting photographs and will award cash prizes for images featuring people enjoying the area's water-based resources. Cupp said a local resident had expressed concern about litter left in the Riverway by recreational users including canoeists/kayakers and bank fishermen. A large amount of trash was left at the Otter Creek landing near Lone Rock. Cupp noted the voyageur canoe trips sponsored by the board went well again this year. The boats have been reserved for late June and July of 2019. He also noted Department of Administration budget shop officials came to the office to learn more about the project and Cupp gave a tour of selected sites from Muscodia to Sauk City to the group.

In regard to appointments, Cupp said the Grant County position held by Bob Cary remains in the hands of Governor Walker. Cary will continue to serve until a replacement is named. Grant County has fulfilled the obligation of sending a list of nominees to the Governor for his consideration. Committee appointments were discussed and a motion was made by LaBudde and seconded by Williamson to maintain the current committee structure on an interim basis until decisions are made on the Grant County slot and the existing vacancy. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chair Dorscheid. The permit requests of Mike Finlay on behalf of the Department of Natural Resources for timber harvest and management activities in the Town of

Mazomanie, Dane County, were discussed. Dorscheid said a field inspection was conducted by Cupp and the Operations Committee on June 14, 2018. Mike Finlay, DNR Forestry, and Nate Fayram, DNR Endangered Resources, also were present. Plans call for a combination of a commercial timber harvest and management activities to remove woody vegetation for the purposes of timber stand improvement and invasive species control. Therefore, as has become typical, a timber harvest permit and a separate management plan will be required. The site is not visible from the river during leaf-on conditions. A motion to approve the timber harvest permit with the following conditions was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Brown:

- 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.

A motion to approve the management permit with the following conditions was made by Dorscheid, seconded by LaBudde :

- No existing structure(s) shall become visible from the river as a result of the activity;
- The LWSRB shall approve of any modification to the plans, as submitted; and,
- The landowner or his/her agent shall notify the LWSRB upon initiation and completion of the activity.

MOTION CARRIED.

Cupp reported he had issued a general permit to Jason Schaad for modification of an existing structure in the Town of Spring Green, Sauk County, near Lone Rock. Two additions are planned for an existing house on Long Lake. The structure is not visible from the river and the height performance standard will be met. Dorscheid noted the Operations Committee had visited a proposed building site in the Town of Bridgeport, Crawford County. The committee evaluated the potential for tree removal to expand the lawn area if a house was constructed on the lot. The committee determined additional information was required but concurred some tree removal would be possible.

The Budget & Office Committee report was presented by Chair Cary who reviewed the FY 19 budget and the FY 18 close out. Cupp said the biennial budget for 2019-2021 will be presented at the September meeting. Cupp said the board should formally request full funding of salaries and fringes. A motion was made by Williamson, seconded by Cary, to seek full funding of the FB 1 and FB 2 lines. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Personnel Committee report was presented by Chairman Brown. Staff evaluations had been completed. Cupp reported Executive Assistant Marsha Curtis received an “excellent” rating. Brown noted Cupp had received the maximum number of points possible on the evaluation forms and was assigned an “excellent” rating.

The Executive Director’s report was presented by Cupp who reviewed the materials in the board members’ packets.

Under board members’ business, Williamson noted rumors of a new solar farm in the Town of Buena Vista, Richland County, had been circulating. He would seek additional information and report back to Cupp.

During the public comment session, Jim Dickey of Middleton expressed appreciation for the board’s work

in protecting the river. He encouraged the board to take official action to oppose the Hickory Creek – Middleton power line proposed by American Transmission Company.

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.