

LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 13, 2018, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, September 13, 2018, at the Community Library in Spring Green 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 exceptions of Gigi LaBudde and Ritchie Brown. (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 Ron Leys, seconded by Jerry Dorscheid. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2018, meeting was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Bob Cary. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was given by Madison who asked Cupp to discuss correspondence. Cupp reviewed two requests for statements of support from the LWSRB. The first request was from a Town of Clyde resident and landowner who has approached the Iowa County Highway Commission and the Town of Clyde regarding creation of a local ordinance to prohibit use of jake brakes by big trucks on STH 133 from the Lone Rock bridge and westward. In that location, the road closely parallels the river. The landowner said the use of jake brakes disrupts the solitude of the river. Cupp noted the board does not have statutory authority to regulate noise pollution but could support the initiative in an advisory capacity. Leys noted the board did work to create decibel limits for airboats. A motion was made by Leys, seconded by Cary, to support a local ordinance to limit jake brakes use. Discussion ensued. Dick McFarlane said he could not support the motion because it was not within the board's purview. Steve Williamson said such an ordinance should be a highway issue, not a river issue. A vote on the motion was taken. Voting "aye" were Leys, Cary and Dorscheid. Voting "nay" were Madison, McFarlane and Williamson. The **MOTION FAILED** on a 3-3 vote. Williamson said he would be willing to revisit the issue if there was something in writing to review. Cupp was directed to contact the landowner and ask for additional information as the matter is considered at the town and/or county levels.

The second request was from landowner Scott Jacobs of the Town of Wyoming, Iowa County. Jacobs owns property on both sides of CTH C at the intersection with Golf Course Road. He would like to sell the property north of CTH C to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to be added to Tower Hill State Park or to be part of state ownership within the Riverway. Cupp explained the LWSRB does have an advisory role to DNR and could support the request by sending a letter to DNR. An aerial photograph with Riverway boundary overlay was reviewed. A motion to support purchase of the parcel by DNR was made by Williamson, seconded by McFarlane. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cupp noted record river levels at the Muscodia gauge for early September have been recorded since the first of the month. The historic rain events that flooded tributaries of the river were compounded by another round of rain that followed the Wisconsin River watershed upstream of the dam at Prairie du Sac. Board members contributed observations about flooding from their areas. Cupp added that the Governor's Appointments Director had not responded to his last inquiry about the status of the Grant County slot on the board. Cary will continue to serve until a replacement is named.

The guest speaker for the evening was Travis Anderson, DNR Wildlife Ecologist for Riverway lands in Iowa and Dane counties. Anderson discussed projects such as mourning dove banding, wood duck banding, pheasant stocking and several habitat restoration projects. He noted trumpeter swans successfully nested at Bakken's Pond this year. Also, introduced by DNR Wildlife Supervisor Mike Dampf were Nancy Frost and

Eddie Shea. Frost is the wildlife ecologist for Sauk County. Shea handles wildlife duties in areas west of Muscoda including Richland, Grant and Crawford counties.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Dorscheid. The extension requests of Anderson for several management permits were considered. Anderson noted activities on the parcels included invasive species control and habitat work. A motion to approve two-year extension for the following permits was made by Williamson, seconded by Cary:

DNR/Anderson (management/extension)(Mazomanie Unit, Dane County)
DNR/Anderson (management/extension)(Avoca Unit, Iowa County)
DNR/Anderson (management/extension)(Bakkens Pond Unit, Sauk County)
DNR/Anderson (management/extension)(Lone Rock Unit, Richland County)
DNR/Anderson (management/extension)(Wyoming Bluff Unit, Sauk County)
DNR/Anderson (management/extension)(Sauk Prairie Unit, Sauk County)

The conditions of the permits remain intact and are as follows:

- 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 said he had extended a permit for Williamson for TSI work on his property in the Town of Eagle, Richland County. Cupp said he consulted with Dorscheid before taking the action.

The planting plan for the Lone Rock to Boscobel 69kv line submitted by American Transmission Company (ATC) was discussed. Cupp said ATC will plant shrubs on the Iowa County side of the river crossing and on both sides of the island where the crossing occurs. The suite of species includes those typically recommended by DNR foresters. A motion to approve the planting plan was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Leys. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Budget & Office Committee report was presented by Chair Cary who reviewed the FY 19 budget. Cupp presented the biennial budget request for the 2019-2021 biennium. The request includes full funding of the salaries and fringe benefit lines as standard budget adjustments. A motion to approve the budget request was made by Cary, seconded by Dick McFarlane. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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.

Under board members' business, McFarlane noted the Aldo Leopold Foundation will be hosting a workshop on oak for landowners.

The DNR report was presented by Mike Finlay who discussed future harvests on state lands in the Riverway.

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During the public comment session, Forest Janhnke of Crawford Stewardship Project introduced Eli Mantel who is a new hire for CSP. Timm Zumm of FLOW reviewed the FLOW Riverway Symposium plans and said a good time was had by all at the Rhythm of the River event.

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