

LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 11, 2018, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, October 11, 2018, at the Wauzeka 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 with the exception of 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 Bob Cary, seconded by Jerry Dorscheid. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2018, meeting was made by Ron Leys, seconded by Steve Williamson. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was given by Madison who asked Cupp to review correspondence. Cupp said he had received a complaint from a landowner who has property across STH 60 from the Burns tract in the Bud Jordahl Unit of Riverway regarding right of way cutting by American Transmission Company or a subcontractor thereof. The site is located in the Town of Orion, Richland County. The landowner alleged there were safety hazards from trees and branches hanging up in other trees. He felt the job was sloppy. Cupp said he had contacted Matt Seguin, DNR Riverway Property Manager, who indicated hunters and hikers on DNR properties should always be aware of risks. Cupp noted the power line in question is scheduled for replacement beginning in the fall of 2018 and continuing through 2019 so there may be additional work within the right of way pertaining to tree/brush trimming.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Dorscheid. The permit request of Eric Rapp for construction of a berm in the Town of Clyde, Iowa County was considered. He noted a field inspection was conducted by Cupp on October 5, 2018. Dorscheid and Mr. Rapp also were present for the field inspection. Plans call for extension of the existing earthen berm adjacent to STH 133. The extension will tie into the berm on the east end and then raise the profile of existing terrain by 6-10 feet. Material will come from a nearby knoll that will be flattened to enhance grazing for cattle. Only small trees and woody vegetation will be removed along the fence line. The existing screening vegetation will be maintained. Upon completion, trees will be planted in a similar configuration to the existing berm with a mix of conifers and hardwoods. Dorscheid made a motion, seconded by Cary, to approve issuance of a permit with the following standard conditions:

- The landowner shall provide the LWSRB with a planting plan indicating approximate number of trees and species to be planted;
- The activity shall comply with all other applicable federal, state and local regulations;
- The LWSRB shall approve of any modifications to the plans, as submitted; and,
- The landowner shall notify the LWSRB upon initiation and completion of the project.

MOTION CARRIED.

The permit request of Bob Bennett for a timber harvest and management work in the Town of Clyde, Iowa County was considered. Dorscheid noted field inspections have been conducted by Cupp in conjunction with previous timber harvest activities on adjacent parcels. An additional field inspection is slated for November 1, 2018. Jason Sable, DNR Forester, also will be present. The harvest and subsequent TSI work will be conducted pursuant to an MFL plan. Portions of the site are visible from the Wisconsin River during

leaf-on conditions. There will be a combination of selective harvesting and small clear cuts. TSI work will include invasive species control and removal of undesirable trees. No new roads will be constructed. Dorscheid made a motion, seconded by Gigi LaBudde, to approve issuance of a timber permit and a management permit with the following standard conditions. For the timber harvest permit:

- 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.

For the management permit:

- 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.

The permit request of Mike Finlay on behalf of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for a timber harvest and management work in the Town of Richwood, Richland County was considered. Dorscheid said inspections have been conducted by Cupp in conjunction with other activities at the site. A field inspection with Cupp and the Operations Committee was conducted on October 11, 2018. Finlay also was be present for the field inspection. Plans call for a pre-salvage harvest of ash, and harvest of other merchantable hardwoods via group selection and small clear cuts. TSI work will include invasive species control and removal of undesirable trees. Portions of the property are visible from the Wisconsin River. No new roads will be constructed.

Finlay addressed the board noting the timber harvest activities will continue to move the woodlot toward a sugar maple forest but oaks will be retained. Dorscheid asked about the number of oak seedlings. Finlay said there are a few. Williamson asked about the tree planting at the property. Finlay said the planting was doing

well and grew quickly enough to avoid deer damage. He noted the autumn olive will be cut and treated at the top of the hill. Williamson asked about the pine plantation at the bottom of the hill. Finlay said there have been no bidders on the pine.

Dorscheid made a motion, seconded by Williamson, to approve issuance of a both a timber harvest and a management permit with the following standard conditions for each. For the timber permit:

- 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.

For the management permit:

- 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.

The permit request of George Hoffman for a timber harvest in the Town of Wauzeka, Crawford County, was considered. Tim Sprosty is the consultant. Dorscheid noted a field inspection was conducted by Cupp on October 9, 2018. Mr. Sprosty also was present for the field inspection. Plans call for the selective harvest of merchantable hardwoods greater than 18 inches dbh. The majority of the harvest area will not be visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. No new roads will be constructed. Dorscheid made a motion, seconded by Leys, to approve issuance of a permit with the following standard 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.

Cupp said there was an additional permit application submitted by Finlay for a timber harvest and management work in the Town of Wauzeka, Crawford County. A field inspection has not been conducted at the site and the applications will be carried forward to the November meeting. Finlay noted the harvest essentially will involve mature aspen.

The Budget & Office Committee report was presented by Chair Cary who reviewed the FY 19 budget. Cupp reported the biennial budget request has been filed with the Department of Administration – State Budget Office. Dick McFarlane asked if board members should contact legislators or the Governor to express support. Cupp suggested waiting until after the November election. Cupp noted a new laptop was purchased to replace the old one that had developed problems that couldn't be fixed.

During the Personnel Committee report, Cupp asked for LWSRB members feedback on a board he had been asked to serve on for a non-governmental organization (NGO) that deals with river protection. The consensus was that Cupp already was stretched thin in his duties. They advised keeping it on the backburner for now. Cupp agreed to decline the invitation to serve on the NGO board.

The Executive Director's report was presented by Cupp who reviewed the materials in the board members' packets. Cupp said he received a Water Hero award from the River Alliance of Wisconsin in conjunction with the group's 25th anniversary. Previously, he had been honored by the group as a River Champion. Cupp attend the world premiere of the "Decoding the Driftless" documentary in which he appeared. He said the film was well done and encouraged all to see the film when it comes around. Cupp said the Lower Wisconsin Riverway Symposium hosted by the Friends of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway (FLOW) would be held on October 12-13 in Sauk City. He will partake as a speaker and field trip leader. Cupp noted river flow has been extraordinarily high for early October with records for this time of year set on several days.

Under board members' business, LaBudde said she will be unable to attend the November LWSRB meeting but will participate in the Executive Committee conference call.

The DNR report was presented by Finlay who said the Riverway crew had been working to address road repairs and downed trees in the wake of the heavy rains and flooding. LaBudde asked about fall burning on

state lands. Finlay said fall burns will be minimal this year. Leys asked about the weather and rains making it difficult for loggers to get in the woods. Finlay said it has been too wet and said it may require an early, heavy frost before the going is good in the woods. Williamson noted some sawmills have shut down due to a lack of logs.

During the public comment session, Forest Jahnke of the Crawford Stewardship Project (CSP) continues citizen water monitoring. Incredibly high e-coli bacteria counts have been found in small streams that feed into the Wisconsin River. LWSRB members thanked CSP for their continued work to track water quality.

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