

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 DECEMBER 13, 2018, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, December 13, 2018, at the LWSRB office in Muscodia 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 Ron Leys, seconded by Dick McFarlane. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2018, meeting was made by Jerry Dorscheid, seconded by Bob Cary. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Madison. Cupp distributed a packet of thank you notes from Highland School District students. He had given a presentation to middle school students on the Wisconsin River watershed. Cupp discussed a proposal from Riverway landowner Jill Metcoff to establish a tracking device for radio tagged birds on her property in the Town of Troy, Sauk County. Cupp said he will meet with her on January 8th to determine if a suitable site on her property is available. Co-location of the antenna is possible as is an alternate location. The Tradewind Energy solar project in Richland County was discussed. Cupp noted the site is not within the Riverway boundary so no Riverway permits are required. Steve Williamson, Richland County Board of Supervisors member, reported the project was approved by the zoning committee with conditions. Richland County Corporation Counsel Ben Southwick is now reviewing the conditions and other legal aspects of the permitting process. Williamson said a 300-400 site acre near Bear Valley will be used with an additional 800 acres possible. The area receives a high amount of sunlight according to studies.

Cupp reported he and Dorscheid had attended a Department of Transportation (DOT) public information meeting regarding resurfacing of STH 133 in Iowa County. A portion of the highway is close to the river downstream of the Lone Rock bridge. No major aesthetic impacts are expected. The project is 2-4 years off. Cupp also noted he and Dorscheid will attend a meeting with DOT officials on Friday, December 14th, to discuss the re-decking of the STH 23 bridge at Spring Green.

The 2019 schedules for LWSRB meetings and Executive Committee meetings were distributed. A motion to approve the schedule with elimination of the February meeting was made by Gigi LaBudde, seconded by Leys. **MOTION CARRIED.**

January 10, 2019	Muscoda	Kratochwill Memorial Building
March 14, 2019	Muscoda	Kratochwill Memorial Building
April 11, 2019	Prairie du Sac	Ruth Culver Community Library
May 9, 2019	Boscobel	City Hall
June 13, 2019	Mazomanie	Black Hawk Unit (Rhineland Cabin)
July 11, 2019	Muscoda	Kratochwill Memorial Building
August 8, 2019	Prairie du Chien	TBD
September 12, 2019	Spring Green	Public Library
October 10, 2019	Wauzeka	Village Hall
November 14, 2019	Avoca	Village Hall
December 12, 2019	Muscoda	Kratochwill Memorial Building

Appointments were discussed. Cupp said no action regarding LWSRB appointments had been taken by Governor Scott Walker. Governor-elect Tony Evers transition office had contacted him about LWSRB appointments and other business. Cupp explained the current vacancies and those LWSRB members who are waiting for re-appointment or whom are serving pending a replacement being named. Cupp also requested Governor Evers' support of the LWSRB budget.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Dorscheid. The request of Mike Finlay on behalf of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for a timber harvest in the Town of Millville, Grant County, was considered. The majority of the harvest will occur on lands not visible from the river. Finlay explained the harvest would be conducted to facilitate conversion to an oak woodland and oak savanna habitat type. DNR wildlife staff is spearheading the effort and will follow up with management activities to remove invasive species and small trees. The timber harvest will occur during leaf-off conditions and no new roads are required. A motion to approve the forestry permit with the following standard conditions was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Cary:

- 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.

A motion to approve a management permit with standard conditions for DNR Wildlife Biologist Eddie Shea was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Leys. Conditions of the permit include:

- 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.

There were no permits issued by the Executive Director since the November meeting.

The Budget & Office Committee report was presented by Chair Cary who reviewed the FY 19 budget.

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. He noted a winter solstice observance will take place on Frank's Hill at sunset on December 21st.

Under board members' business, McFarlane distributed maps of the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. Leys noted DNR fisheries researchers had found Asian carp below the Prairie du Sac dam. He said he hoped the previously proposed fish ladder would be quashed to avoid the carp making their way working upstream of the dam. Cary noted the changing face of agriculture locally stating that in 1967, there were 105 dairy farms in the Town of Richwood, Richland County, while in 2018, there is 1 (2 if you count a small goat dairy).

The DNR report was given by Finlay who said the gate had been closed for the season on Wachter Road leading to the Rhinelander Cabin on the Riverway's Black Hawk Unit.

During the public comment session, Forest Jahnke of the Crawford Stewardship Project (CSP) presented the board with a poster and the latest newsletter. He said the group continues to work on the karst survey. LaBudde thanked Jahnke for CSP's efforts to mentor Grant County citizens. John Heasley of Lone Rock thanked the board for their work and handed out information on dark skies. Roger Reynolds, Town of Spring Green, Sauk County, thanked the board for the opportunity to see the documentary.

Decoding the Driftless, a documentary on the Driftless Area, was then shown.

Following the documentary, a motion to adjourn was made by McFarlane, seconded by LaBudde.
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.