

LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 10, 2019, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, January 10, 2019, at the village hall 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 Jerry Dorscheid, seconded by Gigi LaBudde. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2018, meeting was made by LaBudde, seconded by Dorscheid. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Madison. Cupp introduced Eddie Shea, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Wildlife Biologist, based in Boscobel. Cupp asked Shea to describe the wildlife benefits from habitat work to be done at the Big Rock site in the Town of Millville, Grant County. Shea said the restoration of the oak savanna and oak woodland will benefit game species such as deer and turkey but also will benefit a myriad of other bird and animal species, not to mention native plants. Shea said he works with colleagues from other disciplines (forestry, endangered resources, etc.) to develop habitat restoration plans for specific sites. He noted the long-range plan is to establish a 520 acre burn unit at the Big Rock site.

Cupp said he and LaBudde had met with landowner Jill Metcoff and Bill Mueller, Director of the Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory, to discuss possible placement of an antenna on the Metcoff property in the Town of Troy, Sauk County. LaBudde noted the bluff top property wasn't suitable because the 25-foot guyed antenna must be above the tree line and there was too much tree cover at the site. Alternative sites were discussed and will be explored in the spring. LaBudde explained the project is used to track birds and monarch butterflies as the animals migrate.

Cupp said he had been contacted by the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey about naming of an island in Iowa County a few miles upstream of Muscodia. The proposed name of the island across from the Orion boat landing will be Pyramid Point. Cupp said eagle roosts counts from the end of the year showed 70% of the birds counted were using the Lone Rock roost with another 20% utilizing the Leland roost. The use of roost sites likely will change when/if the river freezes over. Cupp noted the documentary "Decoding the Driftless" will be shown in Richland Center on January 12th. He said attempts to reach Governor Evers' office to discuss appointments have been unsuccessful but noted the office has just opened.

There was no report from the Operations Committee, however, Cupp said he had issued a general permit to Matt Seguin, DNR Riverway Property Manager, for boardwalks and bridges on trails in the Town of Mazomanie, Dane County. Seguin explained that the trails are consistent with the DNR Riverway Master Plan. The boardwalks and bridges are necessary to traverse wet places and will not be visible from the river.

The Budget & Office Committee report was presented by Chair Cary who reviewed the FY 19 budget. Cupp noted the report represented the first half of the fiscal year. Austerity measures remain in place to accrue the savings necessary to cover an approximate \$14,500 shortfall in the salaries and fringe benefits lines. A transfer from supplies and services will be needed at the end of the fiscal year.

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 volunteer work day will take place at the Blue River Barrens on January 12th. He said preliminary results of a groundwater study in Iowa, Grant and Lafayette counties showed 42% of wells were contaminated.

Under board members' business, Steve Williamson said county review of a proposed solar farm in the Town of Buena Vista, Richland County, continues with the next meeting to be held on January 21st. Williamson noted he doesn't participate in the process due to his employment status.

The DNR report was given by Seguin who noted brush cutting work is ongoing at the Mazomanie Dog Trial Grounds. He thanked the Friends of the Lower Wisconsin (FLOW) for the work done at the Bloyer/Twin Lizard mound group in Richland County and at the Blue River Barrens. Signs recognizing their efforts will be placed at both locations. Seguin said Preston Cole has been named DNR Secretary pending Senate confirmation.

During the public comment session, Eli Mandel of the Crawford Stewardship Project (CSP) said he hopes a well testing program for Crawford County will become a reality in the near future. The group will hold a fundraiser in Gays Mills on February 5th.

Timm Zumm, FLOW President, introduced new FLOW board member and Muscoda area resident Charles Rathman. Rathman introduced himself and said the river was a major influence in his family's decision to relocate to the area. Zumm said the FLOW annual meeting will be held on January 26th in Arena.

A motion to adjourn was made by Leys, 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.