

LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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MINUTES OF THE MARCH 14, 2019, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, March 14, 2019, at the Kratochwill Memorial Building in Muscodia to conduct a regular monthly business meeting. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Fred Madison. All members were present with the exceptions of Ritchie Brown, Gigi LaBudde and Ron Leys. (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 Dick McFarlane, seconded by Bob Cary. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2019, meeting was made by Jerry Dorscheid, seconded by Steve Williamson. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chairman Madison who asked Cupp to report on correspondence. Cupp noted the documentary "Decoding the Driftless" continues to receive wide acclaim and has been viewed by packed houses throughout the area. Cupp said he continues to work with Governor Tony Evers' Appointments Director on LWSRB appointments.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chair Dorscheid. The permit extension requests of Nate Fayram on behalf of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) were considered. Each year, approximately half of the SNA permits for the DNR's SNAs are reviewed by the LWSRB. Work on the SNAs includes prescribed burning, brush removal and invasive species control. Fayram provided the board with an update on SNA activities within the Riverway. He applauded efforts by volunteers at the Mazomanie Barrens, Blue River Barrens and Bloyer mound group. A motion to approve two-year extensions for the following management permits was made by Cary, seconded by McFarlane:

- Adiantum Woods SNA (Town of Millville, Grant County)
- Avoca Prairie SNA (Town of Avoca, Iowa County)
- Blue River Sand Barrens SNA (Town of Watterstown, Grant County)
- Ferry Bluff SNA (Town of Prairie du Sac, Sauk County)
- Mazomanie Bottoms SNA (Town of Mazomanie, Dane County)
- Richwood Bottoms SNA (Town of Richwood, Richland County)
- Tower Hill Bottoms SNA (Town of Arena, Iowa County)
- Wauzeka Bottoms SNA (Town of Wauzeka, Crawford County)
- Woodman Sand Prairie SNA (Town of Woodman, Grant County)
- Wyalusing Hardwoods SNA (Town of Wyalusing, Grant County)
- Wyalusing Walnut SNA (Town of Wyalusing, Grant County)

MOTION CARRIED.

Permits requests submitted by Mike Finlay on behalf of DNR were then considered. An application for a timber harvest and management activities at a site in the Town of Orion, Richland County, was discussed. Finlay and DNR Forester Krissy Shaw were present to provide details on the proposals. At the Orion site, plans call for a timber harvest on lands visible and not visible from the river. A management permit is required to address ash removal and other activities. A field inspection will be conducted in the coming weeks to refine the visible areas and assess aesthetic impacts. Standard conditions will apply for

each permit. A motion to approve permits for each activity was made by Cary, seconded by Williamson. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Standard timber harvest permit conditions include the following:

- 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.

Standard management permit conditions include the following:

- 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.

The harvest of a pine plantation in the Town of Mazomanie, Dane County, was reviewed. Plans call for white pine removal on lands not visible from the river during leaf-on conditions. Cupp and the Operations Committee visited the site last year. The site is adjacent to the Mazo Oak Barrens and will enhance the natural area and conversion to the native plant community. Standard conditions for a harvest in the Resource Management Zone will apply. A motion to approve the permit with conditions was made by McFarlane, seconded by Williamson. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Standard general permit conditions include the following:

- 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.

A proposed timber harvest in the Town of Pulaski, Iowa County, was discussed. Plans call for a harvest on the Lemanski tract between Muscoda and Avoca. Cupp and the Operations Committee have

visited the site numerous times. The harvest area is not visible from the river during leaf-on conditions. Standard conditions for a harvest in the Resource Management Zone will apply. A motion to approve the permit with conditions was made by Williamson, seconded by Cary. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Standard general permit conditions include the following:

- 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.

A management permit application for a parcel in the Town of Mazomanie, Dane County, was considered. Plans call for invasive species control on 80+ acres at the Black Hawk Unit. Some areas may be visible from the river during leaf-on conditions but no existing structures will become visible from the river as a result of the activity. Cupp and the Operations Committee have been on the site on many occasions. Standard conditions for a management permit will apply. A motion to approve a permit with conditions was made by Williamson, seconded by McFarlane. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Standard management permit conditions:

- 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.

Cupp said he had issued a management permit to Eddie Shea of the DNR for invasive species control at a site in the Town of Wyalusing, Grant County. He also issued a general permit to Dave Neman and consultant Andrew Nelson for a timber harvest on lands not visible from the river in the Town of Orion, Richland County. Cupp said an extension was issued to a general permit for timber harvesting in the Town of Bridgeport, Crawford County. The landowner is Scott Yeomans and the logger is Don Stram.

The Budget Committee report was presented by Chair Cary who reviewed the status of the FY 19 budget. Cupp also reviewed the Executive Budget proposal for the 2019/2021 Biennial Budget as it pertains to the LWSRB. The board's budget request was fully funded under Governor Evers' budget proposal. The Legislature's Joint Committee on Finance will review the proposal in the coming months.

There was no report from the Personnel Committee.

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

Under board members business, comments were heard from Dorscheid regarding state parks and Williamson regarding a solar project in Richland County.

The DNR report was given by Finlay who stated the 2019 work plan for the Riverway may be found at the DNR website.

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During public comment, Forest Jahnke of the Crawford Stewardship Project discussed well testing

and findings and an upcoming forum on groundwater quality to be held in Richland Center.

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

END

For further information, corrections, additions or deletions to the minutes, contact Mark Cupp, Executive Director, at (608) 739-3188 or 1-800-221-3792.