

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 MAY 9, 2019, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, May 9, 2019, at the Boscobel City Hall to conduct a regular monthly business meeting. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Acting Chair Jerry Dorscheid. All members were present with the exceptions of Fred Madison, Randy Poelma and Ritchie Brown. Acknowledgment that the meeting was properly noticed was provided by Mark E. Cupp, Executive Director. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Gigi LaBudde, seconded by Dick McFarlane. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2019, meeting was made by Steve Williamson, seconded by LaBudde. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Acting Chairman Dorscheid. Cupp recognized former LWSRB Grant County representative Robert Cary for his service. Cary was one of the original appointees to the board in 1989 and served for several terms and was an officer and Budget Committee Chair. He then came back for a second stint when former member Nick Nice was forced to resign due to health problems. Cupp noted Cary also served on the Local Officials Advisory Committee during the planning process for the Riverway. He thanked Cary for his many years of service and leadership.

Cupp noted progress continues on LWSRB appointments. LWSRB Chair Fred Madison has chosen not to seek re-appointment so a new “at-large” member will be needed. Cupp said the Lower Wisconsin River Road Scenic Byway is celebrating 10 years in 2019. He also noted the parking lot at the Prairie du Sac dam will be closed temporarily. He said an update on the Mazomanie Day Use Area will be provided at the June meeting.

Cupp introduced Eddie Shea, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Wildlife Biologist, who was the guest speaker. Shea discussed activities on state owned lands related to habitat improvement and invasive species control. He highlighted efforts to band mourning doves, wood ducks and eaglets; turtle diversions on STH 133; cedar removal at Baxter Road; prescribed burns on wildlife lands; barrens and prairie restoration efforts; and invasive species control for honeysuckle, leafy spurge, wild parsnip, teasel and autumn olive cutting.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chairman Dorscheid. Dorscheid said there were several extensions to management permits held by Eddie Shea, DNR Wildlife Biologist, for vegetative management activities on state owned lands. Shea made a presentation regarding the extension requests for the following parcels:

- DNR/Shea(management/extension)(Town of Marietta, Crawford County)
- DNR/Shea(management/extension)(Town of Richwood, Richland County)
- DNR/ Shea(management/extension)(Town of Wauzeka, Crawford County)
- DNR/ Shea(management/extension)(Town of Muscodia, Grant County)
- DNR/ Shea(management/extension)(Town of Woodman, Grant County)
- DNR/ Shea(management/extension)(Town of Millville, Grant County)
- DNR/ Shea(management/extension)(Town of Wyalusing, Grant County)
- DNR/ Shea(management/extension)(Town of Muscodia, Grant County).

A motion to extend the permits with the previous conditions was made by LaBudde, seconded by Williamson. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The permit request of DNR foresters Ben Ross and Mike Finlay for a timber harvest at the former Baxter property in the Town of Woodman, Grant County, was considered. Ross explained the harvest will occur on lands not visible from the river and when the ground is frozen or dry. Walnut and other species will be harvested to promote oak regeneration. Additional management activities will occur in the future. A motion to approve issuance of a general permit with standard conditions was made by Williamson, seconded by LaBudde. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The permit request of Alliant Energy for installation of a solar panel unit at the DNR's Black Hawk Unit was discussed. Kendall McFarland, Neil Goodchild and Dave Pedrowski represented Alliant Energy. McFarland gave a presentation on preferred options for locating the solar panel. Option A would require removal of several white pine trees near the existing storage shed. Option B would be closer to the road and would have a great impact of the view from the Rhineland Cabin. Option C may have long term problems with a planned parking area for the property and would require development of an access road or mowed path. Adequate screening vegetation exists to assure the solar array is not visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. The existing line would be retired when the solar panels go online. Cupp asked Matt Seguin, DNR Riverway Property Manager, to identify the option preferred by DNR. Seguin said Option A, including the pine removal, is preferred because it would address a maintenance issue for the shed, would not require a new access and would minimize aesthetic impacts for the cabin. A motion to approve a utility permit with the following conditions was made by McFarlane, seconded by Williamson:

- All reasonable efforts shall be taken to minimize the visual impact of the utility facility;
- The height of the structure shall be minimized to the greatest extent possible;
- Existing screening vegetation shall be maintained and replaced if damaged or destroyed;
- The LWSRB shall approve of any modification to the plans, as submitted;
- The activity shall comply with all other federal, state and local regulations; and,
- Alliant Energy shall notify the board upon initiation and completion of the project.

MOTION CARRIED.

Cupp reported the repairs to the American Transmission Company (ATC) lines at Woodman and Spring Green had been completed. For the Woodman pole, a temporary fix is in place until the pole is replaced this summer. The Spring Green lattice tower was removed and a new structure was put in place.

Cupp said a management permit for invasive species control at the Black Hawk Unit will be issued to Mike Finlay and Scott Lancaster. A brush mower will be used on sites not visible from the river. A meeting to address additional mowing on the ridge will be held prior to the June meeting. Cupp noted he, Finlay and Krissy Shaw had completed review of the Town of Orion, Richland County, proposed timber harvest on DNR lands. He provided pictures of emerald ash borer damaged ash trees. Cupp said there will be a visual impact due to the mortality of ash trees and oak wilt on the top of the bluff. He suggested that Finlay or Shaw contact local media before the harvest to get the word out.

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

The Budget & Office Committee report was presented by Acting Chair McFarlane who reviewed the FY 19 budget. Cupp said the Legislature's Joint Committee on Finance is reviewing the Executive budget proposal, including the LWSRB budget request.

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. Cupp said he will be involved in giving mound tours at the Muscoda Morel Mushroom Festival on May 18-19th. He co-hosted eaglet banding excursions with DNR wildlife biologist Dan Goltz on May 3rd and 4th. Photos of the eaglets were shown. Cupp said, "It is always a good day when you see an eagle but it is an exceptional day when you touch an eagle."

The DNR report was presented by Seguin who reviewed DNR activities in the Riverway including maintenance and repair activities due to flooding. McFarlane asked who the public should contact to volunteer for Riverway work. Seguin suggested contacting Jared Urban with the natural areas program. Ross noted the proposed DNR timber harvests on the former Stone Farm in Richland County and Pleasant Mound Road in Crawford County had sold.

During the public comment session, Charles Rathman of the Friends of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway (FLOW) said there will be a garlic mustard pulling event at Ferry Bluff. He said FLOW will have Flo the Paddlefish in the Muscoda Morel Mushroom Festival parade.

Forest Jahnke, Crawford Stewardship Project (CSP), supports eagle blood testing when funds are available. He noted CSP has been engaged in well testing with 80 wells tested and generally good results; one well was positive for e-coli and 2 with high nitrates. LaBudde thanked CSP for their efforts to mentor the Grant County water quality and well testing proponents.

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