

# LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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## MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 12, 2019, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, September 12, 2019, at the Community Library in Spring Green to conduct a regular monthly business meeting. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Jerry Dorscheid. 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 Steve Wetter, seconded by Gigi LaBudde. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2019, meeting was made by LaBudde, seconded by Ron Leys. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chairman Dorscheid. Cupp introduced the guest speaker for the evening, John Lyons, retired DNR Fisheries Researcher. The topic was the Starhead Topminnow Project undertaken by the Friends of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway (FLOW) Science Team. Lyons described efforts to pond-raise Starhead Topminnows and relocate the fish to sloughs upstream of the Prairie du Sac dam.

Cupp said he attended a Department of Transportation (DOT) meeting regarding the STH 130 bridges at Lone Rock. The meeting focused on the historical significance of the bridges. The long span (south span) was constructed in 1942-1943, which is unusual because of World War II and dearth of construction projects undertaken not related to the war effort. Cupp said he would meet soon with Sauk County officials regarding the proposed recreational use bridge at Sauk City. He said he had spoke with a DNR official about the proposed pumping from Crystal Lake to Roxbury Creek and learned the concept is being studied, but no definitive action has been identified and no permit applications have been received. Cupp said Isthmus magazine, a Madison weekly newspaper, is running an article on the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Riverway. A celebration of the anniversary will be held on Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, at Vintage Brewing Company in Sauk City. Additional details will be announced in the coming weeks. Cupp said Randy Poelma appeared before the Senate Natural Resources Committee on September 3<sup>rd</sup> and did an excellent job.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chair Leys. The permit extension request from Quentin Hurtz for a timber harvest in the Towns of Boscobel and Marion, Grant County, was considered. A field inspection had been conducted by Cupp in conjunction with previous permit activity at the site. Plans call for the selective harvest of walnut. The parcel is 200 acres in size and most of the ownership is outside of the Riverway boundary and is not visible from the Wisconsin River. No new roads will be constructed.

A motion to approve issuance of a two-year extension with the retention of the following standard conditions was made by Leys, seconded by Wetter.

- The harvest shall comply with the basal area limits for the residual stand in the Bluff Zone and Riverview Zone, as detailed in Chapter NR 37, Wisconsin Administrative Code;
- 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 approve of the location and design of all small regeneration cuts or shelterwood cuts, if any, in the Riverview Zone;

- The LWSRB shall approve the location and design of all new logging roads, if any, in the Bluff Zone and 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;
- If necessary, the Bluff Zone, Riverview Zone and Resource Management Zone shall be delineated prior to initiation of the harvest;
- All trees selected for harvest in the Bluff Zone and Riverview Zone shall be appropriately marked and approved by the LWSRB 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 the LWSRB shall conduct a post-harvest field inspection; and,
- The LWSRB shall review modifications to the plans, as submitted, for compliance with the applicable regulations.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

The extension request of David Clutter for a prairie restoration in the Town of Troy, Sauk County, was considered. Cupp said he and the Operation Committee had met onsite with Clutter, consultant Jeb Barzen and neighbor Jill Metcoff previously and the committee additionally met with Clutter prior to the September 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. The activity involves removal of woody vegetation and invasive species to enhance and restore the native prairie and oak savanna. The existing house will remain visually inconspicuous during leaf-on conditions.

A motion to approve issuance of a two-year extension with the retention of the following standard conditions was made by Leys, seconded by Wetter.

- 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.**

Cupp reported the renovation of the Muscoda boat landing is expected to begin in the coming weeks. No permits were issued by the Executive Director since the last meeting.

The Budget & Office Committee report was presented by Chair McFarlane who reviewed the FY 20 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 attended the memorial service for Fred Madison, recently deceased LWSRB Chair. Cupp noted former Iowa County LWSRB representative Dean Putz also had recently passed away.

Under board members' business, McFarlane said there will be two public meetings regarding the Great Sauk Trail Bridge proposal. On October 21<sup>st</sup> a meeting will be held at Wisconsin Heights High School and on

October 23<sup>rd</sup> a meeting will take place at the Sauk Prairie River Arts Center. McFarlane recommended the book "Reforestation Faith" for LWSRB members to read. LaBudde noted a rally will be held at the State Capitol to oppose the Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line project.

The DNR report was presented by Matt Seguin, DNR Riverway Property Manager, who said DNR staff is working on wood duck banding, preparing for pheasant hunting season, mowing trails and conducted fall prescribed burns. Leys asked if there had been widespread tree mortality in the bottomlands due to high water similar to that seen on the Mississippi River. Mike Finlay, DNR Forester, said there has not been mortality on the scope of that witnessed on the Mississippi. Finlay then introduced forestry staff members: Scott Lancaster and Landon Nielson work out of the Tower Hill State Park office and Trevor Hamburg works out of the Boscobel DNR office. McFarlane asked about management activities at the Black Hawk Unit in the Town of Mazomanie, Dane County. Lancaster said the contractor should be starting up again soon. Finlay then reported on active and soon to be active timber sales on state lands in the Riverway.

During the public comment session, John McKenna of Lone Rock spoke about the Lone Rock bridges and Timm Zumm of Spring Green spoke about FLOW's interest in the Sauk City trail bridge design and associated lighting.

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