

LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 9, 2020, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, January 9, 2020, 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 Jerry Dorscheid. All members were present with the exceptions of Ritchie Brown and Randy Poelma. (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 December 12, 2019, meeting was made by LaBudde, seconded by Ron Leys. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chairman Dorscheid. Cupp introduced guest speaker Timm Zumm, President of Friends of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway (FLOW), who reviewed activities undertaken by the group in the past year as well as events planned for 2020. He distributed the annual report and noted the FLOW annual meeting will be held in Arena of January 25th. Cupp thanked FLOW for the organization's contributions to the success of the Riverway project.

Cupp noted Governor Evers' report on the Year of Clean Drinking Water had been released as had a report from the Speaker's Task Force on Water Quality. He encouraged board members to stay engaged with legislators on water quality topics. Cupp said the latest edition of the Wisconsin Blue Book had shortchanged the LWSRB but he had contacted the proper people to assure it wouldn't happen in the next edition. Cupp said he is working on speakers and special presentations at future board meetings and would welcome input from board members. He noted the vacancy for an at-large remains and asked for suggestions to fill the slot.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chair Leys. The request of Steve Williamson for an extension and amendment to a timber harvest permit was considered. Williamson abstained from discussion and voting due to his membership on the LWSRB. The site is located in the Town of Eagle, Richland County. Cupp reported he and the landowner had conducted a field inspection on December 23, 2019, to review a proposed small regeneration cut in the Resource Management Zone and Bluff Zone. The small regeneration cut will comply with the applicable performance standards. In addition, an infestation of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has been discovered at the site. As a result, ash trees will be removed for salvage purposes.

Leys said Cupp recommended the board amend and extend the timber harvest permit with retention of the following standard conditions:

- 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, all trees selected for harvest 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 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 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;

- The LWSRB shall review the location and design of all small regeneration cuts, if any, in the Riverview Zone to assure compliance with the applicable performance standards;
- The Bluff Zone and Riverview Zone shall be delineated prior to initiation of the harvest, if necessary;
- 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.

Leys made a motion to amend and extend the permit, seconded by Wetter. **MOTION CARRIED with one abstention (Williamson).**

Cupp reported the solar project at the Black Hawk Unit (Town of Mazomanie, Dane County) had been completed. He said a proposed communication tower (Town of Richwood, Richland County) will be lowered from a maximum height of 300 feet to 250 feet at his request. Cupp said he was working with DNR and local officials regarding a junk/solid waste complaint in the Town of Marietta, Crawford County. Cupp noted he had met with Eddie Shea, DNR Wildlife Biologist, to review existing permits and said new permits will be added for sites in Richland and Grant counties. Cupp said he had issued an extension to a management permit for DNR lands in the Town of Clyde, Iowa County.

The Budget & Office Committee report was presented by Chair McFarlane who reviewed the status of 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.

Under board members' business, Leys expressed concern regarding recent reports of decreasing bird numbers. He noted something seems to be going on and suggested a future speaker be obtained to discuss the topic.

There was no DNR report.

During the public comment session, Eli Mandel of the Crawford Stewardship Project (CSP) said Crawford County had passed a CAFO moratorium. He noted CSP continues work on well testing and said the annual Love the Land fundraiser will be held on January 25th. Barb Jenkins of Spring Green mentioned a new Sauk County groundwater study. Judd Nelson of Spring Green discussed the Wisconsin River TMDL.

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