

# LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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## MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 13, 2020, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, February 13, 2020, 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 Jerry Dorscheid. All members were present with the exceptions of Dick McFarlane, 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 Steve Williamson, seconded by Randy Poelma. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2020, meeting was made by Steve Wetter, seconded by Ritchie Brown. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chair Dorscheid. Cupp said he would speak at the Wetland Science Conference in Elkhart Lake on February 19<sup>th</sup> and at the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Conference in Sun Prairie on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. He continues to work on board appointments.

The guest speaker for the meeting was Nate Fayram, DNR Ecologist, who reported on State Natural Areas (SNA) in the Riverway. Fayram reviewed work completed in 2019 and activities planned for 2020. He also requested extensions to previously issued permits that will expire in the spring.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Acting Chair Brown. A motion to issue two-year extensions to the following management permits with retention of standard conditions for activities on SNAs in the Riverway was made by Brown, seconded by Williamson:

- Arena Pines SNA (Town of Arena, Iowa County);
- Smith Slough SNA (Town of Buena Vista, Richland County);
- Mazo Barrens SNA (Town of Mazomanie, Dane County);
- Gotham Sands SNA (Town of Buena Vista, Richland County);
- Blue River Bluffs SNA/Chezik (Town of Watterstown, Grant County);
- Blue River Bluffs SNA/Ellenbolt (Town of Watterstown, Grant County); and,
- Bakken's Pond SNA (Town of Spring Green, Sauk County).

### **MOTION CARRIED.**

The permit request of Mike Finlay on behalf of the DNR for a pine thinning in the Town of Millville, Grant County, was considered. Finlay explained the harvest will be a row thinning of a plantation on lands not visible from the river on Campbell Ridge Road. A motion to approve issuance of a general permit with standard conditions was made by Wetter, seconded by Poelma. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The permit request of Brent Hasburgh for removal of ash trees from a bottomlands stand in the Town of Eagle, Richland County, was discussed. A field inspection was conducted by Cupp, Mr. Hasburgh and DNR Forester Jake Elder, who marked the trees slated for harvest. Approximately 40 trees will be harvested. The harvest area is not visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. No new roads will be constructed. A motion to approve issuance of a general permit with the following standard conditions was made by Williamson, seconded by Poelma:

- 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.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

The requests for extensions to two permits on adjoining properties in the Town of Wyoming, Iowa County, were discussed. Cupp explained the property owners are Joel Fait and Frank Zillner. The harvests on both sites have not been completed. Cupp said a variance to seasonal restrictions may be requested in the future. For now, a two-year extension for each permit is in order. Existing permit conditions will remain in place.

A motion to approve an extension to the timber permit for two years for Joel Fait was made by Wetter, seconded by Williamson. **MOTION CARRIED**

A motion to approve an extension to the timber permit for two years for Frank Zillner was made by Wetter, seconded by Williamson. **MOTION CARRIED**

An extension request for a permit previously issued to Terry Shifflet at Wisconsin Riverside Resort in the Town of Spring Green, Sauk County, was considered. Cupp said plans call for placement of a roof on the existing stage. The project was planned for 2019 but was not completed. Cupp recommended issuance of a one-year extension with retention of the existing permit conditions. Wetter made a motion, seconded by Williamson, to approve an extension with retention of the following conditions:

- The existing screening vegetation shall be maintained and replaced if damaged or destroyed;
- The height of the structure shall be limited so that the structure does not become visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions;
- The exterior colorization of the structure shall harmonize with the natural surroundings during leaf-on conditions and shall be approved by the LWSRB prior to initiation of construction;
- There shall be a limited amount of glass or other reflective material;
- The LWSRB shall review any modifications to the plans, as submitted, for compliance with the applicable performance standards;
- The landowner shall notify the LWSRB upon initiation and completion of the project; and,
- The activity shall comply with all other federal, state and local regulations.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Cupp reported a timber harvest was active at the Yeomans property in the Town of Bridgeport, Crawford County. Also, he met with Steve Smith of Riverside Sawmill to review the proposed harvest at the Neuheisel property in the Town of Spring Green, Sauk County. Some trees in the Bluff Zone were “unmarked” to achieve compliance with the applicable performance standards. He said invasive species work was being completed at the Seely tract in the Town of Marietta, Crawford County, under the management permit previously issued to Eddie Shea on behalf of the DNR.

Cupp said he had issued a general permit to Gerald Bennett for a walnut harvest on lands not visible from the river in the Town of Orion, Richland County. A similar permit was issued to adjoining landowner Andrew Cockroft. The consultant for each property is Andrew Nelson of Nelson Forest Products. An extension to a management permit for invasive species control in the Town of Buena Vista, Richland County, was issued to Shea/DNR. The site is not visible from the river during leaf-on conditions. Plans call for removal of black locust trees.

The Budget Committee report was presented by Acting Chair Williamson who reviewed the status of the FY 20 budget. Cupp reported purchase of a new telephone system for the office is no longer feasible due to technical restrictions. An intercom system will be purchased.

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, Williamson said there may be construction activity on STH 60 between Muscoda and Gotham in 2024.

The DNR report was given by Jesse Kellogg, DNR Riverway Property Manager. Tree cutting and routine maintenance continues at accessible sites. He and Cupp will meet with the DNR Archeologist to review erosion problems at the Dingman Mound Group in the Town of Eagle, Richland County. Finlay reported on several timber harvests that are active or soon will be cut in Richland, Grant, Sauk and Dane counties.

During public comment, Eli Mandel of Crawford Stewardship Project discussed proposed livestock siting legislation. Timm Zumm, President of Friends of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway (FLOW) reviewed the FLOW annual meeting, Canoecopia and the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line.

A motion to adjourn was made by Brown, seconded by Williamson. **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.