

# LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, August 13, 2020, via conference call 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 Ritchie Brown, Steve Williamson and Steve Wetter. (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 Gigi LaBudde, seconded by Dick McFarlane. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2020, meeting was made by McFarlane, seconded by LaBudde. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chair Dorscheid. Cupp said the official announcement for designation of Riverway wetlands as Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance will be made soon. He noted a letter had been received from Jeb Barzen of the Ferry Bluff Eagle Council expressing concern about adverse impacts on eagles from a potential new nonmetallic mining operation in the Town of Roxbury, Dane County. Cupp said he had not been contacted by the landowner or the mining company about the proposal.

New Crawford County representative to the LWSRB, James Czajkowski, was welcomed and provided an introduction. Czajkowski is retired from his law practice and from service as a Crawford County Circuit Court Judge. He is an avid paddler and enjoys building his own canoes and kayaks. Cupp noted a vacancy persists for an "at-large" position and said he would appreciate any leads to pass on Governor Tony Evers to fill the vacancy. Interim Committee appointments were discussed and a motion to approve the committee appointments was made by LaBudde, seconded by Randy Poelma. **MOTION CARRIED.**

<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:</b>	Jerry Dorscheid (Chair) Gigi LaBudde (Vice-Chair) Dick McFarlane (Secretary)
<b>OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:</b>	Ritchie Brown (Chair) Randy Poelma Steve Wetter James Czajkowski (Alternate)
<b>PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:</b>	Steve Williamson (Chair) Gigi LaBudde James Czajkowski Steve Wetter (Alternate)
<b>BUDGET &amp; OFFICE COMMITTEE:</b>	Dick McFarlane (Chair) Steve Williamson Steve Wetter Randy Poelma (Alternate)

The Operations Committee report was presented by Acting Chairman Poelma who said a permit request had been received by American Transmission Company regarding modification of a transmission line in the Town of Spring Green, Sauk County. Cupp said one structure will be replaced near Hill Slough and will be 13 feet taller than the existing structure. The change in height is required under federal guidelines. As a result, a permit from the LWSRB was required. The other activities will be considered “routine maintenance” and will not require a board issued permit. A motion to approve a utility permit with the following conditions was made by McFarlane, seconded by Poelma:

- All reasonable efforts shall be taken to minimize the visual impact of the utility facility;
- Shoreline vegetation shall be maintained to the greatest extent possible to reduce visibility;
- The replacement structure (409) shall not exceed 80 feet in height on the Hill Slough island;
- The LWSRB shall approve of any modification to the plans, as submitted; and,
- ATC shall notify the board upon initiation and completion of the project.

### **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cupp said he had met with a prospective landowner regarding a cottage near the Arena boat landing in the Town of Arena, Iowa County. Dorscheid had joined him for the field inspection. They discussed potential application of the Riverway law to repairs to the structure. While there, another structure undergoing rehabilitation was discovered. Neither the LWSRB nor the Iowa County Zoning Department had issued a permit for the changes. A letter was sent to the landowner by both Iowa County and the LWSRB requesting the landowner cease activities until the matter could be determined to be a permit requirement or routine maintenance activity.

Cupp reported he had met with Larry Anding regarding a riprap project in the Town of Arena, Iowa County. Repairs are needed to the riprap that was recently installed. Cupp said there did not appear to be any issues with tree or woody vegetation removal. He said he would meet with landowner Mary Burke regarding the proposed construction of a greenhouse in the Town of Troy, Sauk County. Preliminary plans indicate the structure will not be visible from the river during leaf-on conditions.

In regard to permits issued by the Executive Director, Cupp said he issued a general permit to Chris Wycislak for construction of a shed on lands not visible from the river in the Town of Troy, Sauk County. He also issued a general permit for an outbuilding on lands not visible from the river to Brody and Jenna Stuetgen for a parcel in the Town of Troy, Sauk County.

Two general permits for timber harvesting and two management permits for timber stand improvement (TSI) projects were issued to Mike Finlay on behalf of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). A timber harvest and TSI work will take place on state owned land not visible from the river in the Town of Watterstown, Grant County, west of Blue River. Additionally, a timber harvest and TSI will occur at the Black Hawk Unit in the Town of Mazomanie, Dane County. The activities will not be visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions.

The Budget Committee report was presented by Chair McFarlane who reviewed the status of the FY 21 budget and the close-out report for FY 20. Cupp reviewed the budget process for the 2021-2023 biennial budget process and noted he is working with state officials to finalize the LWSRB budget request.

The Personnel Committee report was presented by Acting Chair McFarlane who noted staff evaluations will be conducted prior to the next meeting.

The Executive Director's report was given by Cupp who reviewed materials in board meeting packets related to river flow, activities and correspondence and articles of interest. He noted unusually high flows had occurred in recent weeks.

Under board members business, McFarlane said he had problems with accessing the Ramsar website. Cupp said he would follow up. LaBudde thanked Friends of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway (FLOW) for the Paddle Planner recently developed to help people understand distances and lengths of trips for the Riverway.

The DNR report was presented by Jesse Kellogg, DNR Riverway Manager, who said roadwork had been completed at Semrad Slough near Woodman. He had met with engineers and staff from fisheries at the Dingman mound site to discuss erosion control measures. Mike Finlay, DNR Forestry Supervisor, reported on timber harvests at Bakken's Pond near Spring Green and Amenda Road near Mazomanie. He said firewood sales to the public continue to be a useful habitat management tool.

During the public comment session, Timm Zumm, FLOW President, thanked Kellogg and his crew for picking up trash and cleaning up messes at boat landings. He said a new "Kids Don't Float" kiosk will be installed at the Statz canoe launch near Sauk City by the Boy Scouts.

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