

# LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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## MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 10, 2020, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, September 10, 2020, via Zoom 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 Dick McFarlane. (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 Jim Czajkowski. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2020, meeting was made by LaBudde, seconded by Steve Williamson. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chair Dorscheid. Cupp said the Executive Committee had directed him to send a letter to Town of Troy, Sauk County, officials regarding a proposed long-distance shooting range at the Ringlestetter farm on STH 60 east of Spring Green. The letter outlined the LWSRB role in permitting for activities that fall under the board's jurisdiction. The letter did not take a position for/against the proposal. Cupp said the Town of Troy Planning Commission had turned down the proposal on a 3-2 vote but additional review and action may occur at the county and town levels.

Cupp said the designation of Riverway wetlands as Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance had garnered a great deal of positive media attention. He said a meeting with Town of Arena, Iowa County, officials regarding a safety concern had taken place. Dorscheid also attended the meeting. A recreational user conflict between operators of motorized watercraft and swimmers/waders on a narrow and curvy side channel near Trader's Island had come to an impasse because town officials declined to pass a local "slow, no wake" ordinance due to liability concerns. Signage was discussed as an option but would not be allowed under the Riverway law and would be unenforceable by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) without a local ordinance in place. Cupp said the matter doesn't fall under the board's purview and suggested the Town of Arena and DNR should continue dialogue.

Under Operations Committee business, Cupp said a riprap repair project on the Larry Anding property in the Town of Arena, Iowa County, had been approved. No LWSRB concerns at this time. Cupp met with a representative of Yahara Materials regarding a proposal for nonmetallic mining in the Town of Roxbury, Dane County. The former Lloyd Carlson property is located on STH 188 near the Wollersheim Winery. Cupp said a sand extraction site on the river side of STH 188 is not within the Riverway boundary. No LWSRB permits would be required for that activity. A potential stone quarry on the bluff side of the roadway would be within the Riverway and the board may have a permitting role if that project moves forward. No permit application has been received. The matter must go through Dane County Zoning for approval before further action is taken.

Cupp said he would be meeting with a DNR forester to review removal of a pine plantation near Gotham. He reported permits had been issued to Eric Rapp, Town of Clyde, Iowa County, for extension of an existing berm to control road noise. The activity will not be visible from the river. A permit was issued to Mary Burke for construction of a greenhouse on lands not visible from the river during leaf-on conditions in the Town of Troy, Sauk County.

The Budget Committee report was presented by Cupp who reviewed the status of the FY 21 budget. He noted the budget request for the 2021-2023 biennial budget would be submitted on September 15<sup>th</sup>. A minor increase based on standard budget adjustments is anticipated.

Under Personnel Committee business, Cupp requested board members return the Executive Director performance evaluation forms to him by e-mail or regular mail. He said the performance evaluation of Executive Assistant Marsha Curtis will be conducted by him and shared with the committee. Cupp complimented Curtis on her job performance and said he appreciated her willingness to adapt to unusual conditions created by COVID and the need to adopt new technologies.

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.

Under board members business, Steve Wetter asked when the board might meet face to face again. Cupp said it is impossible to predict but he didn't expect any change in the immediate future.

The DNR report was presented by Jesse Kellogg, DNR Riverway Manager, who said a 20-acre parcel in the bottomlands near Ferry Bluff had been acquired. Williamson asked if new Riverway signs would be posted. Kellogg said he was working with highway officials to assure the signs are properly located. Cupp noted two endowment funds for Riverway projects are administered by the Natural Resources Foundation. The Lower Wisconsin Riverway Fund was established by former DNR Wildlife Biologist Paul Brandt. Recently, a new bird-centric fund was established by William Floyd Cairns. Additional information may be found at [wisconservation.org](http://wisconservation.org).

During the public comment session, Timm Zumm, FLOW President, noted a new "Kids Don't Float" kiosk was installed at the Statz canoe launch near Sauk City by the Boy Scouts. Charles Rathman, FLOW Vice-President, said an event to honor local film maker Dave Erickson will be held at the Starlite 14 Drive-In Theater in Richland Center on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

A motion to adjourn was made by Wetter, 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.