

# LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

202 N. Wisconsin Avenue  
P.O. Box 187  
Muscodia, WI 53573  
(608) 739-3188 or 1-800-221-3792

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

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, December 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 exceptions of Ritchie Brown and Steve Williamson. (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 November 12, 2020, meeting was made by Steve Wetter, seconded by LaBudde. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Dorscheid. Cupp reviewed correspondence. He said the LWSRB continues to follow state guidelines related to COVID-19, which includes no face-to-face meetings until at least April 2, 2021. Cupp said he filed appropriate paperwork with the state regarding non-discrimination for hiring. Cupp said the Executive Committee has suggested the board forego the January meeting since the agenda is projected to be light. A motion to skip the January 14, 2021, LWSRB meeting was made by Czajkowski, seconded by Dick McFarlane. **MOTION CARRIED.** The proposed 2021 meeting schedule was presented. The February and March meetings will be conducted via Zoom. The locations of meetings beyond that time frame will be determined. A motion to approve the 2021 meeting schedule was made by Wetter, seconded by LaBudde. **MOTION CARRIED.**

February 11, 2021	Zoom Meeting
March 11, 2021	Zoom Meeting
April 8, 2021	To Be Determined
May 13, 2021	To Be Determined
June 10, 2021	To Be Determined
July 8, 2021	To Be Determined
August 12, 2021	To Be Determined
September 9, 2021	To Be Determined
October 14, 2021	To Be Determined
November 11, 2021	To Be Determined
December 9, 2021	To Be Determined

The guest speaker for the meeting was Travis Anderson, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Wildlife Biologist, who discussed the importance of wetlands to wildlife. Anderson noted the high quality of the wetlands and bottomland forests in the Riverway. These areas represent critical habitat for species from salamanders to birds to beavers. He said the Riverway has the highest quota for wood duck banding in the state and also maintains one of the highest populations of red-shouldered hawks, a state listed species of special concern.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Cupp who noted Anderson had requested extensions to four management permits for activities in Dane, Iowa, and Sauk counties. Anderson the activities involve use of a forestry mower to control invasive species and woody vegetation. The sites are not visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions and include:

- Wyoming Unit
- Mazomanie Unit
- Bakkens Pond Unit; and,
- Avoca Unit

A motion to approve two-year extensions for the management permits was made by Wetter, seconded by Czajkowski. **MOTION CARRIED.**

A timber harvest permit application from Mike Degen of the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation for areas near Taliesin in the Town of Wyoming, Iowa County, was considered. The consultant is John Nielsen of Nielsen Forestry. Cupp said a field inspection was conducted on December 7, 2020. Mr. Degen and Mr. Nielsen also were present for the field inspection. Nielsen said plans call for selective harvest of merchantable hardwoods in the Bluff Zone and Riverview Zone and small regenerations cuts in the Riverview Zone and Resource Management Zone. No new roads will be constructed. The activity is consistent with other oak woodland, oak savanna, and prairie restoration efforts on the property. There will be additional tree removal in fence lines and pasture areas for enhancement of the agricultural use of the property as well as removal of trees causing a hazard to some buildings on the estate.

A motion to approve issuance of a permit with standard conditions was made by Czajkowski, seconded by LaBudde. Conditions of the permit would include:

- 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.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Cupp said he had issued an extension to a management permit for The Nature Conservancy for prairie restoration work at the Spring Green Preserve in the Town of Spring Green, Sauk County. He said a proposal by Meister Cheese Company of Muscoda to expand a wastewater treatment area is located within the Village of Muscoda and, therefore, does not require a permit from the LWSRB. The activity will not be visible from the river. Cupp said the Public Service Commission has created a docket for public review of the American Transmission Company river crossing near Hill Slough west of Spring Green. The LWSRB previously had issued a permit for new poles at that location. He noted the marking of trees to be retained in the pine plantation at the Gotham Sands State Natural Area has been completed as of December 9<sup>th</sup>. Cupp said he is researching a possible violation in the Town of Wauzeka, Crawford County.

The Budget Committee report was presented by Chairman McFarlane who reviewed the status of the FY 21 budget.

There was no report from the Personnel Committee.

**MINUTES/DECEMBER 10, 2020**

**Page -3-**

The Executive Director's report was given by Cupp who reviewed materials in the meeting packets.

Under board members business, LaBudde complimented the DNR on the new Riverway unit signage.

The DNR report was presented by Mike Finlay, DNR Forester, who reviewed active timber sales in the Riverway and those planned to begin soon or sometime in 2021.

During the public comment session, Timm Zumm, FLOW President, commented on eagle sightings in the Riverway. He said the FLOW annual meeting will be held virtually on January 30, 2021. Free FLOW memberships are currently offered.

A motion to adjourn was made by Wetter, 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.