

# LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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## MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 11, 2021, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, February 11, 2021, via Zoom to conduct a regular monthly business meeting. The meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m. by Chair Jerry Dorscheid. All members were present with the exceptions of Dick McFarlane and Ritchie Brown. (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 December 10, 2020, meeting was made by Steve Williamson, seconded by Czajkowski. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chair Dorscheid who asked Cupp to report on correspondence. Cupp said he had given a Zoom presentation the Wisconsin Woodlands Association annual conference. The topic was identifying and protecting Native American earthworks on private lands. Cupp also spoke to the Friends of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway (FLOW) annual meeting via Zoom and thanked FLOW for their support of the Riverway. He recognized Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Conservation Warden David Youngquist for receiving the FLOW Riverway Champion award.

Cupp said he had been contacted by an Avoca area resident regarding signage and access at the Avoca Prairie. He asked Jesse Kellogg, DNR Riverway Property Manager, to report on his contact with the constituent. Kellogg said new signage will be placed at the Hay Lane entrance and that plans are underway to extend the road to the riverbank as it used to be years ago. Cupp reviewed the semi-annual report from the Pattison Sand Company which indicated there had been no non-metallic mining activities in the Riverway at the Bridgeport mine in Crawford County. Cupp commented that the number of requests for mounds brochures has been unusually strong in recent months. He said he has been in contact with the Governor's office regarding appointments to the board.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Cupp. The permit request of Steve Harrington for a timber harvest in the Town of Arena, Iowa County, was considered. Field inspection was conducted by Cupp in conjunction with previous permit activity at the site. In addition, Mike Finlay, DNR Forester, met with the consultant at the site in early February. Finlay said plans call for a salvage harvest due to oak wilt. In addition, the selective harvest of merchantable hardwoods will occur. No new roads will be constructed. Patrick Guyse of Nelson Hardwoods said it is a good time of year to implement the oak wilt prescription by removing trees from the diseased area. He said the logging job should be completed by spring. A motion to approve issuance of a timber harvest permit with the following standard conditions was made by Williamson, seconded by Steve Wetter:

- 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,

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- The LWSRB shall review modification of the plans, as submitted, for compliance with the applicable performance standards.

### **MOTION CARRIED.**

The permit request of Robert Lloyd for a structure permit in the Town of Wauzeka, Crawford County was considered. Field inspection was conducted by Cupp on December 9, 2020. Other field inspections have been conducted by Cupp in conjunction with previous permit activity at the site by the former landowner. Plans call for construction of a 24 ft. x 32 ft. x 10 ft. (wall height) shed with brown siding and green roof. Adequate screening vegetation exists. There will be a limited amount of glass facing the river. The slope of the site is consistent with the Riverway performance standard. The structure will be visually inconspicuous when viewed from the river during leaf-on conditions. A motion to approve issuance of a structure permit with the following standard conditions was made by Randy Poelma, seconded by Wetter:

- 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 and shall not exceed 16 feet;
- The exterior colorization of the structure, including roof color, shall harmonize with the natural surroundings during leaf-on conditions and shall be reviewed for compliance with the Riverway regulations and approved prior to initiation on construction;
- There shall be a limited amount of glass or other reflective material visible from the river;
- The LWSRB shall review any modifications to the plans, as submitted, for compliance with the applicable performance standards;
- The landowner or his/her agent shall notify the LWSRB upon completion of the project; and,
- The activity shall comply with all other federal, state and local regulations.

### **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cupp said Jeanette Wisler wishes to rehabilitate a barn visible from the river in the Town of Clyde, Iowa County. The structure is located across from the Otter Creek boat landing, on STH 130, near Lone Rock. Cupp said the barn will not be larger in size or more visible from the river upon completion of the repairs. He reviewed the exemption to the permit process for routine maintenance activities as well as the exemption for agricultural structures. No timetable was provided for initiation of the project.

The requests for permits on adjoining properties in the Town of Watterstown, Grant County, were discussed. Cupp explained the property owners are Cloverland Farms, Inc. and Dave and Karen Degenhardt. The Cloverland Farms parcel (formerly known as the Jack and Sally Kinney farm) will involve harvest of trees not visible from the river near the base of the bluff. The Degenhardt harvest mostly will occur within the Resource Management Zone but 12 trees will be harvest in the Bluff Zone. Aesthetic impact will be minimal. The consultant is Andrew Nelson of Nelson Forest Industries. Cupp noted the applications were not received until after the public meeting notice had been distributed. Therefore, board action would not be taken at the meeting. Cupp will process the permits unless there were objections from the board. Dorscheid noted there were no objections.

Cupp reported he had issued two permits for timber harvests on lands not visible from the river during leaf-on conditions. A permit was issued to Byron Hillberry for a parcel in the Town of Richwood, Richland County, near the mouth of Byrd's Creek. A salvage harvest of ash due to an Emerald Ash Borer infestation was planned. Williamson reported the harvest has been completed. Cupp said he issued a general permit to Bob Hilger for a timber harvest on the "back side" of the bluff along CTH C in the Town of Woodman, Grant County. A harvest on adjacent DNR lands

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is ongoing and Hilger was approached by the logger to take some trees from his parcel. No visual impacts when viewed from the river.

The Budget Committee report was presented by Cupp who reviewed the status of the FY 21 budget. He said Governor Evers will release his Executive Budget proposal on February 16<sup>th</sup>.

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 including activities/correspondence, river flow chart and articles of interest. Cupp said he appeared before the Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee regarding re-appointment to the Land and Water Conservation Board.

Under board members business, Wetter asked Finlay about assistance to municipalities for replacement of ash trees in parks and on streets. Finlay suggested contacted the DNR Urban Forester Brian Wahl for information, including the Tree City USA program. Wetter also described major renovations planned for the Boscobel boat landing and asked if any LWSRB permits were required. Cupp said Riverway Board issued permits are not required for activities on lands within an incorporated municipality.

The DNR report was given by Kellogg who said work to protect the Dingman mound group in the Town of Eagle, Richland County, was expected to start soon. Finlay reported on active timber harvests on state owned lands. LaBudde asked if there will be more prescribed burns in 2021 since the 2020 season was curtailed due to the pandemic. Finlay said the number of targeted acres sought this year will be the same depending on COVID-19 guidelines. The goal is 18,000-24,000 acres most of which is located in southern Wisconsin.

During public comment, Forest Jahnke of the Crawford Stewardship Project reported 2021 is the International Year of Caves and Karst. He said an Environmental Impact Statement has been requested for the proposed new Roth feeder pig CAFO in Crawford County. Barb Jenkin of Spring Green asked if Pattison Sand Company was going out of business. Cupp said he was not aware of any business news regarding Pattison. Gilliam Pomplun, reporter with the Independent Scout, noted a proposal for a watershed study in the Kickapoo River basin related to discharges from municipal wastewater treatment plants.

A motion to adjourn was made by Czajkowski, 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.