

LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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MINUTES OF THE MAY 13, 2021, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, May 13, 2021, via Zoom to conduct a regular monthly business meeting. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Acting Chair Gigi LaBudde. All members were present with the exception of Ritchie Brown. (NOTES: Two vacancies exist. Jerry Dorscheid joined the meeting at 5:15 p.m.) 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 Wetter, seconded by Dick McFarlane. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2021, meeting was made by Wetter, seconded by Steve Williamson. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Vice-Chair LaBudde who introduced guest presenter Eddie Shea, DNR Wildlife Biologist. Shea reviewed major habitat restoration projects in Grant, Crawford and Richland counties. He said work continues in the battle against non-native invasive species. Prescribed burning is used as a management tool at some sites. Spring surveys of wildlife have been completed or are continuing. Work on the Cruson Slough water retention structure is anticipated in 2022. Questions were asked about seeding of new prairies, beaver populations and wildlife habitat objectives for Cruson Slough following the partial drawdown and repairs.

Cupp said there have not been appointments made to board vacancies. Dorscheid asked about the STH 133 project between Lone Rock and Muscodia. Cupp said he would have to check into the schedule.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Cupp. The timber permit request of Trevor Hamdorf on behalf of DNR, Town of Muscodia, Grant County was considered. Field inspection was conducted by Cupp in conjunction with previous permit activity at the site. Hamdorf said plans call for harvesting of 110 acres to enhance sand barrens restoration. The northern portion of the harvest area (approximately 66 acres) is within the Riverway boundary. The site is not visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. No new roads will be constructed. The site is adjacent to the Blue River Sand Barrens, which is located east of Blue River near the Fish Trap Flowage. The tract formerly was owned by Rudy Nigl, a longtime DNR forester in Richland County. A motion to approve two-year management permit was made by Wetter, seconded by Williamson. Conditions of the permit include:

- 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.

Cupp said he and DNR Forester Mike Finlay had met with a landowner in the Town of Wauzeka, Crawford County, regarding an oak wilt problem in her woodlot. Cupp said he had conducted a field inspection in the Town of Wauzeka, Crawford County, to assess construction of a barn and possible construction of a new home and garage. He said a follow-up inspection during leaf-on conditions will be required.

The Budget Committee report was presented by Cupp who reviewed the status of the FY 21 budget. He noted the Joint Committee on Finance had approved the LWSRB budget request for the next biennium.

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.

The DNR report was given by DNR Riverway Property Manager Jesse Kellogg who said the new steps to provide access to Honey Creek at Ferry Bluff in the Town of Prairie du Sac, Sauk County, had been completed. He will begin work soon on extension of Hay Lane across the Avoca Prairie to the river in the Town of Pulaski, Iowa County. Phase I of the Dingman mound group erosion control project has been completed in the Town of Eagle, Richland County.

During public comment, Forest Jahnke of the Crawford Stewardship Project said his group will host a farm forum. The group continues to oppose the proposed hog CAFO in Crawford County. Jahnke encouraged all to offer public comments and/or attend a public hearing.

Timm Zumm of the Friends of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway (FLOW) noted the starhead topminnow project has been a great success. He said adult XL personal flotation devices are needed for the Kids Don't Float kiosks. The new safety coalition continues to meet. FLOW volunteers continue to work at the Blue River Sand Barrens.

A motion to adjourn was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Wetter. **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.