

LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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MINUTES OF THE JUNE 10, 2021, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, June 10, 2021, via Zoom to conduct a regular monthly business meeting. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chair Jerry Dorscheid. All members were present with the exception of Ritchie Brown. (NOTE: Two vacancies exist.) 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 May 13, 2021, meeting was made by Steve Wetter, seconded by LaBudde. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chair Dorscheid who asked Cupp to report on correspondence. Cupp said Department of Administration (DOA) guidance on COVID-19 protocols suggests a return to in-person meetings is possible with appropriate physical distancing and with unvaccinated individuals required to wear masks. The LWSRB office will transition to normal office hours by July 1st. A motion to return to in-person meetings beginning in July was made by Wetter, seconded by LaBudde. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to hold the July 8th meeting in Muscodia was made by Wetter, seconded by Steve Williamson. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cupp then reviewed his recommendation that the voyageur replica canoe trips hosted by the LWSRB be postponed until September or cancelled for 2021. He cited safety of staff, volunteers, and patrons as the basis for his recommendation. A motion to postpone the trips until September, if the boats are available and if COVID protocols will allow, was made by Wetter, seconded by Randy Poelma. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cupp said Wetter's re-appointment to the LWSRB was finalized by Governor Tony Evers. There has not been any communication regarding the Dane or Crawford counties appointments or the vacancy of an "at-large" position.

During the Operations Committee report, Cupp provided images of a proposed building site on Sprosty Hill Road in the Town of Wauzeka. He also showed images of a completed garage also on Sprosty Hill Road. He said an extension to a management permit for black locust removal will be issued to Mike Finlay on behalf of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The Budget Committee report was presented by McFarlane who reviewed the status of the FY 21 budget. Cupp said the Legislature's Joint Committee on Finance continues work on the state budget, but the LWSRB budget request remains fully funded.

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.

Under business from board members, LaBudde recognized Poelma for his work on a pollinator program near Prairie du Sac. Williamson highlighted highway construction projects between Muscodia

and Richland Center on STH 80 and on the CTH T bridge at Blue River. Cupp noted a project will start on STH 133 between Lone Rock and Muscoda with projects ongoing at the STH 23 bridge at Spring Green and on USH 14 at Mazomanie.

The DNR report was given by Mike Finlay, DNR Forestry, who said the drought has created a high fire danger with many personnel resources spent on staffing due to the fire risks. He said a few timber harvest permits for state lands will be forthcoming. Activity continues at the Munz tract in the Town of Millville, Grant County. He noted Eddie Shea, DNR Wildlife Biologist, will be transferring from Boscobel to a station in northern Wisconsin. Cupp noted phase I of the Dingman mound group erosion control project had been completed but a large area of disturbed ground remains open on the west side of the ravine.

During public comment, Timm Zumm, FLOW President, presented a report on the starhead topminnow project undertaken by the FLOW Science Team. The project was a great success. He said planning continues under the guise of the Riverway Safety Coalition. Zumm said the second annual Pride Paddle is slated for Saturday, June 26th.

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