

LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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MINUTES OF THE JULY 8, 2021, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, July 8, 2021, at the Kratochwill Memorial Building in Muscodia 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 exceptions of Ritchie Brown and Gigi LaBudde. (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 Steve Wetter, seconded by Dick McFarlane. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2021, meeting was made by Steve Wetter, seconded by Steve Williamson. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chair Dorscheid who introduced guest speaker Drew Nussbaum from the Department of Tourism. Nussbaum discussed the state of the tourism industry in the pandemic era and trends in outdoor recreation. He said state park attendance and outdoor recreation in general did well in 2020 and thus far in 2021 the trend is the same. One of the biggest issues facing the tourism industry in 2021 is the shortage of qualified workers. He noted continued promotion is needed and encouraged people to remain positive. He said the travelwisconsin.com website is the place to note events, attractions, lodging, dining, etc.

Cupp then reported on correspondence. He said Department of Administration (DOA) guidance on COVID-19 protocols have not changed since the last meeting. The board will conduct in-person meetings until further notice with staff working on ways to implement an option for virtual attendance. The August 12th meeting will be held in Boscobel.

Cupp said the Village of Muscodia had declined the opportunity to explore purchase of the riverfront property downstream of the STH 80 bridge in Muscodia.

Cupp said meeting documents for board members will transition to electronic documents unless paper copies are requested. He noted the Dorscheid had requested paper documents and suggested anyone else who wants to continue to receive hard copies should feel free to contact the office to make that request.

Cupp discussed appointments. He said the Governor's office had received nominees from Dane and Crawford counties and should act soon on those appointments. No progress yet on the at-large slot(s).

During the Operations Committee report, Acting Chair Wetter said an application had been received for a timber harvest on the Friar Century Farm in the Town of Woodman, Grant County. Field inspections have been conducted by Cupp in conjunction with previous permit activity at the site. An additional field inspection will be required prior to initiation of the harvest. Plans call for the selective harvest of merchantable hardwoods. No new roads will be constructed. The majority of the harvest area will not be visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. A motion to approve a two-year timber harvest permit was made by Wetter, seconded by McFarlane. Conditions of the permit include:

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- 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.

An extension to a previously issued permit for a timber harvest on state owned lands on Munz Lane in the Town of Millville, Grant County, was considered. Field inspections have been conducted by Cupp and the LWSRB Operations Committee in conjunction with previous permit activities at the site. Plans call for 11 patch clear cuts totaling 22 acres in the Riverview Zone and Resource Management Zone. No harvesting will occur within the Bluff Zone. Most of the small regeneration cuts will not be visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions.

Trevor Hamdorf, DNR Forester, contacted Cupp to determine if the logger, Jeremie Cooper, could begin the harvest before leaf-off conditions. Cupp noted a condition of the permit requires the harvest in the Riverview Zone to occur during leaf-off conditions. The harvest in the Resource Zone is not subject to seasonal restrictions. The LWSRB could provide some flexibility to allow harvest in the Riverview Zone in mid-September rather than waiting until October when the "leaf-off" standard typically is initiated. A motion to extend the permit for a period of two years was made by Wetter, seconded by McFarlane.

Conditions of the permit include:

- The harvest shall comply with the basal area limits for the residual stand in the Riverview Zone and as detailed in Chapter NR 37, Wisconsin Administrative Code;
- In the Riverview Zone, all trees selected for harvest or leave trees shall be appropriately marked and reviewed by the LWSRB for compliance with the applicable performance standards prior to initiation of the harvest;
- In the 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 Riverview Zone;

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- 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;
- If necessary, the various zones shall be delineated prior to initiation of the harvest;
- 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 reported he had met with Scott Harvey regarding a non-metallic mining permit for a sand pit operation in the Town of Millville, Grant County, on the Scott Winkers property. Field inspections have been conducted by Cupp in conjunction with previous permit activity at the property. In addition, Cupp met with Mr. Harvey at the site on June 15, 2017. Plans call for continuation of the nonmetallic mining operation (sand pit) on lands not visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. There is a historic cemetery on the property which has a state required buffer zone.

Cupp conducted a field inspection on July 7, 2021. Mr. Harvey was present for the field inspection. The purpose of the field inspection was to determine compliance with the previously issued permit which had expired in 2019. The conditions of the original permit are listed below. Compliance with first compliance had been achieved and remains in effect based on the footprint of the mine. Same for condition #2. Condition #3 was met by Cupp's site visit on July 7, 2021. Condition #4 is met due to the cemetery being in area where a reclamation plan has been implemented. The product is used for bedding for dairy cattle. Cupp recommended issuance of an extension for a period of five years with retention of the original permit conditions and a required field inspection during calendar year 2023. Failure to comply with the conditions of the permit could result in the permit being revoked or suspended.

A motion to issue a five-year nonmetallic mining permit with the following conditions was made by Wetter, seconded by McFarlane. Conditions include:

- The nonmetallic mining operations shall not be visible from the Wisconsin River;
- No stockpiled material or equipment shall be visible from the Wisconsin River;
- Any changes to the current sand pit operation (expansion across the sand road) shall be reviewed for compliance with the Riverway law prior to implementing the modification to current operations;
- The historic cemetery shall be protected according to state law;
- The LWSRB or staff shall conduct a field inspection at the site during calendar year 2023; and,
- The activity shall comply with all other federal, state, and local ordinances.

MOTION CARRIED.

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Mike Finlay, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), said the harvest of a pine plantation at the Gotham Sands State Natural Area will be modified due to the presence of an archeological site in the vicinity.

The Budget Committee report was presented by Chair McFarlane who reviewed the status of the FY 21 budget. Cupp said Governor Evers had signed the state budget. The LWSRB budget request will be 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, Williamson said the CTH T bridge between Blue River and Port Andrew will be closed between July 12th and 21st for deck repairs.

The DNR report was given by Jesse Kellogg, DNR Riverway Property Manager, who noted clearing work at the Helena Lake access in the Town of Arena, Iowa County, had been completed. He said the extension of Hay Lane to the river at the Avoca Prairie in the Town of Pulaski, Iowa County, had been completed as well. New signage has been installed at DNR properties throughout the Riverway. A meeting was held recently to discuss the restoration work at the Battle of Wisconsin Heights site in the Town of Mazomanie, Dane County.

Finlay said high water in the bottomlands has resulted in many silver maple trees suffering mortality. The combination of high water for a sustained period along with the Emerald Ash Borer infestation has resulted in many dead trees throughout the Riverway. Wetter asked about spraying activities initiated from the Boscobel Airport. Finlay said gypsy moth spraying continues in the area with infestations reported in Grant County this year.

During public comment, Mark Storti, Iowa County Board Supervisor from the Town of Pulaski, thanked the DNR for the work on Hay Lane Road. Charles Rathman, FLOW Secretary, said the group has been actively involved in the search for a drowning victim on the river.

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