

LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 12, 2021, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, August 12, 2021, at the City Hall in Boscobel 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 Dick McFarlane, seconded by Gigi LaBudde. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2021, meeting was made by Steve Wetter, seconded by Steve Williamson. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chair Dorscheid who introduced Misty Molzof, Boscobel City Administrator. Molzof gave an update on the Wisconsin River Trail project. Plans call for a hiking and biking trail from the Floyd Von Haden boat landing to the city and then west toward Woodman. Eventually, a river crossing between Woodman and Wauzeka is anticipated with another segment from Wauzeka to Boscobel.

Cupp then reported on correspondence. He said the latest COVID-19 guidance from the Department of Administration requires state employees to wear masks regardless of vaccination status when in state buildings or on state business. He said a decision on doing the voyageur canoe trips in September will be made in the coming weeks but cautioned it is unlikely the trips will take place. Cupp said he is waiting for final word on appointments for Crawford and Dane counties.

During the Operations Committee report, several permits for timber harvest activities on state owned lands were discussed. Trevor Hamdorf and Mike Finlay from Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Forestry requested a permit for a small group selection harvest in the Town of Millville, Grant County. The harvest area will encompass the Riverview Zone and Resource Management Zone. The parcel is 129 acres and is located off Campbell Ridge Road. This is the former Shea parcel. The harvest will consist mainly of red oak, maple, and basswood with miscellaneous other species. Harvest time will be limited to October 31st to March 30th. Some new roads may be required. All roads must follow Best Management Practices (BMP) guidelines. The harvest will occur in the Riverview Zone and Resource Management Zone.

A motion to approve issuance of a permit with the following standard conditions was made by Williamson, seconded by LaBudde:

- 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;

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- 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.

Scott Lancaster and Mike Finlay submitted several permit requests for activities in Sauk, Dane, and Iowa counties. Lancaster explained the first permit will involve a parcel in the Town of Troy, Sauk County. At the Cassell Prairie bottomlands, 107 acres will be harvested in patches between 3 and 6 acres in size. A 100-foot buffer between the river and the harvest area will be maintained to protect the River Edge Zone. The harvest area is located within the Resource Management Zone and will not be visible from the river during leaf-on conditions. The purpose of the harvest is to enhance oak regeneration. Site preparation has been completed and tree planting has been conducted. A motion to approve a general permit for the activity was made by Williamson, seconded by McFarlane, with the following standard conditions:

- 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.

At the Mazomanie Dog Trial Grounds and associated lands, Lancaster said 91 acres will be harvest as the first step in a shelterwood harvest. The parcel is located west of CTH Y. Smaller diameter trees will be harvested with larger diameter trees retained to provide a seed source. Additional management activities will follow. The site is not visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-conditions. A motion to approve a general permit for the activity was made by Williamson, seconded by McFarlane, with the following standard conditions:

- 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.

Nearby, at the Mazomanie Oak Barrens, Lancaster said the existing 26-acre white pine plantation will be liquidated to convert the area to a barrens habitat type consistent with the adjacent land use management. The site is located on CTH Y and is not visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on

conditions. A motion to approve a general permit for the activity was made by Williamson, seconded by McFarlane, with the following standard conditions:

- 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.

Lancaster said there are two harvests planned for a parcel in the Town of Pulaski, Iowa County. At the Lemanski tract, now known as the Marsh Creek Area, 75 acres will be converted to an oak barrens habitat type over time. The first step will be a pulpwood harvest with retention of larger trees. Additional management activities will enhance the barrens conversion in ensuing years. The site is not visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. An existing permit will require a two-year extension. A motion to that effect was made by Williamson, seconded by McFarlane. **MOTION CARRIED.** The second harvest at the Lemanski tract is a 42-acre site that will undergo a shelterwood harvest. The mature oak forest is in decline due to age, disease, and wind damage. Larger healthy oak will be retained. Smaller trees and compromised oaks will be removed. 13,500 seedlings have been underplanted comprised of swamp white oak, burr oak and white oak. There will be additional management activities in the future. The site is not visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf on conditions. A motion to approve a general permit for the activity was made by Williamson, seconded by McFarlane, with the following standard conditions:

- 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 reported he is working with Hamdorf and Finlay on another harvest in the Town of Marietta, Crawford County, but the permit application is not ready for consideration. He gave an update on several Department of Transportation (DOT) projects. He said the STH 130 bridge replacement at Lone Rock is slated for 2024. He will review proposed rock cuts associated with the project in the coming weeks. The STH 133 re-surfacing project between Avoca and Lone Rock has been completed. The STH 80 re-surfacing project between Muscoda and Richland Center is expected to be done by the end of August. The reconstruction of STH 60 between Muscoda and Gotham is now projected to occur in 2025.

Cupp said work has been initiated on a transmission line project in the Spring Green area. The LWSRB previously issued a permit and a condition thereof required notification to the board upon the project's start. He said a contractor for Dairyland Power had contacted him regarding right of way maintenance near Boscobel. Cupp requested the area adjacent to the river not be cleared to preserve the natural look as much as possible.

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Cupp and Finlay conducted a field inspection in the Town of Wauzeka, Crawford County. A proposed house and garage on Sprosty Hill Road were evaluated for height limitations. A permit application has not been received. A landowner with oak wilt problems also was visited to review the latest condition of the woodlot.

The Budget Committee report was presented by Chair McFarlane who reviewed the final report of the FY 21 budget. He then reported the status of FY 22 budget.

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, McFarlane said he has been interested in the work at the Savanna Institute in Sauk County. LaBudde noted the prevalence of poison ivy at Cactus Bluff. Dorscheid said a presentation on the railroad in the Mazomanie area will be given at the Arena Historians meeting. He noted his neighbor's historic home is now a Bed & Breakfast.

The DNR report was given by Jesse Kellogg, DNR Riverway Manager, who said his crew has been busy cleaning up from storm damage.

During public comment, Sarah Barren from the Crawford Stewardship Program said the organization continues to oppose the proposed Roth hog farm CAFO and has requested DNR conduct an environmental impact statement.

Timm Zumm, President of the Friends of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway (FLOW), thanked Kellogg for assistance in cleaning up the USH 14 boat landing at Spring Green. He noted FLOW assisted with a Savanna Institute tour and continues to assist with the search for Parker Kruse who drowned on July 3rd but who has not yet been found. He said work continues on the Riverway Safety Coalition.

Mark Storti, Town of Pulaski, thanked the DNR for work on opening Hay Lane to the river and noted people are using the new access road.

Cupp thanked McFarlane for his years of service to the board in case the Dane County appointment would be made prior to the next meeting. He said McFarlane made many contributions to the board other than being Fred Madison's chauffeur.

A motion to adjourn was made by McFarlane, 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.