

LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 9, 2021, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, September 9, 2021, at the Kratochwill Memorial Building in Muscodá 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, Randall Poelma and Lara Czajkowski-Higgins. (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 Steve Williamson. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2021, meeting was made by Steve Wetter, seconded by LaBudde. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chair Dorscheid. Cupp noted appointments had been appointed to fill the slots for Crawford and Dane counties. Lara Czajkowski-Higgins and Meredith Beckman were to those positions respectively. Czajkowski-Higgins was unable to attend the meeting. Cupp welcomed Beckman to the board, and she introduced herself as a resident of the Town of Mazomanie with 50 acres of land where she is engaged in a prairie restoration effort. She is retired from the finance industry and works part-time at the Sauk Prairie School District.

Interim committee appointments were discussed. Cupp noted the addition of two new members requires shuffling of committee assignments. He said the appointments to the respective committees will retain the "interim" label because a vacancy (at-large position) remains. A motion to approve the following Interim Committee Appointments was made by LaBudde, seconded by Williamson. **MOTION CARRIED.**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Jerry Dorscheid (Chair)
Gigi LaBudde (Vice-Chair)
Steve Williamson (Secretary)

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:

Steve Wetter (Chair)
Randy Poelma
Gigi LaBudde
Steve Williamson (Alternate)

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

Randy Poelma (Chair)
Lara Czajkowski Higgins
Meredith Beckman
Ritchie Brown (Alternate)

BUDGET & OFFICE COMMITTEE:

Steve Williamson (Chair)
Lara Czajkowski Higgins
Meredith Beckman
Ritchie Brown (Alternate)

Cupp said he is working with the Wisconsin Wetlands Association and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to establish signage in the Riverway regarding the designation of Riverway wetlands as "Wetlands of International Importance" under the Ramsar Convention. He noted COVID-19 protocols remain in

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effect with the requirement that unvaccinated persons who visit the office must wear a face covering. Cupp said the Delta variant surge in Wisconsin has made cancellation of the voyageur canoe trips for 2021 prudent. A motion to cancel the trips for this year was made by Wetter, seconded by Beckman. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Jesse Kellogg, DNR Riverway Property Manager, then distributed an organizational chart for DNR staff working in the Riverway. He noted a new wildlife biologist will be stationed at Boscobel soon. Cupp noted the chart doesn't include the private lands forestry personnel. Kellogg said that was an oversight on his part. He said quarterly meetings are held across disciplines to enhance communications and to discuss ongoing work activities.

During the Operations Committee report, Chair Wetter said Cupp had issued a management permit to Mike Finlay/DNR for habitat work at the former Mathews tract in the Town of Clyde, Iowa County. Cupp then presented digital images of the area near the proposed new Lone Rock STH 130 bridge from the existing bridge downstream several hundred feet (Iowa County side). Cupp said the Department of Transportation (DOT) requested the board's input on possible rock cuts instead of retaining walls in that area as well as across from Long Lake Park on the Richland County side. The Operations Committee visited both sites prior to the board meeting. The committee accepted Cupp's recommendation that the LWSRB provide preliminary approval of the rock cuts concept with the condition that the LWSRB shall review the final plans for the rock cuts on both sides of the river. A motion to that effect was made by Wetter, seconded by LaBudde. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Budget Committee report was presented by Chair Williamson who reviewed the status of the FY 21 budget. Marsha Curtis, LWSRB Executive Assistant, reported there will be a new communications system in the office as mandated by the State of Wisconsin. There will be no interruption of service to the public once the migration occurs.

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 suggested DNR make improvements to the trail at Cactus Bluff and refurbish the signage at the Cactus Bluff overlook. Williamson noted STH 60 between Muscoda and Port Andrew will be resurfaced in 2022 as will STH 193 in the Town of Eagle, Richland County. The current DOT schedule calls for the reconstruction of STH 60 between Muscoda and Gotham to occur in 2025.

There was no DNR report.

During public comment, Charles Rathman, Friends of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway (FLOW) Secretary, said the new President of the organization is Don Golembiewski. He said a new committee structure is being developed. Rathman noted the science committee is working on a grant to study a pond in the Town of Mazomanie, Dane County. The waterbody is a former borrow pit for the STH 78 rebuild from several years ago.

A motion to adjourn was made by Williamson, 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.