

LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

202 N. Wisconsin Avenue
P.O. Box 187
Muscodia, WI 53573
(608) 739-3188 or 1-800-221-3792

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 14, 2021, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, October 14, 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, Steve Williamson, 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 Meredith Beckman. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2021, meeting was made by Steve Wetter, seconded by LaBudde. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chair Dorscheid. Dorscheid and Cupp presented Marsha Curtis, LWSRB Executive Assistant, with a plaque commemorating her 20th work anniversary with the Riverway Board. Cupp thanked Curtis for her two decades of commitment to the project. Dorscheid and LaBudde also thanked Curtis for the many ways she assists board members, including dealing with difficult technological issues during the pandemic. Curtis thanked Cupp, the board and the public for their support over the years and said she enjoys working on an important project like the Riverway.

Dan Deneen, Friends of the Mazomanie Marsh, then spoke regarding the need for greater access to public lands in the Mazomanie Unit. He said the proximity to populated areas and the tremendous natural resources of the Riverway are too valuable to remain closed to the public. Jesse Kellogg, Jeremy Plautz and Nate Kroplein from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) discussed difficulties with opening the area around the former Mazo Beach. A plan for allowing the public to enter the area is under review by DNR officials but there is not a definitive timeline on when public use will be allowed.

Timm Zumm with the Riverway Safety Coalition reported on progress with a system to better respond to requests for assistance from Riverway users. He said the new system will allow users to send text messages and then a determination will be made as to the level of emergency. In some cases, local river users may be able to offer help instead of marshalling resources from local rescue teams or county law enforcement. The existing caution signs at boat landings may be used to spread awareness about the texting safety feature.

Cupp said the latest guidance from the State of Wisconsin regarding COVID-19 protocols has not changed since the September meeting. There is a requirement for testing of unvaccinated employees but that protocol doesn't affect Cupp or Curtis since both are vaccinated. Masks are required when attending meetings and unvaccinated individuals are asked to wear a mask when visiting the LWSRB office.

During the Operations Committee report, Chair Wetter asked Cupp to review pending permit applications. Cupp said Levi Plath of the Mississippi Valley Conservancy requested a permit for harvesting of timber near Boscobel. Field inspections have been conducted by Cupp in conjunction with previous permit activities in the vicinity. Plans call for a salvage harvest due to storm damage, removal of 5 acres of pine (plantation) and harvest of miscellaneous hardwoods. The purpose of the activity is to enhance the oak woodland and prairie plant communities at the site. A small portion of the site is visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. Randy Poelma made a motion, seconded by LaBudde, to approve issuance of a permit with the following standard conditions:

- 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.

Cupp said David Clutter had requested an extension to a previously issued management permit for a prairie restoration effort in the Town of Troy, Sauk County. A field inspection was conducted by Cupp and the LWSRB Operations Committee on September 14, 2017. Mr. Clutter and consultant Jeb Barzen also attended. Plans call for removal of woody vegetation to restore a native prairie/oak savanna on a bluff overlooking the Wisconsin River in the Troy Village Road vicinity. The existing house will remain visually inconspicuous during leaf-on conditions. The Operations Committee also visited the site in September of 2019. Mr. Clutter is expanding his prairie restoration to include additional cedar removal downslope and to the east. The existing permit conditions would remain in place. A motion to approve issuance of a two-year extension to the existing permit was made by Wetter, seconded by LaBudde. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cupp said Mike Finlay, DNR Forestry, requested a management permit for cutting of woody vegetation and invasive species in the Town of Prairie du Sac, Sauk County. Plans call for use of a forestry mower to remove invasive species and undesirable trees and woody vegetation as the first stage in restoration of the native plant community. The eventual goal is restoration of an oak woodland and prairie. A motion to approve issuance of a two-year management permit with the following standard conditions was made by Poelma, seconded by Wetter:

- No existing structure(s) shall become visible from the river as a result of the activity;
- The LWSRB shall approve of any modification to the plans, as submitted; and,
- The landowner or his/her agent shall notify the LWSRB upon initiation and completion of the activity.

MOTION CARRIED.

An extension to a previously issued timber harvest permit also was requested by Finlay for a parcel near Gotham was discussed. Cupp said the permit will allow for commercial harvesting of trees in the area in and around the Gotham Sands SNA. The activity is separate from a previously issued permit for removal of the pine plantation at the SNA. The permit has expired but the activity remains the same. A discussion on the emergence

MINUTES/OCTOBER 14, 2021

Page -3-

of pokeweed in the region ensued. A motion to approve issuance of a two-year extension with retention of the

original permit conditions was made by Poelma, seconded by Steve Wetter. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cupp said survey work continues in regard to the STH 130 bridge project at Lone Rock. The mussel survey was complete with discovery of any endangered mussels in the vicinity.

The Budget Committee report was presented by Acting Chair Meredith Beckman who reviewed the status of the 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. Cupp said he had toured the Little Blue timber sale with Scott Lancaster, DNR Forester. He said work to control erosion at the Dingman mound group in the Town of Eagle, Richland County, has not been completed. Kellogg noted he has a contractor ready to complete the work in the immediate future.

Under business from board members, there was no discussion.

There was no DNR report other than the information provided earlier in the meeting and there were no comments from the public.

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