

LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 13, 2022, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, January 13, 2022, to conduct a regular monthly business meeting. The meeting was conducted via Zoom conference call. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Gerald Dorscheid. All members were present. (NOTE: One vacancy exists.) Acknowledgment that the meeting was properly noticed was provided by Mark E. Cupp, Executive Director. A motion to move the agenda item related to the Lone Rock STH 130 bridge was made by Gigi La Budde, seconded by Steve Williamson. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Steve Wetter, seconded by La Budde. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2021, meeting was made by Wetter, seconded by La Budde. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Francis Schelfhout, Department of Transportation (DOT) Planner, was introduced and discussed lighting associated with the proposed new STH 130 bridge at Lone Rock. Cupp explained construction of the new bridge at Lone Rock will begin soon with completion targeted for 2024. Among the details to wrap up is the lighting associated with the bridge. Currently, a flashing red beacon is located on the Iowa County terminus of the bridge. A similar beacon is proposed for the new bridge. The use of a solar panel to provide the juice for the beacon is needed to avoid running power across the bridge. Cupp said the board also should adopt a position that Dark Sky compliant lighting be used. While the board's support for Dark Sky lighting is longstanding, a statement in that regard specifically for the bridge has not been made by the LWSRB.

Schelfhout provided details on the proposed beacon and lighting at the Iowa County terminus of the bridge. He noted solar panels will be located on the stop sign where the beacon will be located and on the streetlight which will illuminate the intersection. A waiver has been requested from the federal government to allow for Riverway colorization. Schelfhout said the beacon and streetlight had been requested by local officials and local residents for safety reasons. He noted DOT attempts to comply with Dark Sky compliant lighting on all projects.

A motion to require Dark Sky compliant lighting for the project was made by La Budde, seconded by Lara Czajkowski Higgins. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to accept the lighting proposal to include a beacon and streetlight was made by La Budde, seconded by Czajkowski Higgins. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chair Dorscheid. Correspondence was discussed. Cupp said slight revisions to COVID protocols had been released by the Department of Administration. LWSRB staff continue to work a hybrid remote and in office schedule. Masks are required for visitors to the office. Virtual meetings are encouraged unless an alternative is not available. Cupp said he continues to gather information on the possible acquisition of the Wintergreen Conference Center property for Riverway purposes. The board then reviewed the semi-annual report submitted by the Pattison Sand Company regarding the Bridgeport nonmetallic mine (frac sand mine). The report indicated no mining has occurred in the past year.

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The Operations Committee report was presented by Chair Wetter. The permit request of Terry and Suzanne Shifflet for a timber harvest in the Town of Wyoming, Iowa County, was discussed. Cupp said the harvest will occur on the Wintergreen property. Field inspections have been conducted by Cupp in conjunction with previous permit activities at the site. A field inspection also was conducted by Mike Finlay, DNR Forester, on January 10, 2022. The harvesting plan was developed by consultant Rick Livingston. Plans call for the selective harvest of 700+ trees on 81 acres. The harvest includes walnut, oak and miscellaneous species and will be conducted between November 1st and April 1st during dry or frozen ground conditions. No new roads will be constructed. Finlay's field inspection indicated the harvest will comply with the applicable Riverway regulations.

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

- 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 reviewed a permit he had issued for a new home at the House on the Rock Resort community in the Town of Wyoming, Iowa County. He noted the new houses built at the complex are required to comply with Riverway standards whether the structure is located within the boundary of the project or not due to deed restrictions. In this case, the Riverway boundary divides the lot so that a portion is within the boundary and a portion is out. He noted the boundary division of the lot is very unusual. Cupp said the structure will not be visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. Therefore, he issued a general permit to Josh and Jeri Eveland for the construction project.

The Budget Committee reported was given by Acting Chair Beckman who reviewed the status of the FY 22 budget.

There was no report from the Personnel Committee.

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The Executive Director's report was given by Cupp who reviewed the materials in the board members' packets. He highlighted a meeting with a UW-Madison student and her advisor regarding a new mapping project for the Riverway.

Under board members' business, Ritchie Brown noted Casey Brown has a new role with the Ho-Chunk Nation and will work with the President's team.

The DNR report was presented by Jesse Kellogg, DNR Riverway Property Manager, who said the conservation wardens of Grant and Richland counties have changed jobs. Finlay said the Prairie du Bay harvest in the Riverway continues and the CTH OO harvest is expected to begin soon. Cupp asked about the number of acres involved in the FECON work at the Mazomanie Unit. Finlay estimated 80 acres of brush cutting and small tree removal has taken place.

During the public comment session, Timm Zumm of the Friends of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway (FLOW) said the FLOW annual meal will be held virtually on February 5th.

A motion to adjourn was made by Brown, seconded by La Budde. **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.