

LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 10, 2022, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, February 10, 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 with the exceptions of Ritchie Brown and Steve Williamson. (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 La Budde, seconded by Lara Czajkowski Higgins. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2022, meeting was made by Wetter, seconded by La Budde. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chair Dorscheid. Correspondence was discussed. Cupp said he continues to gather information and input regarding the potential acquisition of the Wintergreen Conference Center and associated lands for Riverway purposes. Cupp said he is hoping to pull together a public/private partnership for the venture.

In regard to appointments, Cupp said the terms of Dorscheid, Williamson and Randy Poelma will expire on May 1, 2022. Poelma indicated his interest in seeking re-appointment. Williamson has not yet responded. Dorscheid then said he will not seek re-appointment when his term is up in May. Cupp thanked Dorscheid for his 18 years of service and said he will be missed greatly. Cupp will work with Iowa County in seeking a replacement.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chair Wetter. The permit request of the Tetzlaff family for a timber harvest in the Town of Millville, Grant County, was discussed. Cupp said the consultant is Craig Hollingsworth. He noted a permit application has not yet been received. Field inspections have been conducted by Cupp in conjunction with previous permit activities at the site. Plans call for a light selective harvest consistent with the Managed Forest Law (MFL) plan for the parcel. Most of the harvest area is not visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. Cupp said the harvest has not yet been approved by Jason Sable, DNR private lands forester. He suggested the board provide him with authorization to proceed with issuance of a permit after a signed permit application has been received and he has reviewed the activity for compliance with the applicable performance standards. The harvest includes walnut, oak and miscellaneous species and will be conducted during dry or frozen ground conditions and when the leaves are off the deciduous trees. No new roads will be constructed. Compliance with the applicable Riverway regulations is anticipated based on the harvest description provided by the consultant.

A motion to authorize Cupp to issue a permit with the following standard conditions was made by Wetter, seconded by Poelma, after Cupp has confirmed compliance with the Riverway standards will be achieved with the marked trees slated for harvest:

- 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;

MINUTES/FEBRUARY 10, 2022

Page -2-

- 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.

The request of Danielle Roder & Clay Yapp for construction of a new house in the Town of Wauzeka, Crawford County, on Sprosty Hill Road was considered. Ms. Roder and Mr. Yapp were on the Zoom call. Wetter said field inspections have been conducted by Cupp multiple times since April of 2021, including February 8, 2022. Plans call for construction of a house with detached garage. A barn has been constructed at the site. Adequate screening vegetation exists. There will be a limited amount of glass facing the river. The slope of the site is consistent with the Riverway performance standard. The exterior colorization will harmonize with the natural surroundings during leaf-on conditions. The structure will be visually inconspicuous when viewed from the river during leaf-on conditions. Roder said the architect is Amber Westerman. The maximum height of the structure will be 24 feet and 3 inches at the top of the chimney pipe. She said the intent is to build a 1500 sq. ft. home. Some additional trees may be planted. Roder and Yapp have horses that will be stabled in the new barn and will make some hay in the portion of the property that is not used for pasture.

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

- The existing screening vegetation shall be maintained and replaced if damaged or destroyed;
- The height of the structure shall be limited so that the structure does not become visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions and shall not exceed 24 feet;
- The exterior colorization of the structure, including roof color, shall harmonize with the natural surroundings during leaf-on conditions and shall be reviewed for compliance with the Riverway regulations and approved prior to initiation on construction;
- There shall be a limited amount of glass or other reflective material visible from the river;
- The LWSRB shall review any modifications to the plans, as submitted, for compliance with the applicable performance standards;
- The landowner or his/her agent shall notify the LWSRB upon completion of the project; and,
- The activity shall comply with all other federal, state, and local regulations.

MOTION CARRIED.

Nancy Frost, DNR Wildlife Biologist, provided background on a management plan application for removal of woody vegetation, invasive species, and small trees at Bakken's Pond. Frost said the work will assist wildlife, including nesting turtles, get to and from the water. Cupp said the activity will not be visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. No structures become visible from the river as a result of

MINUTES/FEBRUARY 10, 2022

Page -3-

the activity. A motion to improve issuance of a two-year permit with the following conditions was made by Lara Czajkowski Higgins, seconded by La Budde:

- No existing structures 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 applicant shall notify the LWSRB upon initiation and completion of the activity.

MOTION CARRIED.

Frost then described a future project involving the Long Lake Dike, which serves as a water control structure for Bakken's Pond. She said the dike has been breached under high water conditions and is not fulfilling the intended purpose. The dike has been patched but more extensive repairs are necessary. Funding is being sought and engineering designs are being considered. It is unlikely the project would begin until 2024. Frost also noted cattail marsh burning will be tried in the Riverway at the Arena Marsh. Fire has been used successfully for years at Horicon to control vegetation. Area residents may see a large plume of smoke from the prescribed burning.

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.

The Executive Director's report was given by Cupp who reviewed the materials in the board members' packets.

Under board members' business, La Budde suggested Cupp refer to the potential partnership with "The School of Architecture" instead of the "Taliesin School of Architecture."

The DNR report was presented by Jesse Kellogg, DNR Riverway Property Manager, who said work has begun on the restoration of the site of the Battle of Wisconsin Heights at the Riverway's Black Hawk Unit in the Town of Mazomanie, Dane County. The mound group on the site also has been brushed. He is hoping to work with volunteers for additional work at the site.

During the public comment session, Sarah Barron of the Crawford Stewardship Project reported on a February 23rd event called "Kiss the Ground" and noted there have been no updates on the Roth feeder pig CAFO project review by DNR. Don Golembiewski of the Friends of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway (FLOW) said the FLOW annual meal was held virtually on February 5th with John Lyons being honored as the Riverway Champion for 2021. In 2022 FLOW will offer a series of field trips with the initial trip taking place on April 2nd. Cupp will lead a tour of effigy mound sites of the Muscoda area. Election of officers for FLOW will occur at the March meeting. Timm Zumm of FLOW said the Riverway Safety Committee continues to develop the new communications system for recreational users to report the need for assistance and said a QR code at Riverway boat landings may be helpful if DNR will approve a small sign on the existing warning signs.

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.