

# LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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## MINUTES OF THE MARCH 10, 2022, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, March 10, 2022, 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 Chairman Gerald Dorscheid. All members were present with the exceptions of Ritchie Brown and Meredith Beckman. Both attempted to participate via Zoom but were unable to connect due to technical difficulties. (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 Randy Poelma, seconded by Gigi La Budde. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2022, meeting was made by Steve Wetter, seconded by Lara Czajkowski Higgins. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chair Dorscheid. Cupp introduced Bridget Rathman, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) State Natural Areas (SNA) Crew Leader. Rathman provided an update on Riverway SNA activities. She said COVID restrictions limited the number of prescribed burns conducted in the past two years, but the SNA team is hopeful to return to a full schedule, weather permitting. Rathman then reviewed activities on specific SNA sites throughout the Riverway.

Under correspondence, Cupp said the latest COVID protocols update further eases restriction on in-person meetings and said the LWSRB staff is back to the regular in-office schedule. He is working with Marsha Curtis, LWSRB Executive Assistant, to offer a Zoom option for meetings. Cupp said DNR will not pursue an appraisal for the Wintergreen property in the Town of Wyoming, Iowa County. He expressed disappointment with the DNR's decision. Cupp reported progress continues on the mapping project coordinated by UW-Madison student Christina Dennis. He said there also may be an opportunity for use of QR code technology to provide information to recreational users. He cited the walking trail at the Baraboo River as an example. Cupp said he has received interest regarding the Iowa County representative slot soon to be vacated by Dorscheid.

He noted a discussion with the Grant County Highway Commissioner had taken place regarding the tree cutting at the Millville boat landing. The Commissioner pledged to correct the lack of communication with the LWSRB regarding the tree removal should future similar activities be required. Cupp said he also had been in contact with the Crawford County Highway Commissioner regarding tree cutting at the Cipra mound group in the wayside along STH 60 between Wauzeka and Bridgeport. Cupp had contacted the State Archeologist about his perception of damage done to two conical mounds by equipment. Cupp said he spoke to DNR Conservation Warden Cody Adams about a squatter along Hwy. 60/61 in the Town of Marietta, Crawford County, upstream from the Boscobel bridge. Adams informed Cupp he was working on removing the individual and suggested warmer weather may find the person moving on.

The proposed replacement of the STH 130 bridge at Lone Rock was discussed. Cupp said the new design/build concept requires confidentiality to protect proprietary information of bidders. If action by the full board or the Executive Committee was required, the meeting would have to be held in closed session. Cupp suggested an alternative would be to authorize him to work directly with Francis Schelfhout, DOT Planner, to review possible changes to the design previously approved by the board. Schelfhout then explained the mechanics of the design/build bidding process and the need for security in those discussions. A motion was

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made by Steve Williamson, seconded by La Budde, to authorize Cupp to review the design changes on behalf of the board with Executive Committee review or LWSRB review in closed session to occur if Cupp was not comfortable making a decision on a proposed design change. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chair Wetter. The permit request from the Agnes Tetzlaff Revocable Trust was considered. Field inspections have been conducted by Mark E. Cupp, Executive Director, in conjunction with previous permit activities at the site. The consultant is Craig Hollingsworth. The parcel is enrolled in the Managed Forest Law (MFL) plan. Jason Sable, DNR Forester, has reviewed the plans for the harvest and found it to be consistent with the MFL plan for the parcel. Plans call for the harvest of 115 walnut trees. Some small tree and brush removal will accompany the harvest to create openings. No new roads will be constructed.

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.**

A motion to issue two-year extensions to the following management permits with retention of standard conditions for activities on SNAs in the Riverway was made by Wetter, seconded by La Budde:

- Arena Pines SNA (Town of Arena, Iowa County);
- Smith Slough SNA (Town of Buena Vista, Richland County);
- Mazo Barrens SNA (Town of Mazomanie, Dane County);
- Gotham Sands SNA (Town of Buena Vista, Richland County);
- Blue River Bluffs SNA/Chezick (Town of Watterstown, Grant County);
- Blue River Bluffs SNA/Ellenbolt (Town of Watterstown, Grant County); and,
- Bakken's Pond SNA (Town of Spring Green, Sauk County).

### **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cupp said he and Trevor Hamdorf, DNR Forester, had met with landowner Jeff Trussoni regarding a proposed timber harvest in the Town of Wyalusing, Grant County. The landowner wishes to harvest a small number of walnut trees. A portion of the property is visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. The landowner is reviewing options for the harvest. Cupp said he had received communication regarding a new tower to be placed by Bug Tussel but was unable to open the attachment. His attempts to contact the Bug Tussel representative to request needed documentation have been unsuccessful.

The Budget Committee reported was given by Chair Williamson 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. Cupp noted an observance of the vernal equinox will take place on Frank's Hill on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

The DNR report was presented by Jesse Kellogg, DNR Riverway Property Manager, who mentioned the drowning of an ice angler on Kendall Lake in the Town of Pulaski, Iowa County. Kellogg said he is working with Cupp and Katie Beilfuss, Wisconsin Wetlands Association, on signage for the Ramsar designation of Wetlands of International Importance for the Riverway.

During the public comment session, Timm Zumm of the Friends of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway (FLOW) said the organization will assist with placement of signage if requested to do so. He said officer elections were held recently and he will return to the office of President with Dave Marshall assuming the role of Vice-President.

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