

LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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MINUTES OF THE APRIL 14, 2022, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, April 14, 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 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 Steve Wetter, seconded by Gigi La Budde. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2022, meeting was made by La Budde, seconded by Randy Poelma. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chair Dorscheid. Cupp presented Dorscheid with a plaque for recognition of 18 years of service to the LWSRB, including time as Chair of the Operations Committee and Board Chair. Dorscheid said he has enjoyed his time on the board and found it to be a good fit for his interests in outdoor activities. Cupp then gave a presentation on the river crossings at Muscodia beginning with a ferry that operated until a toll bridge was constructed in 1868. The first “free” highway bridge was built in 1929 and the modern bridge was built in 1989.

Under correspondence, Cupp said he had provided Sauk County zoning officials with a statement regarding a meeting he had with Andrew Knutson in August. Knutson is a landowner in the Town of Spring Green. He is appealing an order issued by the county regarding work done on his property that appears to be in violation of county ordinances. Cupp said he is working with Richland and Iowa counties to develop lists of nominees for county representation to the LWSRB. He said a candidate for the vacant “at-large” position has been identified but wouldn’t be able to begin serving until later in the year. Cupp said he had a series of meetings with Francis Schelfhout, Department of Transportation Planner, regarding the replacement of the STH 130 bridge at Lone Rock. A presentation on the project is expected at a future LWSRB meeting.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chair Wetter. Three permit requests from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for timber harvests in Crawford and Grant counties were considered. Mike Finlay, DNR Forestry Team Leader, and Trevor Hamdorf, DNR Forester, were present for the discussion. Hamdorf described the use of patch clear cuts, underplanting of tree seedlings and future timber stand improvement (TSI) work to be done at two sites in the Town of Marietta; at Georgetown Road near Hubl’s Motel and on Easter Rock Lane near the intersection of Hwys 60 & E. The Georgetown Road site will require old roads to be re-opened while the Easter Rock Lane site will require a new road. The third harvest is planned for the bottomlands at Fish Trap Flowage, which is located north and east of Jones Lake near Blue River. A shelterwood harvest is planned with removal of trees greater than 14 inches DBH. An additional harvest will take place after natural regeneration has occurred.

A motion to approve issuance of permits with the following standard conditions for all three sites was made by La Budde, seconded by Ritchie Brown:

- 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;

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- 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.

Finlay then explained a timber harvest application for a site in the Town of Orion, Richland County, has been withdrawn for now. Some additional marking and adjustments to small regenerations cuts are necessary before returning to the board for consideration.

A request from Galen Bremmer to alter the start date for a harvest in the Town of Orion, Richland County, was discussed. Bremmer contacted Cupp to request a start date of August 10th. Cupp said a condition of the previously issued permit requires harvesting to take place during leaf-off conditions for the areas visible from the river in accordance with state law and administrative code. Cupp said the board has allowed harvesting to begin before the normal October 1st date in select cases and suggested a reasonable accommodation would be to allow the harvest on September 12th or after. A motion to that effect was made by Poelma, seconded by La Budde. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cupp reported he had met with a landowner in the Town of Spring Green, Sauk County, regarding two building projects; a screened porch/gazebo and a storage shed. No permit application received yet. He also met with the prospective buyer of a lot in the Town of Bridgeport, Crawford County, to review Riverway regulations as pertaining to a potential house and detached garage project. No permit application received at this time. Cupp said DOT is planning a resurfacing project on STH 60 in the Town of Bridgeport in 2025. The segment of Hwy. 60 from Hwy. 18 east to the intersection with Old 60 Road is not visible from the Wisconsin River. Cupp replied to the DOT that there are no aesthetic concerns. He noted CTH C near the Frank Lloyd Wright Visitor Center in the Town of Wyoming, Iowa County, again is experiencing issues related to bank destabilization. An emergency repair will be conducted. Cupp said the county is developing a plan to reconstruct a portion of the highway but that plans have not been revealed. Cupp said he has issued a permit to Eric Rapp for construction of a noise barrier in the Town of Clyde, Iowa County. The railroad tie wall will not be visible from the river during leaf-on conditions. Tree planting will follow construction to further obscure the noise barrier along STH 133.

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. He highlighted a speaking engagement at the annual Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Conference in Stevens Point and a tour of effigy mounds sites near Muscoda as part of a Friends of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway (FLOW) field trip.

The DNR report was presented by Jesse Kellogg, DNR Riverway Property Manager, who said work has begun in earnest to prepare for the upcoming recreational use season.

During the public comment session, Alayne Hendricks of Richland County expressed disappointment with the high bridge walls on the recently rehabbed STH 23 bridge near Spring Green. She hoped the new Lone Rock bridge would not be similar in wall height. Cupp said federal guidelines determine wall height and the walls on the new STH 130 bridge would be 42 inches tall to the best of his knowledge.

Timm Zumm, FLOW President, thanked Cupp and Marsha Curtis, LWSRB Executive Assistant, for their assistance in organizing the Effigy Mounds Sampler field trip. He said a fish shocking demonstration led by John Lyons will be held near the Prairie du Sac dam at a future date as part of the field trip series. Zumm said FLOW board meetings will be the third Thursday of the month beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Forest Jahnke, Crawford Stewardship Project, asked if there had been activity at the Bridgeport frac sand mine. Cupp said the last semi-annual report field by the Pattison Sand Company had indicated no activity at the former Marfilus property.

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