

# LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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## MINUTES OF THE JUNE 9, 2022, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, June 9, 2022, at the Ruth Culver Library in Prairie du Sac to conduct a regular monthly business meeting. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Vice-Chair Gigi La Budde. All members were present with the exception of Ritchie Brown. (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 Meredith Beckman, seconded by Randy Poelma. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2022, meeting was made by Steve Wetter, seconded by Beckman. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Vice-Chair La Budde. New members Kim Cates and Dan Hillberry were introduced. Cates will represent Iowa County and Hillberry will represent Richland County. Cates introduced herself as having a background in soil science and noted her family operates a beef farm near Taliesin. Hillberry said he lives on the family farm near Byrds Creek, not far from the Wisconsin River. He is involved in agriculture and forestry and serves on the Board of Directors of the Richland Electric Cooperative.

The guest speakers for the evening were Curt Meine and Rob Nurre of the Badger Apple Corps project. Meine explained the project attempts to connect the descendants of the farmers displaced by creation of the Badger Army Ammunition Plant in World War II. The acreage is now owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Ho-Chunk Nation and the USDA Dairy Forage Research Center. Many apple trees were found throughout the property by Mike Mossman, former DNR ecologist, when conducting bird surveys at the site. Many of the varieties are rare or unusual and a process began to graft the old trees and develop a nursery so that the trees could be distributed to families of the original farmers. Meine said the project has been successful and continues to grow with trees being planted throughout the Sauk Prairie area.

Election of officers was held. Personnel Committee Chair Randy Poelma said Gigi La Budde was nominated for Chair. He thrice called for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, Wetter made a motion to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for La Budde, seconded by Beckman. **MOTION CARRIED.** Poelma said Steve Wetter was nominated for Vice-Chair. He thrice called for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, La Budde made a motion to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Wetter, seconded by Cates. **MOTION CARRIED.** La Budde assumed the role of Chair and said Poelma was nominated for Secretary. She thrice called for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, Wetter made a motion to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Poelma, seconded by Cates. **MOTION CARRIED**

Cupp reported he had learned of an interesting project called the Wisconsin Bumble Bee Brigade. The project is designed to gather data about bumble bees and to share information. He also noted a local resident had provided information about precautions to exercise in order to prevent spread of the avian flu. The advice was posted by the Madison Audubon Council and encourages people recreating in water bodies where waterfowl are present to take care when going from one water body to another.

Timm Zumm, Friends of the Lower Wisconsin River (FLOW) President, said the new Riverway text alert system is in place. A person can text RIVERWAY TO 77295 to sign up for the alerts. Cupp said the Department of Transportation (DOT) indicated the contract for the new Lone Rock bridge has been awarded to Kraemer North America. A presentation on the project will be given by DOT personnel at a future LWSRB meeting.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chair Wetter. He noted committee members reviewed restoration work at the Battle of Wisconsin Heights site located at the Black Hawk Unit in the Town of Mazomanie, Dane County. Mounds maintenance activities are also occurring. Wetter said the committee met with Meine and Nurre at Culver Community Park to view the new apple orchard begin established as part of the Badger Apple Corps 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.

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

The DNR report was presented by DNR Riverway Manager Jesse Kellogg who said the trail at Cactus Bluff will be reconstructed in the coming weeks. The trail will remain open while under construction. He is working on improvements for the Boydtown boat landing but is waiting on permits.

During the public comment session, Zumm said FLOW will host a fish shocking demonstration at the VFW landing at Prairie du Sac at 1:00 on June 17<sup>th</sup>. He said the annual Pride Paddle will take place on June 18<sup>th</sup>. Flo the Paddlefish will be a participant the annual Fools' Flotilla in Madison on June 11<sup>th</sup>.

A motion to adjourn was made by Poelma, 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.