

LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2022, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, September 8, 2022, at the Spring Green Community Library. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chair Gigi La Budde. All members were present with the exceptions of Lara Czajkowski and 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 Steve Wetter, seconded by Dan Hillberry. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2022, meeting was made by Wetter, seconded by Kim Cates. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chair La Budde. The guest speakers for the evening were Amanda Blank and Kathryn Wilhelm from Alliant Energy who discussed operations and flow management at the Prairie du Sac hydroelectric facility. Blank said the dam became active in 1914 after initial construction began in 1911 and is considered an engineering marvel. Under the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license, the head of the dam must be maintained with 0.6” of a foot so the dam is a “run of the river” dam, meaning whatever comes into Lake Wisconsin from Portage and upstream is passed through the gates at Prairie du Sac. The dam does not hold back water for generation of electricity.

Correspondence was discussed. Cupp said he reviewed a building project in Prairie du Sac and determined the site was within the village limits and not subject to the performance standards and permit requirements of the Riverway law. He did request use of native plants and trees in the floodplain and shoreland areas. Cupp said he was scheduled to speak in Wausau on September 13th to a group working establishment of a water trail system in the upper Wisconsin River area. Cupp noted a group from Boscobel is working to clean-up Sanders Creek to help with flood mitigation.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chair Wetter. The project to reconstruct the bridges on STH 130 at Lone Rock was discussed. Brent Freeman of Kraemer North America, the general contractor, and Department of Transportation (DOT) representatives Dan Kleinertz and Greg Brecka, gave a presentation on the design and construction timeline. Brecka explained the “design/build” concept for the bridge was new to DOT. Freeman then described some of the design changes suggested by Kraemer North America, which were approved by the DOT and LWSRB. He said the new bridge terminus on the Iowa County side of the river will be 900 feet downstream of the current intersection to avoid the rock wall. There will be two new spans and a total of 2900 feet across the river. Some work will begin in 2022 but work will begin in earnest in 2023. The bridge is expected to be open to traffic in October of 2024 with project completion slated for 2025. Information is available on the DOT website. Cupp noted the evolution of Riverway bridge designs has considered the aesthetic protection mission of the LWSRB while also recognizing the priority of public safety and cost-effective construction.

A permit request from Brian Sprecher was considered. The consultant is Dan Klonsinski. A field inspection was conducted by Cupp in conjunction with previous permit activity in the vicinity. Plans call for the harvest of merchantable hardwoods, primarily oak and walnut. Single tree selection will occur between small groups of ½ acre to 1 acre in size. The harvest will be consistent with the Managed Forest Law (MFL) plan for the site. No new roads will be constructed. The harvest will have minimal, if any, impact on the viewshed as viewed from the river.

A motion to approve issuance of a permit with the following standard conditions was made by Randy Poelma, seconded by La Budde:

- 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 permit request from Greg Schweppe for a timber harvest was considered. The consultant is Dan Klonsinski. A field inspection was conducted by Cupp in conjunction with previous permit activity in the vicinity. Plans call for the harvest of merchantable hardwoods utilizing patch clear cuts and selective harvest methods. The largest of the small regeneration cuts will be 4-5 acres in size with some small group selection cuts in the ¼ to ½ acre range. The harvest will occur in the Riverview Zone and Resource Management Zone with minimal, if any, harvesting in the Bluff Zone. No new roads will be constructed. The harvest will be consistent with the Managed Forest Law (MFL) plan for the site. The landowner also is working with a wildlife consultant.

A motion to approve issuance of a permit with the following standard conditions was made by Cates, seconded by La Budde:

- 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 said he would attend a Working Group meeting on the proposed recreational bridge at Sauk City on September 15th. He will meet with DOT representatives to discuss the reconstruction of STH 60 between Gotham and Muscoda on September 21st and is waiting to hear about another meeting with DOT on replacement of the CTH T bridges between Grant and Richland counties (Blue River to Port Andrew). Cupp said he had conducted a preliminary field inspection at a property owned by Doyle and Nancy Lewis in the Town of Woodman, Grant County, to review plans for a new house. The matter will be discussed at the October 13th LWSRB meeting if additional requested information is received. He met with Tom Waltz regarding property in the Town of Woodman and determined a proposed building site is outside the Riverway boundary. Cupp also met with a landowner in the Town of Wauzeka, Crawford County, Ted Scheckel, to review a proposed building site and determined the site is outside of the Riverway boundary. The Operations Committee conducted a field inspection at the David Clutter property in the Town of Troy, Sauk County, to review an ongoing prairie restoration effort and to consider removal of trees that were storm damaged, insect infected, diseased, or presented a hazard to the existing house. The committee also had hiked the refurbished trail at Ferry Bluff/Cactus Bluff in the Town of Prairie du Sac, Sauk County.

Cupp said he had issued two permits since the last meeting. A timber harvest permit was issued to Mike and Shirley MacEachern for a light selective harvest in the Town of Bridgeport, Crawford County. An extension to a management permit for a prairie restoration project in the Town of Millville, Grant County, was granted to Jack Kussmaul.

The Budget Committee report was given by Chair Beckman who reviewed the status of the FY 23 budget. Cupp reported the LWSRB biennial budget request for 2023-2025 will be submitted to the Department of Administration – State Budget Office on September 15th. The budget request will be reviewed the board at the October meeting. He thanked Paul Neuman of the DNR budget office for his help in completing the forms required for submittal.

The Personnel Committee report was presented by Cupp who said he will participate in a meeting on the LWSRB's Equity and Inclusion policy. Staff and board member training may be required at a future date.

The Executive Director's report was given by Cupp who introduced guest speakers Dr. William Gartner and Christina Dennis who reviewed the latest draft of the new Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Natural and Cultural Resources map. Public input on the map is desired and the map can be viewed online with a comment section provided. The new map will highlight everything from boat landings and public lands to cultural and historic sites from Prairie du Sac to Prairie du Chien.

Cupp then reviewed materials in the board members' packets including activities/correspondence, river flow and articles of interest.

The DNR report was presented by Jesse Kellogg, DNR Riverway Property Manager. He said the crew has been mowing parking areas in anticipation of the upcoming hunting seasons. The water crossing at Hay Lane to access the Avoca Prairie has been completed. Poelma asked about erosion control at the Cactus Bluff trail. Kellogg said it is on his radar and he is waiting for comment from the State Natural Areas program. La Budde asked about the signage at the overlook. He is waiting for options to be provided from the DNR central office.

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

