

LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 13, 2022, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, October 13, 2022, at the Prairie du Chien 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 Higgins, Randy Poelma and Dan Hillberry. (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 Kim Cates. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2022, meeting was made by Steve Wetter, seconded by Beckman. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chair La Budde. The guest speakers for the evening were Teri Schopp, Department of Transportation (DOT), and Mike Bakalars, Jewell and Associates, who gave a presentation regarding the proposed reconstruction of STH 60 from Gotham to Muscodá. The project is slated to begin in 2027 and may expand into in 2028 for a two-year time frame. Final design plans will be revealed in 2026. Significant changes will include curb and gutter on the north side of the road in the unincorporated village of Orion and reduced speed limit to 35 mph. An increase to 12-foot-wide lanes and 6-foot-wide shoulders with 4 feet of the shoulders being paved. There will be rock cuts in the areas where the roadway is close to river and there is no room to expand toward the river.

Correspondence was discussed. Cupp reported there will be a resurfacing project on STH 60 east of the intersection with Hwy. 18 in the Town of Bridgeport, Crawford County, in 2023. A DOT website will provide information on timetable and detour as the project approaches. Cupp said planning for the recreational bridge traversing the Wisconsin River at Sauk City continues. He noted an open house on the latest draft of the new Riverway cultural and natural resources map will be held at the LWSRB office on October 29th. An online version may be accessed via the LWSRB website.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chair Wetter. The permit request of Doyle and Nancy Lewis for a new house in the Town of Woodman, Grant County, was considered. Wetter said field inspections have been conducted by Cupp in conjunction with previous permit activity at the site including a field inspection on August 26, 2022. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis and Tom Waltz were present for the field inspection. A field inspection also was conducted by Cupp and Steve Wetter on October 13, 2022. Plans call for razing of the existing yellow house and replacement with a new house of approximately the same height. 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.

Wetter and Cupp recommended issuance of a structure permit with the following standard conditions:

- 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 of 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 initiation and completion of the project; and,
- The activity shall comply with all other federal, state, and local regulations.

A motion to approve issuance of a structure permit with the aforementioned conditions for a period of two years was made by Wetter, seconded by Beckman. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cupp said he assisted a landowner in the Town of Spring Green, Sauk County, with a question on removal of dead trees visible from the river and a landowner in the Town of Clyde, Iowa County regarding repairs to a barn damaged by a tree fall near the Otter Creek boat landing. He met with DOT officials regarding the proposed replacement of the CTH T spans over the Wisconsin River between Grant and Richland counties between Blue River and Port Andrew. The project is scheduled for 2027-2028. Cupp said he issued a management permit extension to Steve Williamson for a timber stand improvement project in the Town of Eagle, Richland County.

The Budget Committee report was presented by Chair Beckman who reviewed the status of FY 23 budget. Cupp noted the LWSRB budget request had been submitted to the Department of Administration State Budget Office on September 15th. He thanked Paul Neumann from the DNR Budget Office for assistance in completing the required forms.

The Personnel Committee reported was presented by Cupp who said staff continue to pursue Equity and Inclusion training online. Board member training may occur either online or in-person prior to a board meeting at a future date.

Under Executive Director's report, Cupp reviewed materials in the board members' packets related to activities and correspondence and river flow. He said he will travel to Wausau to speak to a group hoping to establish a water trail on the upper reaches of the Wisconsin River. The group is interested in the experience of the Riverway Board on the lower Wisconsin River.

The DNR report was presented by Jesse Kellogg, DNR Riverway Manager, who said the crew is working on preparing sites for fall hunting seasons and closing down areas for winter. Mike Finlay, Forestry Team Leader, reported on fall burning opportunities.

During the public comment session, comments were heard regarding reports of PFA contamination in upstream impoundments on the Wisconsin River; concerns with the Roth Feeder CAFO permit process; and citizen water testing.

A motion to adjourn was made by Beckman, seconded by Cates. **MOTION CARRIED.**