

LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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MINUTES OF THE MAY 11, 2023, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, May 11, 2023. The meeting was conducted in-person at the LWSRB office in Muscodia and via Zoom and 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 and Steve Wetter. (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 Meredith Beckman. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2023, meeting was made by Dan Hillberry, seconded by Kim Cates. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chair La Budde. Correspondence was discussed. Cupp said George Brandt of Arcadia attended the Operations Committee field inspections and is a possible candidate for the at-large vacancy. The schedule for the voyageur canoe trips will be released by the end of the month. Work on the Lone Rock bridge continues but high water is causing delays. Cupp said a violation of wetlands disturbance necessitated a meeting between DOT, DNR, LWSRB and other governmental entities in Madison. Efforts are being made to resolve the situation. The incident occurred within the right of way on the north end of the project near the mouth of Long Lake.

There were two guest speakers for the evening. Former LWSRB Chair Jerry Dorscheid spoke about a signage project by the Arena Historians to identify “Old Arena” and important historic sites associated with the original settlement. He noted the village moved near the railroad in 1856. Kathy Stoltz then spoke about carbon credits and the Tesla Carbon Credit Program.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Acting Chair Poelma. A permit request from Jeffrey Jahns and Jill Metcoff-Jahns was considered. The consultant is James Budiac. Field inspections have been conducted by Cupp on April 6, 2023, and May 4, 2023. Mike Finlay, DNR Forestry Team Leader, joined Cupp for the May 4th site visit and conducted a separate field inspection earlier in the spring. Cupp and the Operations Committee visited the site on May 11th. Ms. Metcoff also was present for the field inspection. Plans call for the harvest of merchantable hardwoods pursuant to a Managed Forest Law (MFL) plan. No new roads will be constructed. Harvest will be limited to November to March during frozen or dry ground conditions. Equipment must be free of mud and soil before entering the property to reduce the spread of invasive species.

Plans call for small regeneration cuts for aspen and group selection harvest of oak. Some selective harvesting will occur in the Bluff Zone. Other harvesting will occur in the Riverview Zone and Resource Management Zone. The patches and individual trees have been marked and reviewed. The Bluff Zone was delineated by Cupp and Finlay.

A motion to approve issuance of a permit with the following standard conditions was made by Brown, 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.

The permit request of Teddy Beinborn for the construction of a new shed in the Town of Marietta, Crawford County, was considered. Poelma said a field inspection was conducted by Cupp on April 20, 2023. Mr. Beinborn was present for the field inspection. Plans call for construction of a 40 ft. x 60 ft. x 24 ft. (height) shed. The site is visible from the Wisconsin River upstream of the north end of the Boscobel bridge (Hwy. 61). The exterior colorization will match the house, which was built under a Riverway Board issued permit, and will harmonize with the natural surroundings during leaf-on conditions. The shed will be light brown with a brown roof. There will be a minimal amount of glass or reflective material facing the river. Adequate screening vegetation exists at the site. The height of the structure will not result in the structure being visible from the river during leaf-on conditions. The structure will be visually inconspicuous when viewed from the river during leaf-on conditions.

Poelma 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 on 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 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 was made by La Budde, seconded by Hillberry. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The April 13th field trip was reviewed. The field trip focused on forestry practices on state lands in Crawford County and on prairie restoration efforts on state lands in Richland County. The May 11th field trip

was held at The Spring Green Preserve and was led by Hannah Spaul of The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Cupp noted the longstanding partnership between TNC and the LWSRB.

Cupp said he had conducted a field inspection to review progress on the Danielle Roder house and garage at Sprosty Hill Road in the Town of Wauzeka, Crawford County. The structures are nearing completion and are in line with the specifications of the permit and will be visually inconspicuous when viewed from the river during leaf-on conditions. He then highlighted work conducted by Marsha Curtis, LWSRB Executive Assistant and him on identifying the Riverway boundary in a difficult situation at the House on the Rock Resort in the Town of Wyoming, Iowa County. Using a variety of technologies, a determination was made that the proposed building site was outside the Riverway boundary. Cupp then noted two highway projects will incorporate aesthetic treatments on beam guards facing the river, which will be painted brown. One project will take place on Hwy. 60 between Wauzeka and Boscobel, which is a resurfacing project. The other is near Boscobel at the southern end of the Hwy. 61 bridge, again a resurfacing project.

Cupp said he had issued three permits since the March meeting. A structure permit was issued to Eric O'Keefe and Leslie Graves for a new house in the Town of Wyoming, Iowa County. A management permit was granted to Mike Finlay on behalf of DNR for a TSI project in the Town of Millville, Grant County. A general permit for a timber harvest on lands not visible from the river was issued to Ron Stadler in the Town of Wauzeka, Crawford County.

The Budget Committee report was presented by Chair Beckman who reviewed the status of FY 23 budget. Cupp said he was waiting for word on approval of the LWSRB budget by the Joint Committee on Finance.

There was no report from the Personnel Committee.

Under Executive Director's report, Cupp reviewed materials in the board members' packets related to activities and correspondence and river flow. He noted Hillary Hunt had completed an interesting paper comparing vegetation on the southern tier of towns in Richland County pre-Riverway and post-Riverway. Several board members and a member of the public expressed interest in obtaining a copy of the report.

The DNR report was presented by Jesse Kellogg, DNR Riverway Property Manager, who discussed activities of Riverway staff. La Budde noted Tower Hill State Park needs some "sprucing up" to which Kellogg concurred.

During the public comment session, no comments were given.

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