

LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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MINUTES OF THE MARCH 13, 2025, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, March 13, 2025. 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 Acting Chair Randy Poelma. All members were present with the exceptions of Gigi La Budde, Meredith Beckman 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 Dan Hillberry, seconded by Kim Cates. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2025, meeting was made by Hillberry, seconded by Rich Ten Pas. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Poelma. Under correspondence, Cupp noted an article was in the Wisconsin State Journal regarding efforts by the Driftless Area Land Conservancy to acquire the Wintergreen property near Spring Green. He said the latest report from the Pattison Sand Company indicated no mining had occurred at the Bridgeport frac sand mine. Cupp said progress continues on placement of multi-lingual safety signage at Riverway boat landings. He noted Timm Zumm, and members of the Friends of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway (FLOW) will be at Canoecopia in Madison and will have a booth and will give a presentation. Cupp said he is involved in planning for an event to celebrate the 60th anniversary of enactment of the Wisconsin Wild Rivers legislation, which will honor former LWSRB member David Martin, the author of the legislation.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chair Hillberry. The permit request of Matt Smith for construction of a house in the Town of Prairie du Sac, Sauk County, was considered. Field inspections were conducted by Cupp in conjunction with previous permit activity at the site (construction of storage shed/garage). Plans call for construction of a new home. The site is not visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. Adequate screening vegetation exists. The height of the structure will not result in the structure being visible when viewed from the river during leaf-on conditions. A PowerPoint presentation was shown. A motion to approve issuance of a general permit with the following standard conditions was made by Ritchie Brown, seconded by Ten Pas:

- The height of the structure shall be limited so that the structure is not visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions;
- 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.

MOTION CARRIED.

The permit extension requests of Scott Lancaster/Mike Finlay on behalf of DNR were considered.

FIELD INSPECTION RESULTS/FINDINGS: Field inspections have been conducted by Mark E. Cupp, Executive Director, in conjunction with previous permit activities in the vicinity. Scott Lancaster will provide descriptions of these activities at the board meeting. A summary of activities for each site is listed below.

Lemanski East: 75 acres will be converted to an oak barrens habitat type over time. The first step will be a pulpwood harvest with retention of larger trees. Additional management activities will enhance the barrens conversion in ensuing years. The site is not visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions.

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Lemanski West: This is a 42-acre site that will undergo a shelterwood harvest. The mature oak forest is in decline due to age, disease and wind damage. Larger healthy oak will be retained. Smaller trees and compromised oaks will be removed. 13,500 seedlings have been underplanted comprised of swamp white oak, burr oak and white oak. There will be additional management activities in the future. The site is not visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions.

Cupp recommended issuance of permit extensions for the aforementioned permits with the following standard conditions:

- The harvest shall be limited to areas not visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions;
- 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.

A motion to approve two-year extensions for the permits was made by Cates, seconded by Brown.

MOTION CARRIED.

Cupp noted he had issued a structure permit to Tyler and MacKenzie Behrens for an addition to an existing structure in the Town of Spring Green, Sauk County. The residence is located east of the Wisconsin Riverside Resort. The garage portion of the house will be converted to living space and a new attached garage will be constructed. The exterior colorization will match the existing house and the applicable performance standards will be met.

Cupp then reviewed extensions issued to several management permits for DNR parcels on the west half of the Riverway. The permit extensions will coincide with the usual two-year cycle for extensions and will be issued to Annie McDonnell. The sites are located in Richland, Grant and Crawford counties.

The Budget Committee report was presented by Acting Chair Cates who reviewed the status of FY 25 budget.

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 there will be an equinox observance on Frank's Hill on March 20th for both sunrise and sunset. Cupp said he will speak at the Driftless Area Land Conservancy 25th anniversary celebration on May 1st. He said his presentation on mounds at the Baraboo Range Preservation Association meeting was well attended.

During the DNR report, Harrison Stone, DNR Riverway Park Manager, said his crew is busy with placing boundary markers and cleaning up dump sites. Scott Lancaster, DNR Forester, discussed tree plantings, the active harvest on the former Mathews tract, and prescribed burns as well as fire control efforts.

During the public comment period, Forest Jahnke of the Crawford Stewardship Project described the organizational structure of CSP and the new Water Quality Monitoring Report.

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