

# LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

202 N. Wisconsin Avenue  
P.O. Box 187  
Muscodia, WI 53573  
(608) 739-3188 or 1-800-221-3792

## MINUTES OF THE MAY 13, 2010, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, May 13, 2010, at the Boscobel City Hall to conduct a regular monthly business meeting. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chair William Lundberg. All members were present with the exception of Ritchie Brown and Melody Moore. Acknowledgment that the meeting was properly noticed was provided by Mark E. Cupp, Executive Director. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Don Greenwood, seconded by Ron Leys. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2010, meeting was made by Leys, seconded by Jerry Dorscheid. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Bill Lundberg. The guest speaker for the evening was Carmen Wagner, DNR Forestry Hydrologist, who gave a presentation entitled, "Woody BioMass Harvesting Guidelines for Wisconsin." Wagner said woody biomass harvests are sometimes called "whole tree harvests" because they use the slash remaining after a typical timber harvest as well as woody vegetation and trees normally considered unmerchantable. The material is turned into wood chips and loaded onto semi-trailers for transport to the destination where it may be used for energy production or heat. The harvesting guidelines are flexible based on soil types and depths. The guidelines are required on federal and state lands and recommended for private lands. Wagner also discussed new best management practices for water quality, specifically, guidelines for harvesting around gullies, also known as "dry washes." Management zones within 35 feet of each side of the gully are recommended as well as harvesting only in frozen or dry conditions. Crossing of the gully with equipment is to be avoided.

Under correspondence, Lundberg noted board appointments are up for consideration. Cupp reported that Crawford County representative Leys is allowed to complete his term of service since he was an elected official at the time of his appointment, this according to Governor Doyle's legal counsel. Cupp also noted that the appointments of Greg Greenheck, Richland County representative; Dorscheid, Iowa County representative; and, Fred Madison, at-large member, were up on May 1<sup>st</sup>, although they continue to serve until re-appointed by the Governor or until a replacement is named. Cupp noted Madison has been re-appointed for another three year term. Lundberg said Kevin Isenring, a landowner in the Town of Mazomanie, Dane County, has requested additional time to speak to the board beyond the normally allotted 5 minutes maximum during the public comment period. Lundberg said the Executive Committee agreed to provide Mr. Isenring with 10 minutes and also recommended the Operations Committee meet with him prior to the board meeting. Lundberg then noted the election of officers would occur at the June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Personnel Committee will serve as the Nominating Committee. Persons wishing to seek an officer position should contact Personnel Committee Chair Melody Moore or Cupp.

The Operations Committee report was given by Chairman Dorscheid. The permit request of American Transmission Company for modification of existing transmission lines/utility in the Town of Spring Green, Sauk County and Town of Arena, Iowa County was considered. Dorscheid noted a field inspection was conducted by Cupp on April 14, 2010. Tom Girman, consultant, and Dorscheid also were present for the field inspection. The field inspection revealed existing poles will be replaced by new structures. The new poles will be 5-10 feet taller than the existing poles to comply with federal requirements for minimum height distances between power lines and the Wisconsin River. Soil disturbance will be minimized and removal of woody vegetation will be mitigated by implementation of a planting to be developed by the DNR Riverway Forester. The work will be done when the ground is frozen or dry. ATC responded to several questions posed by Cupp regarding moving the structure closest to the river on the Iowa County side away from the river an additional 20 feet, maximum heights of

structures, use of guy wires, and, burial costs vs. replacement costs. The responses indicated that moving the structure landward would result in increased pole height and may require additional heights and replacements of other structures; currently, the new structure will only be 5-10 feet higher than the existing poles; guy wires will not be used on the structure closest to the river; and, burial costs vs. the maintenance project costs render the burial option cost prohibitive.

Dorscheid made a motion, seconded by Greenwood, to approve issuance of a permit for the activity with the following conditions:

- All reasonable efforts shall be taken to minimize the visual impact of the utility facility;
- The new structures shall not be more than 20 feet taller than the existing structures without LWSRB review and approval;
- A planting plan developed by the DNR Riverway Forester shall be implemented by June 1, 2011;
- The LWSRB shall approve of any modification to the plans, as submitted; and,
- ATC or the consultant shall notify the board upon initiation and completion of the project.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

The permit request of Jerry Jones for timber harvest at his property in the Town of Marietta, Crawford County, was considered. Dorscheid noted a field inspection was conducted by Cupp on April 28, 2010. Brad Hutnik, DNR Riverway Forester, and Mr. Jones also were present for the field inspection. Field inspection revealed portions of the harvest area are visible from the Wisconsin River during leaf-on conditions. Plans call for the selective harvest of miscellaneous hardwoods. The trees slated for harvest have been marked and reviewed for compliance with the applicable performance standards. One new road may be constructed but has not been flagged as of yet and will need to be reviewed prior to initiation of the harvest. The harvest will be conducted when the ground is frozen or dry and the leaves are off the deciduous trees.

A motion to approve issuance of a permit with conditions was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Madison. Conditions of the permit include:

- The harvest shall comply with the basal area limits for the residual stand in the Bluff Zone and Riverview Zone, as detailed in Chapter NR 37, Wisconsin Administrative Code;
- 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 Zone 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;
- If necessary, the various zones shall be delineated prior to initiation of the harvest;
- 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 Crystal/Fish/Mud Lake District pumping project was discussed. Dorscheid said DNR officials have recommended that implementation of the erosion control plan proposed by the lake district and approved by the board be postponed because, in their opinion, the site has stabilized and implementation of the erosion control plan may be counterproductive. Dorscheid said the Operations Committee is bringing the matter to the full board without a recommendation for action to extend the time frame for completing the project or to require implementation of the plan by the June 1, 2010, deadline, as required by previous board action. Lundberg asked about spring flows and effects on the site. Cupp said flows were higher than normal early in the spring and the below normal for April. Greenwood said, if the grass and willow are already established, it may be better to leave it rather than disturb the site. A member of the public, Timm Zumm of Spring Green, said the high flow recorded at the Prairie du Sac dam this year was 15,000 cfs. The site hasn't changed much according to Zumm. Lundberg said he was opposed to the DNR's suggestion to cut a tree to stimulate grass growth. Madison said the memorandum received from DNR was too vague. Greenwood said it may be best to recognize implementation of the plan is possible but to delay action until further onsite discussions occur. A motion to extend the deadline for implementation of the plan until July 1, 2010, was made by Leys, seconded by Greenwood. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Cupp reported on permits issued by the Executive Director. General permits for timber harvest on lands not visible from the river during leaf-on conditions were issued to three property owners in the Town of Marietta, Crawford County. All three harvests involve the light selective harvest of walnut trees. The permits were issued to Eric Sime, Leonard Ward and Joe Dremsa. The consultant for all three is Budd Bunders. Management permits for cutting of woody vegetation around the Daughters of the American Revolution commemorative marker at the Battle of Wisconsin Heights site in the Town of Mazomanie, Dane County, were issued to Ryder Will on behalf of the DNR and to David McFarlane, the adjacent private landowner. Plans call for removal of woody vegetation to open up the marker. The site is not visible from the river during leaf-on conditions.

The Budget Committee report was presented by Chairman Nice who reviewed the status of the FY 10 budget. Cupp noted the committee will meet to review proposed purchase of equipment. Projections for the remainder of the fiscal year indicated a surplus will be achieved due to conservative fiscal management.

There was no report from the Personnel Committee.

The Executive Director's report was presented by Cupp who reviewed the materials in the board members' packets. The death of Harold "Bud" Jordahl was noted. Madison said he had worked with Jordahl for many years, beginning in 1965, and developed an abiding friendship with Jordahl over the years. He noted Jordahl was one of the icons of environmental and natural resources protection in Wisconsin. Cupp concurred and said he was proud to consider Jordahl as a mentor and friend and noted Jordahl's longtime and strong support of the Riverway project. He said the remarks delivered by Jordahl at the Year of the Riverway celebration in August of last year will be posted on the LWSRB website. Cupp noted Jordahl was a member of the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame and will be sorely missed. Leys said Jordahl should be considered the Aldo Leopold of his generation and said he was a man of great vision.

Under board members business, Greenheck noted that Marge Gibson, bird rehabilitator with the Raptor Education Group, Inc., of Antigo is headed to the Gulf of Mexico to aid birds compromised by the oil spill. Gibson has conducted eagle releases in the Riverway on numerous occasions.

The DNR report was presented by Acting Riverway Manager Ryder Will who introduced Nancy Frost, who will assist with the Acting Riverway Manager role until the permanent manager assumes his/her

responsibilities, which should be soon. Will said there were no new acquisitions to report since the last meeting. The new Water Trail map for the Riverway is hot off the press. He said the DNR's Riverway website is close to being operational. Will said the Riverway crew has been picking up the typical spring garbage from illegal dumping. The USH 14 landing has been repaired and a canoe launch area installed and should be open soon.

Hutnik noted an increase in timber markets may lead to more harvesting activity in the fall. He will report on plans for DNR harvesting at the July meeting.

During the public comment period, Timm Zumm, Co-Chair of the Friends of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway (FLOW), said the Private Landowners of Wisconsin will conduct a river clean-up on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Sauk Prairie River PAL group will do a clean-up on June 5th and FLOW will have an event with river clean-up and education on June 19<sup>th</sup>. He said FLOW has passed a resolution supporting the purchase of scenic easements in the Riverway.

A motion to adjourn until June 10<sup>th</sup> when the meeting will be held at the Rhinelander Cabin the Riverway's Black Hawk Unit in the Town of Mazomanie, Dane County, was made by Madison, seconded by Greenheck.  
**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.

Minutes submitted by:

---

Mark E. Cupp, Executive Director  
Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board