

# LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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## MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 18, 2018, RIVERWAY BOARD MEETING

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board (LWSRB) met on Thursday, January 18, 2018, at the LWSRB office in Muscodia to conduct a regular monthly business meeting. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Fred Madison. All members were present with the exception of Steve Williamson. (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 Gigi LaBudde, seconded by Jerry Dorscheid. **MOTION CARRIED.** A motion to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2017, meeting was made by Ron Leys, seconded by Dick McFarlane. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The Executive Committee report was presented by Chairman Madison who asked Cupp for an update on correspondence. Cupp said items related to correspondence would be discussed under committee reports.

The Operations Committee report was presented by Chair Dorscheid. There were no permit applications to consider. Cupp said he was waiting for additional information regarding potential timber harvests in the Town of Wyoming, Iowa County, and the Town of Troy, Sauk County. Cupp said work on the Sauk City Railroad Bridge was expected to begin soon. He said the American Transmission Company will present an application to the board regarding the reconstruction of the Boscobel to Lone Rock 69kv line in the coming months. Some preparatory work will be done before the major reconstruction begins later in 2018. Cupp noted work on STH 60 between Gotham and Muscodia is expected to begin in 2021.

Cupp then introduced Mike Finlay, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Forestry Supervisor, regarding a proposed timber harvest and management activities on a state-owned parcel in the Town of Marietta, Crawford County. Finlay discussed problems with oak wilt and Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) at the site. Portions of the diseased and infested area fall within the Bluff Zone. There is a large percentage of ash on the parcel. Finlay said the desired treatment is to remove all ash when the harvest is conducted. This action may result in areas falling below the basal area performance standard for the residual stand in the Bluff Zone. If the ash is not removed, the trees will succumb to the EAB within 5 years. The hope is to remove the ash while some economic value remains. He also would like to remove aspen clones for regeneration purposes. LaBudde asked if the ash would regenerate naturally. Finlay noted ash is a prolific re-seeder. Cupp asked if oak planting would follow the harvest. Finlay said natural regeneration is the desired outcome. Leys noted the devastation EAB can cause is evidenced by the destruction of forests in Michigan. Cupp noted a field inspection will be conducted at the site and further discussion will occur at a later date.

The Budget Committee report was presented by Chairman Cary who reviewed the status of the FY 18 budget. Cupp said elimination of the February meeting should be considered as a cost savings measure and to accommodate board members who will be absent, which may result in quorum issues. Cary made a motion, seconded by Leys, to cancel the February LWSRB meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.**

There was no report from the Personnel Committee.

The Executive Director's report was given by Cupp who reviewed the materials in the board members' packets. He noted the FLOW annual meeting will be held in Plain on January 27<sup>th</sup>.

Under board member business, LaBudde indicated work is being done to create a spur of the proposed Driftless Trail to include the Spring Green area, including the school forest. She said the hope is to create more interest and use of the forest by students and local people. A trail from the village to the river also is desired.

The DNR report was present by Matt Seguin, DNR Riverway Property Manager, who said the DNR crews have been working on invasive species control, construction of wood duck boxes and eagle surveys. Finlay noted the harvest on the Matthews tract has been completed.

During public comment, Forest Jahnke of the Crawford Stewardship Project noted two events to be sponsored by the organization. A seminar on Industrial Ag in the Driftless will be held on January 20<sup>th</sup> in Boscobel. The annual Love of the Land fundraiser will be held on February 3<sup>rd</sup> in Gays Mills.

A motion to adjourn was made by Dorscheid, seconded by Cary. **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.