

LOWER WISCONSIN STATE RIVERWAY BOARD

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

NEWS RELEASE

JANUARY 13, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RIVERWAY BOARD ISSUES PERMITS

MUSCODA.....The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board met in Muscodia on January 13th to conduct a regular monthly business meeting. The board approved issuance of a timber harvest permit to Dillman Bros. LLC for a parcel in the Town of Wauzeka, Crawford County. Extensions to previously issued permits for management of native plant communities were issued to Colin O'Keefe for a parcel in the Town of Wyoming, Iowa County, and to Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Wildlife Biologist Travis Anderson for parcels in the Town of Buena Vista, Richland County; Town of Spring Green, Sauk County; and Town of Wyoming and Town of Pulaski, both in Iowa County. The management activities include invasive species and woody vegetation control to enhance wildlife habitat and native plant communities.

Mark Cupp, Executive Director, told the board communications towers continue to sprout throughout the area. He explained that the board has no authority over tower construction unless the base of the tower is within the Riverway boundary, regardless of the tower's visibility from the river. Cupp said a new tower has been built in the Town of Muscodia, Grant County, and towers are proposed for the Town of Buena Vista, Richland County, and the Town of Troy, Sauk County. He noted legislative action has greatly reduced the ability of local units of government to regulate tower locations.

In other action, the board affirmed a previously adopted position in favor of a canoe registration fee providing the funds are used for canoe launch development and improvements. Ron Leys, Crawford County representative, said it is a matter of equity and that canoes and kayaks using state water resources should help share expenses with motor boat users. The board also learned that the Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission is considering installation of warning signs at the Sauk City Railroad Bridge. Recent engineering studies and diving excursions have shown some of the piers are compromised. Jerry Dorscheid, Iowa County representative, suggested the rail commission and DNR place signage at area boat landings to further educate the public about the hazards at the bridge.

Following the public comment session, the board adjourned until the next meeting to be held in Muscodia on February 9th.

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For further information, contact Mark E. Cupp, LWSRB Executive Director, at (608) 739-3188 or 1-800-221-3792.