

PECATONICA RAIL TRANSIT COMMISSION

719 Pioneer Tower • 1 University Plaza • Platteville, Wisconsin 53818
MEMBER COUNTIES: GREEN • IOWA • LAFAYETTE • ROCK

MEETING MINUTES

Pecatonica Rail Transit Commission

1:00pm • Friday, 24 July 2009 • Green Co. Courthouse, Basement Conf. Rm, 1016 16th Ave • Monroe, WI

1. Harvey Kubly, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.
2. Commissioners present for all or part of the meeting:

| Commissioner | | Position | Present | Commissioner | | Position | Present |
|--------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------|--------------|------------------|----------------------------|---------|
| Green | Harvey Kubly | Chair | X | Iowa | Charles Anderson | Secretary | X |
| | Oscar Olson | Treasurer | X | | Jerry Dorscheid | | X |
| | Ron Wolter | | X (1:20) | | Philip Mrozinski | | X |
| Lafayette | John Bartles | | X | Rock | Ben Coopman | Alternate | |
| | Jed Gant | 1 st Vice Chair | X | | Katie Kuznacic | | X |
| | Gerald Heimann | Alternate | | | Alan Sweeney | 2 nd Vice Chair | X |
| | Ted Wiegel | | X | | Terry Thomas | | |

Others present for all or part of the meeting: *Eileen Brownlee (PRTC Legal Council), William Riese (Citizen), Frank Huntington (WisDOT), Ken Lucht and Steve Beske (WSOR – arrived at 1:15), Brian Gray (Monroe Times), Amy Seebth (PRTC Administrator)*

3. **Certification of Public Notice** – Seebth, PRTC Administrator
4. **Motion accepting the Agenda, prepared by Seebth** - Gant / Bartles / passed unanimously.
5. **Motion approving the draft April Minutes** - Anderson / Bartles / passed unanimously.
6. **Public Comment** – None
7. **Correspondence & Communications** – Seebth was contacted by Paul McCarville regarding the location and possible affects of RR15 on the existing trail. She emailed McCarville detailed maps of the trail with aerial photographs and told him she will keep him informed as a stakeholder group is formed and public information meetings are scheduled.

REPORTS & COMMISSION BUSINESS

8. **Wisconsin & Southern Railroad's Report on Operations** – *Ken Lucht, WSOR (MOVED TO AFTER ITEM 16)*
Monthly maintenance activities – WSOR weed control plan is being implemented- they used a slow kill method this year with weeds killed over the length of a week. There is a complete bridge replacement to carry the increased capacity of carloads in the works on Monroe subdivision – 3 miles west of Brodhead.
Capital projects- State budget is passed, Lucht thanked the PRTC and local representatives for helping with efforts on the budget. Plan to still be working on Madison - Milton project next year, welded rail from Edgerton to Madison if the financial resources and support exist. Hope to start working on a tie project from Milwaukee to Slinger if grant funds exist.
Monroe extension west through Patterson Road: Lucht explained that in the last five years WSOR has seen a spike in traffic in Monroe area– Badger State Ethanol, Green Valley Read-Mix, and EPCO, Inc. have capacity issues. WSOR would like to extend trackage just west of Monroe along the existing corridor to better meet these needs. Lucht explained that sometimes they can pull the grain right in, many times not because the tracks are full. From an efficiency stand point, what they have had to do is not efficient and has been deteriorating the ties more quickly. This extension could be used with through traffic as well as capacity issues. This would not be considered rail storage. The track will be a single track (not parallel siding). Beskie (also with WSOR) explained that having the extended main will open quite a few possibilities service-wide. This is not a storage track, but a place to assemble trains. WSOR is working on drawings (preliminary engineering) and cost estimates. Wolter pointed out that the Green County Highway Dept is going ahead with the at-grade at Patterson crossing and anticipate receiving state funding by July 1st next year- they are hoping to start construction at that point. Ultimately, Huntington pointed out

that Office of the Commissioner of Railroads OCR is the body that has to decide if the passing at Patterson RD is at grade or not. The current agreement between the Commission and the County says that if the trail is there at grade is fine, but once rail is there, the OCR is the one that makes the decision. Working with the OCR will probably add time onto any rail extension efforts and possibly require a public hearing. WSOR said they hope to work with the trail group to still have a jointly used trail here. There are a number of things that the trail can do to have the trail up by then. The RTC, WSOR and TCTC need to work together to get a joint trail / rail plan in place. Lucht said that WSOR will notify the Town of Clarno, City of Monroe and the Tri-County Trail Commission (TCTC) of any decision on this issue made at the meeting.

9. **PRTC Financial Report** – Oscar Olson, PRTC Treasurer, distributed copies of the Treasurer's Report and provided an overview.
 - **Motion approving Treasurer's Report (no bills)**- Wiegle / Dorscheide / passed unanimously
10. **PRTC Administrator's Report** – Amy Seeboth, SWWRPC Trans. Planning Program Manager / PRTC Admin.- No updated other than what is included in the Agenda.
11. **WisDOT** – Frank Huntington, WisDOT, gave an update on the affects of the new State Budget on the State's Freight Railroad Preservation Program (FRPP). The SFY 2010-11 Budget increased funding for FRPP projects compared with past budgets. The SFY 2008-09 budget included \$22 million for FRPP projects. The SFY 2010-11 budget includes \$60 million for FRPP projects. Some of the additional funds are for RR15 projects. In SFY 2010 the reinstallation and reconstruction of the line from Plymouth to Kohler will be completed. Next year, and possibly the year after that, the Monroe to Mineral Point line could receive funding. DOT has not made a final determination on whether to fund this project yet. WDOT is working to complete an Economic Impact Study on the reinstallation of the Monroe to Mineral Point/Shullsburg line. This study and a project benefit / cost analysis need to be completed before a final decision is made. The budget has roughly \$15 million per year for RR15 projects. If all three segments were done, the Monroe to Mineral Point/Shullsburg project would probably cost \$45-50 million. Other projects that will be funded in this biennium with FRPP funds that will affect the PRTC line include a Tie program from Monroe to Janesville. This project is expected to cost roughly \$4 million.
12. **Bob Hoesly Memorial** – Seeboth provided an update on the memorial for Hoesly, attended by his children, JoAnn and Jim, and that was held at the end of the meeting. The Commission signed a Resolution honoring Hoesly and commending him for his service to the PRTC over the years.
 - **Motion adopting Resolution to commend Robert Hoesly** – Gant / Mrozinski – passed unanimously.
13. **Right-of-Way– Iowa County Line** – Seeboth explained a communication she had received from Jeff Donaghue detailing a right-of-way encroachment where a farmer was planting on the PRTC land.
 - **Motion to have Seeboth draft a letter to this land owner saying that the PRTC will watch for future encroachments and the land owner is assuming the risk of loosing their plantings by cutting into the PRTC ROW** – Mrozinski – Kuznancic – Passed Unanimously
14. **Darlington Comfort Station Lease Update** – Brownlee (PRTC Legal Council) reported that this issue was on the agenda for the City of Darlington July 21st meeting. She was not updated on the outcome of that meeting, however.
15. **Commission / Village of Browntown property line and barrier blocks update** – Seeboth reported that the Village of Browntown returned the signed lease to PRTC. The issue of what to do with the existing cement blocks on the land remains. Olson reported that the blocks are still in their original locations. There are 24 blocks, approximately 2'x2'x3' each.
 - **Motion to allow Oscar to talk to Browntown to see whether the Village will move the blocks and excavate as far to the trail as possible.** Gant / Bartles / Passed Unanimously
16. **RR15 Update** – Seeboth explained that she has moved ahead with developing a stakeholder group to respond to RR15. She met with the Lafayette County CNRED Educator and Economic Development Director to began creating a stakeholder invite list, and has spoken with Green County EDC as well. They plan to invite up to 40 individuals and hold an informational meeting for this group in mid-September. Seeboth also plans to begin putting together an informational website on the topic.
 - **Motion to provide refreshments up to \$200 at the information meeting** – Mrozinski / Kuznancic / passed unanimously.
17. **Resolution To Terminate The Interim Trail Use/Rail Banking Agreement By And Between The Pecatonica Rail Transit Commission And The Tri-County Trail Commission As To That Portion Of The Transit Commission Property Located Between Milepost 44.5 And Milepost 49.** Brownlee (PRTC Legal Council) provided a background on this topic – what is being sought is re-instatement of the corridor into rail use. It currently is "rail banked" – the Agreement

between the Commission and Tri-County Trail Commission (TCTC) says that the corridor in question may be reserved for trail until it is needed for rail use. The TCTC agreed to take on financial responsibility of the corridor in the interim of rail use. The 1990 and re-signed 2000 agreement between the RTC and TCTC allows for reinstatement of rail at any point. This Resolution in question would remove this land from the Agreement between the RTC and TCTC. This does not preclude the opportunity to reach a new agreement between these two groups. She also said that the 6-month provision can be changed if TCTC and RTC and WSOR agree to extend it, but the 6-months as stated is in keeping with all the existing laws and agreements. Brownlee thinks there are liability and other issues to be explored if we look at a joint use. Brownlee said that this resolution is in keeping with the purpose of this Commission: to reinstall rail when possible.

- **After much discussion, a motion was made to adopt the Resolution with a Roll Call Vote-** Sweeney / Mrozinski – 8 to 3 the Motion carried and was approved.
- **A motion was made that Amy is to immediately send City of Monroe, Green County, Town of Clarno, involved trail groups and any other interested parties a letter of notice on what is occurring –** Olson / Gant – approved.

18. 3:15 Adjournment – Gant / Bartles / Passed Unanimously