

# PECATONICA RAIL TRANSIT COMMISSION

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

APPROVED MINUTES

## Pecatonica Rail Transit Commission

1:00pm • Friday, Oct 22nd 2010 • Green Co. Courthouse, Basement Mtg Rm, 1016 16<sup>th</sup> 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		
	Ron Wolter		X		Philip Mrozinski		
Lafayette	Leon Wolfe		X	Rock	Ben Coopman	Alternate	
	Patrick Shea		X		Wayne Gustina		X
	Gerald Heimann	Alternate			Alan Sweeney	1st Vice Chair	X
	Ted Wiegel		X		Terry Thomas	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair	X

**Others present for all or part of the meeting:** Doug Lindstrom (City of Darlington); Ken Clemmons (WSOR), Jerry Guth (Green County Board), Frank Huntington & Ethan Johnson (WDOT), Amy Seeboth (PRTC Administrator).

3. **Certification of Public Notice** – Seeboth, PRTC Administrator
4. **Motion accepting the Agenda, prepared by Seeboth** – Anderson / Thomas - passed unanimously.
5. **Motion approving the draft July Minutes** - Two changes were noted: in item 12, replace “snow fencing” with “fencing” and in item 16, correct positions noted in roll call vote- Wiegel / Gustina - passed unanimously.
6. **Public Comment** - None
7. **Correspondence & Communications** – Seeboth reported that Eileen Brownlee, PRTC Legal Council, wrote to inform the Commission that her hourly rate is increasing. The Commission requested that this be placed on the agenda for a future meeting. Seeboth also passed around a press release announcing that the Tri County Trail Commission is about to begin and economic impact study of the Cheese Country Trail- this study is beginning Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> and will last 12 months.

### REPORTS & COMMISSION BUSINESS

8. **PRTC Financial Report** – Oscar Olson, PRTC Treasurer
  - **Motion approving Treasurer’s Report** - Sweeney / Thomas - passed unanimously
  - **Motion approving Payment of Bills**- Wiegel / Anderson - passed unanimously
  - **Motion to place invoices received from WSOR on Jan. Agenda** - Sweeney / Gustina - passed unanimously
9. **Wisconsin & Southern Railroad’s Report on Operations** – Ken Lucht, WSOR  
*Monthly maintenance activities* – Clemmons gave a very brief update on WSOR, saying that they are working on installing ties at this time and that they are moving a lot of corn and soy beans. The food and packing businesses have been pretty good lately and this is keeping WSOR busy. They are also looking for silica and there is a belief that there are silica deposits in Green County- Ken asked that if any Commissioner has insight on where these deposits may be located, that they get in touch with WSOR.
10. **PRTC Administrator’s Report**– Seeboth reviewed the 2011 meeting dates with the Commissioners. She also reported that her organization recently underwent some structural changes and while she has taken on new duties at her office, she will continue to work with the Rail Transit Commissions.
11. **WisDOT** – Frank Huntington, WisDOT, reported that WDOT is in the process of reviewing project applications that they received. They have about \$30 million to spend on acquisition and rehabilitation of freight rail line- which is

quite a bit more funds than in the past. Despite this, DOT received applications for \$60-100 million, so funding decisions will not be easy. At the same time, WDOT has been presented with the opportunity to purchase the Union Pacific line through Madison and up to Reedsburg, which is a priority for WDOT as it will connect all the other Wisconsin lines in Madison. DOT does not yet know how much this acquisition might cost and that will affect DOT's decisions on what other projects to fund this year. Huntington said that this decision will need to be made sooner than later. The WSOR lease on these lines expires next year and the U.P. would like to resolve this before then. Huntington mentioned several other acquisition and rehabilitation projects that the DOT is working on across the State. He also said that the WSOR Tiger2 applications were not funded. Seeboth said that she would place the Tiger 2 award list on the PRTC website. Ethan added that WDOT has issued a draft state rail plan that is on the website for review by the Commissioners. Seeboth will also post this to the PRTC website.

- 12. Tri-County Trail Commission Update-** Wolfe spoke about the Trail study mentioned above. The Study is starting Nov. 1st and will be a year-long. They will do 1000 intercept interviews and have a separate survey for snowmobiles in the evenings, but will not be interviewing these folks, just counting them. They are still working to fill some slots for November. It was also mentioned that some rip rap work is being done right now along (but not on) the corridor.
- 13. Update on Comfort Station** – Doug Lindstrom from the City of Darlington was present at the meeting. He explained that the City has resolved their issues with the Historic Society on this site, and now would like to establish the lease with PRTC. Seeboth will coordinate with Brownlee to provide the City with a lease for consideration.
- 14. Review and approval of 2009 PRTC Audit Report by Johnson Block-** Commissioners were provided with a draft copy of the Audit for review.
  - **Motion approving a 2009 PRTC Audit Report by Johnson Block** – *Sweeney / Wolfe – passed unanimously*
- 15. Consideration of PRTC Fee Schedule-** Seeboth explained that the PRTC has not before had a schedule of fees that can be charged for permitting costs. The idea behind a fee schedule would be to recoup costs associated with private crossings or utility permits along the corridor owned by PRTC (WDOT takes care of utility permitting along their corridor). Seeboth provided the Commissioners with the WRRTC Fee Schedule as an example; the Commissioners requested that Seeboth adjust this fee schedule as she sees fit for PRTC and bring it back to the Commission for review at their January meeting.
- 16. 2:06 Adjournment** – *Shea / Thomas - passed unanimously*