

# PECATONICA RAIL TRANSIT COMMISSION

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

ADOPTED MINUTES

## Pecatonica Rail Transit Commission

1:00pm • Friday, April 29th 2011 • Green Co. Courthouse, Basement Conf. 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	
	Oscar Olson	Treasurer	X		Jerry Dorscheid		X
	Ron Wolter		X		Philip Mrozinski		X
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: Ken Lucht (WSOR), Frank Huntington & Roger Larson (WDOT), Amy Seeboth (PRTC Administrator).

3. Certification of Public Notice – Seeboth, PRTC Administrator
4. Motion accepting the Agenda, prepared by Seeboth – Dorscheid / Wolfe - passed unanimously.
5. Motion approving the draft Minutes
  - From the January Meeting- Thomas / Shea - passed unanimously.
  - From the February Special Meeting - Dorscheid / Gustina - passed unanimously.
6. Public Comment - None
7. Correspondence & Communications – None

### REPORTS & COMMISSION BUSINESS

8. PRTC Financial Report – Oscar Olson, PRTC Treasurer passed out copies of the treasurer's report.
  - Motion approving Treasurer's Report - Dorscheid / Wolfe - passed unanimously
  - Motion approving Payment of Bills- Sweeney / Gustina - passed unanimously
  - Motion approving Payment to SWWRPC for Q2 Staff Services – Wolfe / Thomas – passed unanimously
9. Wisconsin & Southern Railroad's Report on Operations – Lucht updates the Commission on the following topics:
  - Maintenance of Way Activities – WSOR is brush cutting the Reedsburg and the Prairie du Chien line right now. They are weed spraying on the Monroe line in the next couple of weeks. They will also be doing rail detections soon. They are doing maintenance work on a number of bridges in the area as well.
  - Capital Projects – WSOR is working on three major projects at this time: the Madison-Milton Welded rail project, the Janesville-Monroe project and Milwaukee-Slinger project.
10. Consideration / Action on WSOR 2011 Capital Project – WSOR is planning to add a Phase 2 to the Monroe subdivision tie project (WSOR is still working on finishing the Phase 1). They have 14 crossings that they would like to completely reconstruct. They also have 4 bridges that they would like to reconstruct. The preliminary cost for this project is approximately \$1 million. They plan to apply for \$800,000 of this from WDOT and WSOR will contribute \$200,000. WSOR is requesting that PRTC's local contribution (\$25,000) in 2011 be contributed to this project. Lucht said that they will ask for formal approval of this at next PRTC meeting. He also said that WSOR will pick up any local match that the Commission is not able to meet.
11. PRTC Administrator's Report– Seeboth updated the Commission on SCWRTC and WRRTC projects.
12. WisDOT – Frank Huntington reported that WDOT FRIIP and FRPP grant and loan applications were due February 1<sup>st</sup>. They

received roughly \$90million in applications and only \$60 million is available. One of the project applications was an acquisition of the UP line from Madison to Reedsburg, a project alone will cost approximately \$30 million. This project would likely be phased over several years if it is approved. The bridge project of WSOR was another major grant application received by WDOT.

Huntington also updated the Commission on a property along the PRTC ROW in Calamine that the DNR would like to acquire. The property had been contaminated and remediated; the DNR would now like to use it as a trailhead. WDOT owns the parcel and wanted to gain a consensus from PRTC on this topic. Huntington asked this item be placed on the next PRTC agenda for consideration and action.

- 13. Tri-County Trail Commission Update-** Wolfe reported that the TCTC has been discussing reassigning snow grooming duties to make their grooming more uniform. The TCTC are still working on the Cheese Country Trail survey and they are having a difficult time finding the volunteers needed to do the intercept survey's. The preliminary results show some signs of good economic impact along the trail. The TCTC will do a presentation for everyone when the study is complete.
- 14. Update on Comfort Station** – No update.
- 15. Approval of fencing funds disbursement for winter 2010-2011 to Tri-County Trail Commission (\$5,000)-** No funds request at this time.
- 16. Consideration of PRTC Fee Schedule-** Seeboth drafted a fee schedule for the PRTC and brought the schedule for review.
  - **Motion adopting the PRTC Fee Schedule dated April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011-** *Sweeney / Thomas – passed unanimously*
- 17. Review and Consideration of PRTC Private Crossing Application**
  - **Motion adopting the PRTC Private Crossing Application dated April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011-** *Sweeney / Thomas – passed unanimously*
- 18. Consideration of increasing 2011 PRTC Payments to WRRTC (from \$25,000 to \$26,520)**
  - **Motion to increase 2011 PRTC Payments to WRRTC (from \$25,000 to \$26,520)-** *Mrozinski / Wolfe – passed with one opposed (Olson)*
- 19. Discussion on PRTC Finances and Financial History** – Commissioner Sweeney had requested this agenda item so that new Commissioners can be brought up to speed on the topic. Huntington explained that when the rail lines were first put up for abandonment, each county put in a certain amount of money for acquisition. Not all of it was used and what was not used was put in a shared account. Prior to this, rehab money was put into the account as well. The PRTC would have to go way back in the records to determine what each county put into this initial amount. At one point, each county also contributed an equal amount for PRTC administration. This ended when the railroad was able to make an annual lease payment to PRTC that covered the administrative costs. In 2005, WSOR approached the member counties for annual contributions to create the local match for grant applications.

At this point, the only connection that the two Commissions have is joint counties and staff. Each member county is a part of the agreements with WSOR and WDOT. Legally there is no official connection. No contractual agreement exists that would require the WRRTC to pay for improvements on the PRTC line. The reason PRTC pays WRRTC is because there are usually no annual improvements along the PRTC line. The PRTC Commission felt that improving the WRRTC line benefits PRTC.

PRTC Commissioners agreed that they would like to initiate a long-term discussion with WRRTC on how dollars are being spent.
- 20. PRTC 2011 Elections** – None, elections occur every-other-year (next will be in 2012)
- 21. Motion to adjourn at 2:30** – *Wiegel / Gustina – passed unanimously*