

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, July 22nd 2011 • 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		
	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 (left at 2:33)		X		Terry Thomas	2 nd 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 – Wolfe / Gustina - passed unanimously.
5. Motion approving PRTC April 2011 Draft Minutes- with changes to item 19 to clarify those commissioners in discussion are PRTC Commissioners. -Sweeney / Anderson - 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 - Gustina / Wolfe - passed unanimously
 - Motion approving Bills – Sweeney / Shea - passed unanimously
9. Wisconsin & Southern Railroad's Report on Operations – Lucht updates the Commission on the following topics:

Maintenance of Way Activities – WSOR is working on track inspections right now, as well as fixing broken rails, brush cutting and working on improving crossings. They recently had a derailment outside of Spring Green, it happened in close proximity to the WI River, 5 cars derailed, one went down the embankment into the flood plan. The car was full of sand, so not as big of an environmental concern. The line was back up within 24 hours.

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. Milton phase 1 is nearly complete; they have laid 14 miles of rail and have some switches to rebuild and are doing some tamping. Along the Janesville-Monroe sub they are, currently tamping and are almost complete. Along Milwaukee-Slinger they are preparing the line for welded rail.

Business in general- Lucht reported that business is pretty strong and grain is in particular (up 20% so far this year from last). They have had a lot of windmill components. WSOR is also hauling a number of transformers.
10. Consideration / Action on WSOR 2011 Capital Project
 - Motion committing PRTC's 2011 local contribution (\$26,520) as a match to WSOR's reconstruction of ten public at-grade crossings in Rock and Green Counties – Sweeney / Anderson – passed unanimously
11. PRTC Administrator's Report– Seeboth updated the Commission on PRTC administrative work.
12. WisDOT – Frank Huntington reported that the WDOT is still working to review their FRIIP grant applications. 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.

- 13. Tri-County Trail Commission Update-** Wolfe reported that the TCTC has upgraded about 6 miles of trail from Gratiot to Darlington with new gravel. They are still working on the trail surveys, folks are reporting that they do not like the new gravel until it settles in. The survey is going for about three more months. Wolfe asked if the Commission would like a presentation the fall from Dave Marcoullier from UW-Madison on the findings. Wolfe also said that he alone has had 20 people help him do survey's for this study on his two stations along the trail.
- 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 and action regarding DOT transfer of Calamine Property to WDNR.** Huntington had requested that this be put on the agenda at the last meeting. There is a property in Calamine that is adjacent to the PRTC ROW, and when a business left the property many years ago, it was realized that there were pollution issues and so the DNR began a reclamation project about 10 years ago on the parcel. The property has now been deemed clean. There was some discussion a while ago about whether the PRTC or DNR would like the property and at that time, but with the pollution issues, neither the PRTC nor the DNR wanted to take it on in cooperation with the TCTC. Since, the DNR has requested that they might have the property transferred from the DOT to the DNR at this time. Alternatively, DOT wanted to see if the Commission would have any interest in the property either via transfer or via permit. Huntington stated that he intends that whatever agreement is achieved that it be worded so that the property can be transferred back to rail should it ever come back.

Either way, if the DNR or PRTC takes on the land, the TCTC would likely be responsible for the land. TCTC has reviewed this request and said that they have no concern either way. WSOR said that they would like to take a further look at this; the preference would be that PRTC take it on. Kubly agreed that this would be the conservative approach.

 - **Motion to request a transfer of the Calamine property in question to PRTC from the WDOT - Mrozinski / Gustina – passed with one opposition (Wolfe)**
- 17. Discussion on PRTC / TCTC agreements and access to ROW-** To help provide clarity of the roles between PRTC and TCTC in managing the corridor, Seeboth provided the Commissioners with a summary handout of the TCTC-PRTC Lease agreement.
- 18. Continuation of discussion on PRTC finances and financial history –** This conversation is carried over from the April Meeting. Commissioner Sweeney had requested this agenda item so that new Commissioners can be brought up to speed on the topic. In the past, local contributions have been shared between WRRTC and PRTC, but in practice, PRTC has contributed their share to projects along the WRRTC line every year of this history except for 2010. WRRTC has never contributed a local share dollar to a project on the PRTC line.

PRTC Commissioners agreed that they would like to initiate a long-term discussion with WRRTC on how dollars are being spent. They are considering a request to establish an agreement with WRRTC regarding these local share's. An agreement to this affect was considered in the past (called the 66 agreement) but never completed. Kubly requested that the PRTC Attorney be present at the next meeting for a discussion on this topic.
- 19. Motion to adjourn at 3:00 – Anderson / Gustina – passed unanimously**