

MEETING MINUTES

SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN RAIL TRANSIT COMMISSION

Tuesday, July 23, 2002, 12:30p.m.
Dane County Highway Garage
Basement Conference Room
Madison, WI

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was call to order by Chairman Hoesly at approximately 12:30 p.m. The following roll call was recorded.

Members Present: Bob Hoesly, Harvey Kubly, Oscar Olson, Judy Olson, Paul Ziehli, Fred Bartol

Others Present: Roger Larson, WisDOT District One Railroads; Frank Huntington, WisDOT Rails and Harbors; Nathan Klassy, City of Monroe; Jim Mielke, Village of New Glarus; Craig Foreback, Village of New Glarus; John Norwell, Dane County Highway Department; and Kenneth Lucht, SWWRPC

2. Proof of Public Notice

It was noted that the meeting notice had been sent to the Green County and Dane County Clerks for posting in the county courthouses. Also, notice was sent to several news media. The meeting notice was also posted at the office of the Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission in Platteville, WI.

F. Bartol moved, B. Hoesly seconded that the meeting was properly noticed. Motion carried.

3. Approval of Agenda

P. Ziehli Moved, H. Kubly seconded, that the agenda approved as distributed. Motion carried.

4. Approval of June 20, 2001 Meeting Minutes

P. Ziehli Moved, O. Olson seconded, that the minutes of the June 20, 2001 commission meeting be approved as distributed. Motion carried.

5. Approval of Bills / Treasurer's Report

H. Kubly, Commission Treasurer, presented the attached Treasurer's Report and the following bills. H. Kubly noted that there are three bills to be presented to the commission today for payment. The bills were discussed:

Bond Renewal (Retroactive authorization)	\$30.00
Harlem Township, Stephenson County, IL Real Estate Property Taxes	\$887.10
Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission	\$3,044.64

P. Ziehli moved, F. Bartol seconded, that the presented Treasurer's Report be approved. Motion carried. It was also moved by F. Bartol, seconded by H. Kubly, that the bills be approved for payment. Motion carried.

H. Kubly suggested the SCWRTC seek more attractive interest rates through a broker. By doing some research on interest rates on CD's, it is quite possible that the SCWRTC can invest its money in a broker who will have higher interest rates. Only brokers who are federally insured will be considered.

P. Ziehli moved, F. Bartol seconded, authorizing the commission treasurer to investigate a higher interest rate CD by going through a broker that is federally insured. Motion carried.

K. Lucht mentioned that a letter has been received from the Village of Belleville in regards to excess costs for the culvert replacement project in the Village of Belleville. At its December 14, 2000 meeting, the commission approved payment of 50% of costs (up to a total amount of \$5,450) of replacing a culvert near the trail in Belleville. The culvert was obsolete and not able to accommodate normal drainage patterns. Both the Village of Belleville and the SCWRTC opted to replace the culvert with a 50/50 cost share. The estimate presented to the SCWRTC on December 8, 2000, for construction, engineering, and design of the culvert replacement project was \$5,450.

On September 12, 2001, the Village of Belleville notified the SCWRTC that the total costs for this project amounted to \$8,661.35. This includes excess costs for engineering and design fees. The Village of Belleville is looking for reimbursement from SCWRTC in the amount of 50% of the excess costs or \$1,605.67.

K. Lucht mentioned that he had received no communication or notice from the Village of Belleville regarding these additional costs prior to them being incurred.

H. Kubly moved, O. Olson seconded, that the SCWRTC pay only half of the additional costs or \$802.84. Motion carried.

6. General Commission Business

K. Lucht welcomed Judy Olson from Dane County and Oscar Olson from Green County to the commission. Their appointment letters are contained in the meeting packets.

K. Lucht spoke about the recent initiative regarding the establishment of a "Coordinating Committee" of Freight Rail Transit Commissions. A letter about the initiative is contained in the meeting packets. Over the last six months, the Wisconsin & Southern Railroad Company (WSOR) has been talking with a number of rail transit commissions here in Southern Wisconsin about the possibility and need for forming a coordinating committee. Presently, WSOR operates on rail lines owned by four different rail transit commissions: Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission, Pecatonica Rail Transit Commission, East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium, and the Pink Lady Rail Transit Commission. WSOR has found it to be challenging to meet each transit commissions needs and desires while operating a freight rail service over lines owned by a multitude of transit commissions. Property management issues, project development and need, funding considerations, etc are all issues that should be coordinated with the railroad and each of the transit commissions. Each of the above mentioned transit

commissions are interested in this concept and have delegated 2 members and an alternate to serve on this committee. The first meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 2, 2002, 10:00a.m at WisDOT District One Offices.

K. Lucht asked if the SCWRTC would be interested in serving on this committee. Although much of the issues discussed by the Coordinating Committee will be directed to freight rail operations, a very important component of discussion will be preservation of the railroad corridors – something that SCWRTC is very much involved with.

H. Kubly moved, O. Olson seconded, that the SCWRTC participate in the Coordinating Committee efforts by appointing Judy Olson as a member and Harvey Kubly as an alternate. Motion carried.

7. Property Management Issues

K. Lucht reported that the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is currently working on the U.S. Hwy 20 bypass of Freeport, IL. The project will take place just north of Freeport, IL and will intersect the rail corridor near Fairview Road. IDOT would like to know what type of bridge or structure specifications the SCWRTC requires when building a highway over the corridor. IDOT is particularly interested in clearances for bridges or box culverts. Staff will review the agreements in place with regards to management of the corridor and will continue to work with IDOT regarding any required project specifications they need to meet.

8. Old Business

K. Lucht updated the commission on three property management issues that are currently being addressed by commission staff. In Scioto Mills, IL, there are 3 buildings located on trail right-of-way. The Freeport Area Economic Development Foundation would like to know whether or not these buildings have leases (pertaining to the land) from the commission attached to them. It is also unsure who are what entity owns the land underneath the buildings. The Freeport Area Economic Development Foundation would like to construct a trail access point at this location and is currently evaluating the possibilities. K. Lucht has not been able to locate any leases in this area. It is believed that additional files of the SCWRTC are located in Green or Dane Counties that may have information on this issue. Staff will continue to investigate this issue.

K. Lucht reported on a utility permit request from an individual in Freeport, IL. This request included the extension of an electrical facility underneath the trail corridor to connect up with an existing private property for a cattle barn. K. Lucht mentioned that the utility facility has already been constructed and a retroactively approved utility permit will be the most likely avenue. Lucht mentioned that the facility has met the requirements of Trans 29 – Utility facilities on Railroad Property. Lucht will work with the private landowner and the chairman in executing a retroactive utility permit.

K. Lucht also reported on the encroachment of excavated soil on commission property. In the Fall of 2000, the Brush Creek Golf Course in Orangeville, IL completed construction. In the process of its construction, a 6 to 8-foot high burme of soil was built on the right-of-way, approximately 10 feet from the edge of the trail surface. The burme is also very unsightly to users of the trail. This was done without prior approval from the commission. K. Lucht has sent golf course management a letter requiring immediate removal of the burme and has phoned

their office several times, but no cooperation has been received as of yet. Lucht was notified that the burme would be removed in the fall of 2001, but that didn't occur.

H. Kubly moved, P. Ziehli seconded, that the commission attorney send a letter to the Brush Creek Golf Course ordering immediate removal of the burme. Motion carried.

9. New Business

A). Update on Badger State Ethanol Plant Project - City of Monroe

N. Klassy from the City of Monroe presented an update on the Badger State Ethanol Plant Project. The plant will have an open house on September 13, and 14th, of this year for any members of the public who would like to see the facility. On September 30, 2002, the plant is expected to begin production of ethanol. Total construction time took approximately 14 months because of good working conditions. The ethanol will be shipped out to California by rail.

B). Badger State Trail Update

K. Lucht reported on the progress of the Badger State Trail from Madison to the Illinois State Line. Currently, the trail is closed until further development. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) has received money for brushing and signing. The signs won't be placed until the trail is open. The WDNR is currently investigating its options regarding money for bridge work -decking and railings. It is hoped that in the 2003-05 biennial budget, bridge money will be available. Also, the WDNR is in the process of developing a Master Plan for the corridor. This Master Plan will identify the types of uses for the trail, as well as facility development. The WDNR has conducted public meetings and will continue to do so until the Master Plan is complete.

C). Other

None.

10. Election of Officers

Nominations were open for the election of commission officers.

CHAIRMAN:

H. Kubly moved, J. Olson seconded, that Robert Hoesly be nominated to be re-elected to the office of Chairman. Motion carried unanimously.

O. Olson moved, F. Bartol seconded, that nominations be closed for office of the chairman. Motion carried unanimously.

VICE-CHAIRMAN:

H. Kubly moved, F. Bartol seconded, that Paul Ziehli be nominated to the office of Vice-Chairman. Motion carried unanimously.

H. Kubly moved, O. Olson seconded, that nominations be closed for office of the Vice-Chairman. Motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER:

O. Olson moved, F. Bartol seconded, that Harvey Kubly be nominated to be re-elected to the office of Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

P. Ziehli moved, J. Olson seconded, that nominations be closed for office of the Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

SECRETARY:

P. Ziehli moved, F. Bartol seconded, that Judy Olson be nominated to the office of Secretary. Motion carried unanimously.

P. Ziehli moved, F. Bartol seconded, that nominations be closed for office of the Secretary. Motion carried unanimously.

The commission officers are as follows:

Chairman	Robert Hoesly
V. Chair	Paul Ziehli
Secretary	Judy Olson
Treasurer	Harvey Kubly

11. Set Next Meeting Date

Chairman Hoesly stated that the next SCWRTC meeting will be called by the chairman when the need arises. It is expected that this fall/winter will be the next SCWRTC meeting.

12. Adjournment

O. Olson moved, H. Kubly seconded, that the meeting be adjourned.

Judy Olson, Secretary

Recorded by: Kenneth Lucht, SWWRPC