

SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN RAIL TRANSIT COMMISSION

719 Pioneer Tower • 1 University Plaza • Platteville, Wisconsin 53818
 Harvey Kubly, Chair • Commission Office Phone 608.342.1636 • Fax 608.342.1220
 MEMBER COUNTIES: DANE • GREEN

ADOPTED MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday July 22nd 2009, 2:00pm, Fitchburg DNR Facilities, 3911 Fish Hatchery Road, Fitchburg, WI

- 1) Harvey Kubly, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.
- 2) Roll Call / Establishment of Quorum:

| Commission members present for all or part of the meeting: | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------|---|
| Dane | Jim Haefs-Flemming | | X |
| | Judy Olson | Secretary | |
| | Paul Ziehli | Vice Chair | X |
| Green | Harvey Kubly | Chair | X |
| | Oscar Olson | Treasurer | X |
| | Ron Wolter | | X |

| Others present for all or part of the meeting: | |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Amy Seebth | PRTC Administrator |
| Frank Huntington | WisDOT |
| Jim Tracey | WisDOT |
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- 3) Certification of Public Notice – Seebth, PRTC Administrator
- 4) Motion approving the Agenda, prepared by Seebth: Ziehli / O.Olson / Passed Unanimously
- 5) Motion approving the draft April Minutes - Wolter / Haefs-Flemming / Passed Unanimously
- 6) Public Comment – None
- 7) Correspondence & Communications – None (other than those related to agenda item 8)

REPORTS & COMMISSION BUSINESS

- 8) **SCWRTC Financial Report** – Oscar Olson, SCWRTC Treasurer, distributed copies of the Treasure’s Report and provided an overview. Seebth explained that her office paid several Illinois Property Tax Bills (approximately \$1500) on behalf of the RTC and will bill the RTC in the third quarter for these expenses.
 - Motion approving Treasurer’s Report - Ziehli / Wolter / Passed Unanimously
 - Motion approving payment of Bills (SWWRPC Staff Services) – Ziehli / Haefs-Flemming / Passed Unanimously
- 9) **Illinois Tax Issue**- Seebth reported on the responses she received from three registered letters that she had mailed (one to the Director of the Illinois DNR, one to the Chair of Stephenson County, and one to the Governor of Illinois). She received one response (from Stephenson County Chair). The Chairman said he will help take care of the taxes and is contacting the Illinois DNR himself. Huntington said that the response from County Chairman is most positive response SCWRTC has received on this issue in twenty years. The Commission asked that Brownlee (the RTC Legal Council) write a letter to the County asking them to refund the bills we paid for July 1st this year (the approx. \$1500 SWWRPC paid). Huntington suggested that SCWRTC may want to get the Wis. DNR involved- someone a bit higher up could possibly put more pressure on the IL DNR.
 - Motion that SCWRTC contact all local representatives from the area and in Wisconsin to update them on our communications with the IL DNR, Stephenson County and the Governor- O. Olson / Ziehli – Passed Unanimously
- 10) **Memorial for Bob Hoesly** - Seebth provided an update on the memorial for Hoesly, to be attended by his children, JoAnn and Jim, and held at the end of the PRTC meeting on July 24th. The Commission signed a Resolution honoring Hoesly and commending him for his service to the SCWRTC over the years.
 - Motion adopting Resolution to commend Robert Hoesly – O.Olson / Wolter – Passed Unanimously
- 11) **SCWRTC Administrator’s Report** – Amy Seebth, SWWRPC Trans. Planning Program Manager / SCWRTC Admin.- No update other than what is included in the Agenda.

- 12) WisDOT** – Frank Huntington, WisDOT, gave an update on the affects of the new State Budget on rail. There is quite a bit of money for preservation projects as compared with the past. RR15 includes reinstalling and reinstructing from Plymouth to Kohler, next year and possibly year after that is Monroe to Mineral Point segment. DOT has not firmly committed to this yet, they are working on a study and further evaluation before that. RR15 has roughly 15 million per year set aside for this. If all three segments were done, this project would probably take \$45-50 million. Funded rehabilitations in this area included Madison to Milton (started year, additional work done this and next year). They expect that this project will be done in two years. Another project- Monroe to Janesville- putting in ties (approx. \$4mil project). High speed rail program is in this budget and moving along with the stimulus money. Steps are being taken to finalize high speed rail between Madison-mke and eventually to Chicago (110 mph). Friday the governor announced that two trains have been ordered. track work will probably be beginning next year. Shells of the cars are built in Spain, assembled in Wisconsin. Don't yet know where these will be assembled- will be about 80 jobs at first. Hopeful that this will bring in future jobs. Application is about 600 million dollars – includes everything that is needed between Madison to Chicago. Jim added the update that the DNR recently notified WisDOT that they had a culvert failure near Monroe- a sewer washed out on the tracks. The DNR is getting ready to replace these culverts right now.
- 13) DNR Reprt** – None. The Commissioners requested that we have a DNR representative at the next meeting. They would like to learn the usage numbers of the Badger and Jane Addams Trail.
- 14) 2:57pm Adjournment** – Ziehli / Wolter / Passed Unanimously