

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 MINUTES

Wednesday April 28th 2010, 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	
Green	Harvey Kubly	Chair	X
	Oscar Olson	Treasurer	X
	Ron Wolter		X

Others present for all or part of the meeting:	
Amy Seebth	SWWRPC & SCWRTC Administrator
Frank Huntington	WDOT
Dana White-Quam	WDNR
Ken Lucht	WSOR

- 3) Certification of Public Notice – Seebth, PRTC Administrator
- 4) Motion approving the Agenda, prepared by Seebth- Wolter/ O.Olson – Passed Unanimously
- 5) Motion approving the draft January Minutes - O.Olson / Haefs-Flemming - Passed Unanimously
- 6) Public Comment – None
- 7) Correspondence & Communications – Seebth read a letter received from Steve Ehlbeck of the Jane Addams trail, relating how the trail group has found a new location for their equipment shed. She also explained that she has contacted Dane and Green Counties to receive confirmation on their recent appointments, she has heard back from Green County.

REPORTS & COMMISSION BUSINESS

- 8) SCWRTC Financial Report – Oscar Olson, SCWRTC Treasurer, distributed copies of the Treasure’s Report and provided an overview.
 - Motion approving Treasurer’s Report - Wolter / Haefs-Flemming - Passed Unanimously
 - Motion approving payment of Bills – Haefs-Flemming / Wolter - Passed Unanimously
- 9) SCWRTC Administrator’s Report- Seebth informed the Commission that she has organized all Commission minutes and treasure’s reports that she was able to find (going back to 1999). They are available online, at: <http://www.swwrpc.org/transportation/SCWRTC.php> Seebth also mentioned that the SWWRPC will be working on a regional comprehensive plan later this year, and that she would like the rail transit commission to be involved in this if they can. She will share details at a later time.
- 10) Request to allow quarterly billings of equal amounts from SWWRPC Staff Services Agreement, not to exceed the contract amount.
 - Motion to allow quarterly billings of equal amounts from SWWRPC Staff Services Agreement, not to exceed \$4,000. Wolter / Haefs-Flemming – passed unanimously
- 11) WisDOT – Frank Huntington reported on the Freight Rail Improvement program and that WSOR submitted an application to the DOT for work between Monroe and Janesville. WSOR also submitted a funding application for construction west of Monroe and as of yesterday decided to withdraw that application due to the economic downturn. An application was submitted for a portion of the track rehabilitation project from Madison to Milton (this project has been underway for 2 years now, overall will be a \$20 million dollars). Huntington reported that

high speed rail to Madison is moving forward. Everything seems to be going okay on that. They are getting some things in order before grant funds are solidified. They expect it will be a few years before the rail is in place.

Ken Lucht added that WSOR is having a hard time trying to reinstall rail west of Monroe, with what has transpired between trail facilities, flood plain issues, etc, it is increasingly impractical to install rail west of Monroe. He said that WSOR has had a lot of reservations with how the federal and state rail banking program is set-up, it makes it impractical for rail to come back in the future.

12) DNR Report – Dana White-Quam, Wisconsin DNR Regional Park Specialist reported to the Commission on the Badger Trail development – the northern segment bids are in and the contractor has been chosen. She said that it now has to go through an approval process with DOT. The DOT is looking at BID process to assure that it is legal and they have to make sure they have the appropriate requirements. Hopefully this will go fairly quickly- they are still aiming to begin construction in the first part in June with 90 days to complete build out. Hopefully the project will be completed this summer.

13) Economic Impacts of Trails - White-Quam spoke about report on the economic impacts of trails that she passed out. She also spoke about the Fox River Study that was provided in the Commission’s packets. This study shows that locally, in WI, in the Fox Valley area, the trail positively impacted the community in a number of ways- particularly relating to quality of life and real estate. It led to increases in property values. White-Quam said that she doubts that the DNR would initiate a study on the benefits of the Badger Trail. DNR studies are typically more regional and statewide. She said that within the next 2-3 years the trail will be at a more full use. At that time, it might be worth it to do a study of the trail’s economic impact.

14) IL Tax Issues – Seeboth passed out information that she compiled relating to tax records. The handout explains that the Commission has paid \$12,844.91 in IL Taxes between the years of 2001-2008 on six parcels. She requested approval of the amount and to bill the State of Illinois, including administrative and legal fees if appropriate.

- **Motion to investigate and add legal and administrative research fees onto cost, if appropriate** – Haefs-Flemming / O. Olson –passed unanimously

15) SCWRTC Elections –

Chairman – Harvey Kubley was nominated by Wolter, seconded by Haefs-Flemming – passed unanimously
Vice Chairman – Paul Ziehli was nominated by O. Olson, seconded by Haefs-Flemming – passed unanimously
Secretary – Judy Olson was nominated by Ron Wolter, seconded by Haefs-Flemming – passed unanimously
Treasurer – Oscar Olson was nominated by Wolter, seconded by Haefs-Flemming – passed unanimously

16) 3:12 pm Adjournment – Haefs-Flemming / Wolter - Passed Unanimously