

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

APPROVED MINUTES

Wednesday October 27th 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

- 3) Certification of Public Notice – Seebth
- 4) Motion approving the Agenda, prepared by Seebth- Wolter/ Haefs-Flemming – Passed Unanimously
- 5) Motion approving the draft April Minutes - O.Olson / Haefs-Flemming - Passed Unanimously
- 6) Public Comment – None
- 7) Correspondence & Communications – Seebth reported that Eileen Brownlee, SCWRTC Legal Council, wrote to inform the Commission that her hourly rate is increasing. The Commission decided that this was not an item worth placing on the agenda for a future meeting. Huntington informed the Commission that Wisconsin DOT has a Draft of the State Rail Road Plan available on the DOT website for review.

REPORTS & COMMISSION BUSINESS

- 8) SCWRTC Financial Report – Oscar Olson, SCWRTC Treasurer, distributed copies of the Treasure’s Report and provided an overview.
 - Motion approving the July Treasurer’s Report - Wolter / Haefs-Flemming - Passed Unanimously
 - Motion approving the October Treasurer’s Report - Wolter / Haefs-Flemming - Passed Unanimously
 - Motion approving payment of Bills – Haefs-Flemming / Wolter - Passed Unanimously
- 9) SCWRTC Administrator’s Report- Seebth reviewed 2011 meeting dates with the Commission (Jan 26th, April 27th, July 27th, Oct 26th). She also updated the Commission on the Tri County Trail Commission study to find the economic impacts of the Cheese Country Trail- this study is beginning Nov. 1st and will last 12 months.
- 10) WisDOT – Frank Huntington reported that WDOT has about \$30 million to spend on acquisition and rehabilitation of freight rail line- which is quite a bit more funds than in the past. Despite this, DOT received applications for \$60-100 million, so funding decisions will not be easy. At the same time, WDOT has been presented with the opportunity to purchase the Union Pacific line through Madison and up to Reedsburg, which is a priority for WDOT as it will connect all the other Wisconsin lines in Madison. DOT does not yet know how much this acquisition might cost and that will affect DOT’s decisions on what other projects to fund this year. Huntington said that this decision will need to be made sooner than later. The WSOR lease on these lines expires next year and the U.P. would like to resolve this before then. Huntington mentioned several other acquisition and rehabilitation projects that the DOT is working on across the State.
 Seebth mentioned that the Commissioner Breske, from the Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Railroads will be

attending the WRRTC meeting on Nov. 5th, and everyone is invited to attend.

- 11) 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.
- 12) Economic Impacts of Trails** - White-Quam reported that after years of construction, the Badger Trail is now complete (they have had the grand opening). White-Quam reported that the DNR had already seen a great deal of use on this section of the newly completed trail. To increase access to the trail, the DNR put a gravel parking lot on Purcell Road and are looking to acquire a small parcel elsewhere to put in a trail head. The new manager for the northern portion of the trail is Kevin Swenson. Brad bates and Steve Johnston will take care of everything south of Purcell Road.
- 13) Review and Approval of 2009 SCWRTC Audit Report by Johnson Block** – *Wolter / Haefs-Flemming - Passed Unanimously*
- 14) Update on IL Tax Issue** – Seeboth explained that Brownlee had sent IL DNR a bill quite a while ago now for tax dollar repayment, and received no response. Seeboth sent a history of the situation to Green County Corp Counsel and met with him to discuss the situation. His opinion was to continue with persistence- continue writing the DNR and other parties for the funds, and continue to threaten to close the trail should payments not be made.
 - **Motion to have Seeboth draft a letter to the IL DNR requesting payment of \$12,844.91 by June 1st, 2011, or the trail will be closed. For every month from 30 days from the last bill being sent, accrue interest on the bill (review interest numbers with Brownlee and against Stephenson County Tax Interest levels). Re-send this letter monthly to all recipients with updated information until payment is made.** – *O. Olson / Wolter – passed unanimously*
- 15) Miscellaneous Trail Discussion** –Haefs-Flemming passed an article onto the Commission about a potential bike café opening along the trail. It was decided that the area in discussion is outside of the Commission’s responsibilities (on City of Madison land) but the Commission is interested in these developments and should continue to be kept informed. White-Quam said that the DNR/Madison is currently considering renaming the path in Madison (the Madison Path) to the Badger State Trail for continuity.
- 16) 3:31 pm Adjournment** – *O.Olson / Wolter - Passed Unanimously*