

Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission

Full Commission Mtg – Friday, 10 Sept 2010 @ 10am • Dane Co. Hwy, 2302 Fish Hatchery Rd, Madison, WI

1. **Karl Nilson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.**

2. **Commissioners present for all or part of the meeting:**

Crawford	Tom Cornford	X- Committee	X
	Rocky Rocksvold		
	Vacant		
Dane	Gene Gray	Treasurer	X
	Jim Haefs-Fleming		X
	Forrest Van Schwartz	Advocate	X
Grant	Ivan Farness		X
	Margaret Ruf	Secretary	
	Robert Scallon	2nd Vice Chair	X
Iowa	Charles Anderson	X- Committee	
	Gerald Dorscheid	Vice Treasurer	X
	Robert Zinick		

Rock	Ben Coopman	Alternate	
	Wayne Gustina		X
	Alan Sweeney	Vice Chair	
	Terry Thomas		
Sauk	Joel Gaalswijk		X
	Rob Sinklair	Assistant Secretary	X
	Scott Alexander		
	Marty Krueger	Alternate	
Walworth	Jerry Grant		X
	Richard Kuhnke	X- Committee	
	Allan Polyock		
Waukesha	Karl Nilson	Chair	X
	Richard Manke		X
	Fritz Ruf		X

Others present for all or part of the meeting:

Amy Seebth (SWWRPC / WRRTC Administrator); Frank Huntington (WisDOT); Ken Lucht (WSOR); Alan Anderson (Pink Lady RTC); Eileen Brownlee (WRRTC Legal Counsel)

3. **Motion accepting Seebth's certification of Public Notice.** *Van Schwartz / F. Ruf- passed unanimously.*

4. **Motion accepting the Agenda, prepared by Seebth.** *Following changes noted: date of meeting and data of draft mintes. Dorscheid / Cornford - passed unanimously.*

5. **Motion approving the draft Aug. Minutes.** *Manke / Gustina – passed unanimously.*

6. **Public Comment** – None

7. **Correspondence & Communications** – Seebth shared notice of tax assessments on WRRTC Property in Illinois. Van Schwartz spoke about his recent trip to China.

REPORTS & COMMISSION BUSINESS

8. **WRRTC Financial Report**– Jim Matzinger, Dane County CPA / WRRTC Accountant was not present at this meeting. He left copies of the financial report and checks.

- **Motion accepting payment of bills for August and acknowledging receipt of treasurers report-** *Gray / F. Ruf – passed unanimously*

9. **Wisconsin & Southern Railroad's Report on Operations** – Ken Lucht, WSOR, reported on the following:

- *Monthly Maintenance Activities* – WSOR has completed their weed control program for 2010. They have also brush cut every mile that WRRTC oversees and have been running the rail defect test car, during which they have found a number of defects on this rail. WSOR plans to run this car on the prairie sub later this fall. Lucht added that they will continue to conduct normal general track inspections.
- *Update on 2009 & 2010 Capital Rehab Projects* - 2009 capital projects are underway. WSOR has been installing welded rail between Milton Junction and Edgerton. They have laid 8.2 miles so far and have another 7 miles of rail on sight that will get them just south of Stoughton. They have ordered a second rail trail to get them to Stoughton. The WSOR has invited the Rock County Board of Supervisors out to the site to see the installation. Lucht also said that they are working with a company that is moving into Milton and is interested in rail. They

also know of a company that is exploring the option of using rail in Middleton. WSOR is still seeking about 10-12 engineers.

10. Approval of Wisconsin & Southern Railroad’s 2010 Capital Project and Funding Strategy. Lucht said that WSOR has not yet heard back from WDOT on which projects were awarded funding and therefore he has no report on this item. He said that it is likely that WSOR will be asking the Commission to help fund the next phase of the Madison sub welded rail project.

Chairman Nilson paused to introduce a new member to the Commission- Ivan Farness was recently appointed to the WRRTC on behalf of Grant County. Farness has been a County Board Supervisor for 20 years, as well as on the local school board and Muscoda Village Board.

11. WRRTC Administrator’s Report – Amy Seeboth, SWWRPC Transportation Planner, reported her organization recently underwent some structural changes and while she has taken on new duties at her office, she will continue to work with the Rail Transit Commissions.

12. WDOT Update – Frank Huntington reported that the WDOT is in process of finalizing evaluation of FRIPP and FRAP loan and grant programs. They have about \$30 million that will be awarded, and have received about \$55-60 million in funding requests. He said that he is not yet able to say which projects are funded, but hopes this delay has not upset the budget’s of other organizations.

13. Clarify and amend WRRTC/WSOR 2000 Passenger Rail Service Agreement no. 0490-40-48(e) to add the Madison to Watertown line segment to subsection 1(k) and extend the term for at least 20 years under Art. 2
Huntington provided some history on this agenda item- in 2000 the Commission entered into the passenger intercity rail agreement with WSOR. Since that agreement, a number of segments have been added to WRRTC and the Commission needs to expand this original agreement with WSOR to cover this additional segments (including Watertown line). WSOR needs this update in order to sign the agreement with Amtrak as related to the passenger rail plans between Madison and Milwaukee.

Changes made in this amendment add the Watertown line in item 13, item 14 adds the Badger Ammunition Plant, 16-19 add the Janesville track. Item 3 extends the term for another 20 years, to accommodate the agreements that WSOR is entering into. Service is required for 20 years. Both WDOT and the Commission will have to review the contract between WSOR and Amtrak before it is approved.

Motion to approve the amendments as stated– Van schwartz / terry Thomas – roll call vote:

Crawford	Tom Cornford	X- Committee	Y
	Rocky Rocksvold		
	Vacant		
Dane	Gene Gray	Treasurer	Y
	Jim Haefs-Fleming		Y
	Forrest Van Schwartz	Advocate	Y
Grant	Ivan Farness		Y
	Margaret Ruf	Secretary	
	Robert Scallon	2nd Vice Chair	Y
Iowa	Charles Anderson	X- Committee	
	Gerald Dorscheid	Vice Treasurer	Y
	Robert Zinick		

Rock	Ben Coopman	Alternate	
	Wayne Gustina		Y
	Alan Sweeney	Vice Chair	
	Terry Thomas		Y
Sauk	Joel Gaalswijk		Y
	Rob Sinklair	Assistant Secretary	Y
	Scott Alexander		
Walworth	Marty Krueger	Alternate	
	Jerry Grant		Y
	Richard Kuhnke	X- Committee	
Waukesha	Allan Polyock		
	Karl Nilson	Chair	Y
	Richard Manke		Y
	Fritz Ruf		Y

Motion passes unanimously.

14. Review and possible concurrence with installation of fiber optics between Boscobel and Blue River, WI along WDOT Railroad property.

The Commission was updated on a possible utility request along the rail line in northern Grant County. Utility permits are covered under Trans 29- the WDOT has to approve this request, not WRRTC. Huntington explained that the WDOT permitting fees are nominal; WDOT views utilities as a public service and they must be installed to a correct specification and standard and it shouldn't cause any trouble to the rail corridor. Utilities carry the liability if a derailment etc breaks the fiber optics.

15. Update on Sauk County Rails to Trails Stakeholder Meetings and identification of WRRTC representatives for next meeting.

After some discussion, the Commission nominated Forrest Van Schwartz to be the primary WRRTC representative of the WRRTC in this effort. The Commission decided that it was good to have a representative at the meeting, but wanted someone local (rather than Seeboth traveling regularly to these meetings on behalf of the RTC).

- **Motion electing Commissioner Van Schwartz as primary WRRTC representative in Sauk County Railst o Trails Stakeholder Meetings-** *Gustina / Thomas – passed with two no votes (Commissioners Sinklair and F. Ruf)*

16. Review and possible adoption of letter of support in favor of WSOR “TIGER II” application for “shovel-ready” projects. Earlier this month, Seeboth provided a letter to WSOR stipulating that the WRRTC would likely support their Tiger II grant at this meeting. *Fritz / Scallon - passed unanimously.*

17. Review and possible amendment to wording for MH Materials, Inc., WRRTC private crossing, Janesville, WI.

MH Materials expressed some concern that the minutes from their crossing request has said there is no risk that the crossing will ever become public. The crossing actually abuts a public roadway. The Commission decided this was not significant since the City of Janesville would need to apply for a permit at that time. The Commission agreed to not change the minutes.

18. Motion adjourning the meeting at 11:22 p.m. - *Cornford / Sinklair - passed unanimously.*