

# PECATONICA RAIL TRANSIT COMMISSION

20 S Court Street • PO Box 262 • Platteville, Wisconsin 53818  
 MEMBER COUNTIES: GREEN • IOWA • LAFAYETTE • ROCK

**1:00 PM • Friday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018 • Green Co. Courthouse, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Courtroom, 1016 16<sup>th</sup> Ave • Monroe, WI**

1. 1:04 PM            **Call to Order** – *Harvey Kubly, Chair*
2. Roll Call.            **Establishment of Quorum** – *Matthew Honer, Administrator*

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

<i>Commissioner</i>		<i>Position</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Commissioner</i>		<i>Position</i>	<i>Present</i>
<i>Green</i>	<i>Harvey W. Kubly</i>	<i>Chair</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>Iowa</i>	<i>Charles Anderson</i>	<i>Secretary</i>	<i>X</i>
	<i>Oscar Olson</i>		<i>X</i>		<i>VACANT</i>		
	<i>Paul Beach</i>		<i>X</i>		<i>Ricky Rolfsmeyer</i>		<i>X</i>
<i>Leon Wolfe</i>	<i>Vice Secretary</i>	<i>X</i>					
<i>Lafayette</i>	<i>John Bartels</i>		<i>X</i>	<i>Rock</i>	<i>Wayne Gustina</i>		<i>X</i>
	<i>Andy Schilling</i>		<i>Absent</i>		<i>Alan Sweeney</i>	<i>Vice Chair</i>	<i>X</i>
	<i>Gerald Heimann</i>	<i>Alternate</i>			<i>Terry Thomas</i>		<i>X</i>

Commission achieved quorum.

**Other present for all or some of the meeting:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Matthew Honer, SWWRPC</li> <li>Ed Singer, Kim Tollers - WisDOT</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pete Chen, Betsi Bass, Chad Novak, Alliant Energy</li> <li>Ken Lucht - WSOR</li> </ul>
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3. Action Item.            **Certification of Meeting’s Public Notice** – *Noticed by Honer*
  - Motion to approve certification of public meeting – Sweeney/Rolfsmeyer.. Passed Unanimously*
4. Action Item.            **Approval of Amended Agenda** – *Prepared by Honer*
  - Motion to approve amended agenda – Wolfe/Olson. Passed Unanimously.*
5. Action Item.            **Approval of draft May 2018 Minutes** – *Prepared by Honer*
  - Motion to approve draft May 2018 minutes – Anderson/Gustina. Passed Unanimously*
6. Updates.                **Public Comment** – *Time for public comment may be limited by the Chair*  
*No public comment.*
7. Updates.                **Announcements by Commissioners** – *Discussion may be limited by the Chair*  
*No announcements.*

**REPORTS & COMMISSION BUSINESS**

**8. PRTC Financial Report** – *Paul Beach, PRTC Treasurer*

Beach reported that total receipts since March 31<sup>st</sup> were \$6,047.72 and total disbursements were \$1,001.76. The checking account balance on June 30<sup>th</sup> was \$130,037.18. The total checking and cd balance is \$155,037.18

- Motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report – Olson/Bartles. Passed Unanimously.*

Beach reported two bills. The two bills were for 2016 and 2017 local match contribution for Fox Lake Bridges capital expenditures. Honer confirmed that we are just getting billed now for this project. Olson asked if there will be additional billing. Ken Lucht stated later in the meeting that there will be no further billing for this project.

- *Motion to approve the Payment of the Bills – Sweeney/Anderson. Passed Unanimously.*

**9. WSOR Operation’s Report – Ken Lucht, WSOR**

Lucht passed out a photo of a recently replaced highway crossing replacement from Highway KS in Juda. Lucht stated that WSOR will replace the crossing on Kessler Road next as part of the regular maintenance plan. Lucht explained that the operating agreement between WSOR and PRTC holds WSOR responsible for maintaining the property and carrying insurance to hold the Commission harmless. Lucht stated that corridor will be brush cut again this year and will undergo rail and bridge testing. Lucht stated that the rail between Janesville and Monroe is jointed and approximately 100 years old. Lucht stated that Rail testing will help let WSOR know when the current rail will need to be upgraded to continuous welded rail (CWR).

Lucht stated WSOR is approximately 25 people short for train operations. Lucht stated that being short on staff, forces managers to work trains rather than communicate with customers. Lucht encouraged the commissioners to let him know if they know anyone looking for work.

Lucht stated that tie replacement is ongoing between Walworth and the State Line to prepare that section for CWR installation. Lucht stated that between Horicon and Oshkosh, Continuous Welded Rail is being installed. Lucht reported that WSOR is in the process of replacing the Wauzeka Bridge. Lucht stated that on July 4<sup>th</sup>, WSOR was happy to participate in the Milton Parade and looks forward to the Labor Day parade in Janesville.

Wolfe asked what the typical wage rate is for laborers. Lucht stated that entry level is a conductor and that would be \$20- \$25/hour. After several months an employee will be on their own. After a year, employees are eligible to be an engineer which comes with additional pay. Lucht stated that positions are offered with benefits and that it is family-oriented business. Wolfe asked about how often people are on the road. Lucht stated that the large majority of jobs allow people to come home the same day. Sweeney asked if the commission will receive additional billing for the Fox Lake Bridge project. Lucht confirmed that the project is completed. Kubly asked about the Orfordville Hill being jointed rail, Kubly believed it was CWR. Lucht agreed with Harvey. Bartles asked how the footings are set for bridges, such as the one over the Wisconsin River. Lucht stated that everything is built in the same alignment and that all materials are brought in by train including concrete. Lucht stated that generally the line is closed for about 12 hours to allow construction. Conditions and timelines of rail bridge reconstruction command a steep premium from contractors. Rolfsmeyer asked about the website for hires. Lucht gave [watcocompanies.com](http://watcocompanies.com)

**10. WisDOT Report – Kim Tollers/Ed Singer, WisDOT**

Tollers did not have a report for the commission. Anderson asked if the mapping project has been completed, Kim stated the project is ongoing. Kim introduced Ed Singer, the new WisDOT property specialist, to the commission

**11. Tri-County Trail Commission Report – Wolfe**

Wolfe reported that the commission met the night prior in Calamine. The trail is in good condition and the damages and down trees from a storm two weeks prior have been addressed. Wolfe reported that they are awaiting FEMA funds for disaster damages from several years prior.

**12. PRTC Administrator’s Report – Honer, PRTC Admin.**

Honer reported that he has had communication with Tom Jean, the Lafayette County Highway Commissioner. There is an arched wooden bridge over the trail just west of South Wayne on Tullers Lane. This bridge will need to be addressed as it will need to be replaced or addressed. Honer believes the bridge is not the property of the PRTC and is the property of the County/Township. To the immediately east of the bridge there is a farm crossing that is currently unlicensed. Honer stated that he will also be making a visit to the property in Darlington to determine if improvements have been made. He also stated that he has begun identifying private crossings.

Wolfe stated that the bridge is picturesque and there are hopes that the bridge can remain although it won’t be able to be used by vehicles.

**13. Discussion and Action on Utility Crossing in the Township of Gratiot - Honer, PRTC Admin., Peter Chen, Alliant Energy.**

Wolfe stated that the Tri-County Trail Commission approved the utility crossing at their meeting the night prior. Peter Chen, of Alliant Energy, introduced the plan to install a 4” gas pipeline underneath the trail. The pipeline will run from Wiota to Gratiot and will run parallel to Hwy 78. The gas pipeline will cross the trail at the crossing of Hwy 78 and the Cheese Country Trail. Chen reported that the crossing is to trans 29 railroad property standards and that because the pipeline will be installed with directional boring, there will be no operations taking place within the ROW. Honer stated that he reviewed the application in relation to Trans 29 standards and asked WisDOT engineer to assist. Chen stated that the project will take place in August and will begin in Wiota and move south.

- *Motion to approve utility crossing in the Township of Gratiot as presented – Wolfe/Rolfsmeyer., Passed Unanimously.*

**14. Discussion and Possible Action on Mineral Point Trail Encroachment – Honer, PRTC Admin.**

Honer handed out an aerial map and a copy of a certified survey of the area. Honer stated that he was in contact with Ivey construction regarding the parking lot they installed and they undertook the survey. Honer stated that he spoke with Eileen Brownlee about the Commission’s options regarding the parking lot. She stated that in the past the Commission drafted an agreement for a parking lot in Browntown. Honer stated that the parking lot in Browntown was located along the right of way of a village road and those using it did not cross or enter into the active trail. The parking lot in question requires those using it to enter into the ROW and use the trail to access the parking area. Honer stated that if the commission wishes to have a lease agreement with Ivey, it is suggested that the Commission require signage for safety. Wolfe stated that the Tri- County Trail commission does not have a problem with the parking lot and believe that it would be in the interest of good business with Ivey Construction, who does assist with some trail maintenance in that immediate area. Wolfe believe it would be a problem if the Commission asked Ivey to remove the parking lot. Anderson asked if we could ask Ivey to place their parking lot somewhere else. Tollers stated that she does not know if it is legal for a vehicle to drive on the trail but it is WisDOT’s opinion that the Commission not allow vehicles on the trail. Rolfsmeyer stated that there is a clear liability issue for the Commission. Kubly stated that he believes it would be a bad precedent to set to allow the parking lot on the trail. Tollers stated that the Commission should inquire about the legalities of non-recreational vehicles driving down the trail. Kubly asked if the survey was completed after work was done. Honer stated that was the case. Rolfsmeyer, stated that the Commission does not have enough information from the attorney to grant access to Ivey Construction at this time and would require an opinion from the Commission’s attorney and the WIDNR. Anderson asked how the lot has been there. Honer stated that at least part of it was installed about a year ago. Wolfe stated that if it is denied, some action will need to be taken to block the area off. Honer stated that in conversations with Ivey construction they acknowledge that the parking lot is on the Commission’s property and will likely need to be moved. Sweeney asked if there was a fence removed. Honer stated that topsoil was removed and gravel laid down for a parking area.

- *Motion to deny access to the parking lot and instruct Ivey construction to replace topsoil and sign the area – Sweeney/Gustina.,*

Anderson asked if the motion can be amended to include a time limit.

- *Motion to amend the motion to provide 60 days for Ivey Construction – Sweeney/Gustina. Motion Passed. Bartles Opposed. Wolfe Opposed.*

**15. Consideration and Possible Action on Support Letter for FRPP Funding in the upcoming 2019/2020 Budget – Lucht, WSOR**

Lucht explained that WSOR and PRTC utilize state grants to make capital improvements to the system. In past years, PRTC has sent letters to the State Administration to support the Freight Rail Preservation Program. Lucht stated that the budget for the FRPP program has declined over the past several budgets and there is a backlog of projects. Lucht stated that WSOR also contributes to the 20% match with their dollars as well as with the Commissions Capital Expenditure budget to projects. Lucht is asking the commission to support an increase in FRPP funding for the 2019/2020 State Budget.

Anderson asked about other individuals that have signed on to the letter. Lucht stated that several local and state representatives from the WSOR operating area have signed on.

- *Motion to support increase in FRPP funding for the 2019/2020 State Budget – Wolfe/Rolfsmeyer. Passed Unanimously.*

**16. Discussion and Action on 2019 Staff Services Agreement – Honer, PRTC Admin.**

Honer stated that the contract is the same as the prior years contract between PRTC and Southwestern Wisconsin Rail Commission. The agreement does pull out project management and grant work to be billed at a separate rate than administrative services and would be billed separately outside of the contract amount.

- *Motion to accept the Staff Services agreement with Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission – Rolfsmeyet/Gustina, Passed Unanimously.*

**17. Discussion and Action on 2019 Budget – Honer, PRTC Admin.**

Honer handed out the draft 2019 Budget. It was asked why the Total in the bottom table was different from the totals identified under 2018. Honer stated that it was a misprint. Honer stated that the differences between the 2019 and 2018 budget is that the audit increased and projected revenue from interest decreased and the capital improvements budget absorbed the additional cost and lower revenue.

- *Motion to accept the draft 2019 Budget – Wolfe/Bartles, Passed Unanimously.*

**18. Adjournment**

- *Motion to adjourn at 2:05 pm – Gustina/Anderson. Passed Unanimously.:*