

# PECATONICA RAIL TRANSIT COMMISSION

20 S Court Street • PO Box 262 • Platteville, Wisconsin 53818

MEMBER COUNTIES: GREEN • IOWA • LAFAYETTE • ROCK

**1:00 PM • Friday, January 23, 2015 • Green Co. Courthouse, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Courtroom, 1016 16<sup>th</sup> Ave • Monroe, WI**

1. 1:00 PM      **Call to Order** – *Harvey Kubly, Chair*
2. Roll Call.      **Establishment of Quorum** – *Mary Penn, PRTC 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>excused</i>
	<i>Oscar Olson</i>		<i>x</i>		<i>William G. Ladewig</i>		<i>x</i>
	<i>Ron Wolter</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>x</i>		<i>Philip Mrozinski</i>		<i>excused</i>
<i>Lafayette</i>	<i>Leon Wolfe</i>		<i>x</i>	<i>Rock</i>	<i>Ben Coopman</i>	<i>Alternate</i>	
	<i>Larry Ludlum</i>		<i>x</i>		<i>Wayne Gustina</i>		<i>x</i>
	<i>Gerald Heimann</i>	<i>Alternate</i>			<i>Alan Sweeney</i>	<i>1st Vice Chair</i>	<i>x</i>
	<i>Ted Wiegel</i>		<i>x</i>		<i>Terry Thomas</i>	<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair</i>	<i>x</i>

Commission achieved quorum.

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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mary Penn, SWWRPC</li> <li>• Ken Lucht, WSOR</li> <li>• William Riese, Private Citizen</li> <li>• Robert Voegeli, ATV Enthusiast</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kim Toller, Roger Larson, WDOT</li> <li>• Nathan Hartwig, T. Clarno Bd. Chair</li> <li>• Fred Gruber, Jewell Associates Eng.</li> <li>• James Rutledge, Clarno Township</li> </ul>
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3. Action Item.      **Certification of Meeting’s Public Notice** – *Noticed by Penn*
  - *Motion to approve certification of public meeting – Thomas/Ladewig, Passed Unanimously*
4. Action Item.      **Approval of Agenda** – *Prepared by Penn*
  - *Motion to approve agenda – Ludlum/Gustina, Passed Unanimously*
5. Action Item.      **Approval of draft Minutes from October 2014 meeting** – *Prepared by Penn*
  - *Motion to approve minutes of October 2014 meeting – Wolter/Wolfe, Passed Unanimously*
6. Updates.          **Public Comment** – *Time for public comment may be limited by the Chair*  
There were no public comments.
7. Updates.          **Correspondence & Communications** – *Discussion may be limited by the Chair*  
Mary Penn listed the correspondence she had dealt with in the past quarter.

**REPORTS & COMMISSION BUSINESS**

**8. PRTC Financial Report – Ron Wolter, SCWRTC Treasurer**

- Treasurer’s Report and Payment of Bills

Ron Wolter began by reporting the Treasurer’s Report needed to be corrected to reflect Green County’s contribution which he had incorrectly underreported in October by \$500. He then proceeded to give his report to the Commission.

- *Motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report and for payment of bills – Ladewig/Sweeney, Passed Unanimously*

Oscar Olson asked about the disbursement to WSOR. Wolter said the amount stated is what had been requested. Alan Sweeney asked if there were any more draws of money for bridgework in 2015. Ken Lucht said there would be no more draws, adding that 2015 capital projects would not be approved until the next meeting.

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

- Update on Maintenance Activities
- Update on Capital Projects
- Report of Business Development
- Other Continuing Issues/Topics

Ken Lucht reported on the ongoing routine winter maintenance. He said general maintenance was also ongoing in order to maintain the track to the Class 2 standard which was generally \$12,000 to \$15,000 per mile and included track inspections, repairing crossings, and rail and tie replacements where needed. He said there were a lot of capital projects underway including those on the Fox Lake Sub which was going well. He spoke of the new siding going in between Janesville and Milton (referring to it as “the Milton siding”), saying that it was getting ready for ties and rails this spring which would bring new capacity and reduce congestion in Janesville and Madison. With the siding, unit trains would be able to pass each other. Lucht said that WSOR was also working on a number of bridges including those on the Fox Lake Sub.

He next reminded the Commission that the Evansville sub had reopened this fall for the first time in almost 20 years. Olson asked about the aggregate product being shipped on that line. Lucht said it came from a quarry north of Janesville. He added that WSOR was not providing winter service but once temps went up, they would be running trains in early April.

Lucht noted that Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> was the deadline for new grant applications to WDOT. He said WSOR would submit 5 applications, including another Tiger Grant application, saying this would be their 5<sup>th</sup> time to apply and even though their applications had been well received, they had never gotten funding. However, he said they wanted the application submitted in case they went ahead. He said another application submitted was for a Phase 1 project for Continuous Welded Rail (CWR) for the Prairie sub (about 14 miles). He said there was a lot of new business on the Prairie sub and this sub had been neglected basically because it was such a long sub and there had not been a lot of business until recently. Due to an uptick in business, this was becoming a main line.

Lucht listed a number of other project applications submitted including:

1. A capital tie project from Madison to Cottage Grove and Madison to Reedsburg
2. A bridge project on the Monroe subdivision grant application
3. An acquisition project (Canadian Pacific)

Bill Ladewig asked if WSOR would be asking Iowa County to act as a sponsor. He also asked if brush maintenance was ongoing. Lucht replied affirmatively to both questions.

On Business Development, Lucht said 2014 was stronger than 2013 and that WSOR was able to replace grain carloads lost with plastic carloads. He added that lumber was regaining market share from the past 5 years.

In response to a question to an item in Penn’s correspondence list, Lucht said in regard to barrier gates, the OCR had ordered four barrier gates removed. He went through the petition from WSOR, saying there were six gates of this type in the country, four of which were on their system. He said it was sold as a new technology at the time, considered to be a safety measure. Lucht they had never been put to the test and maintenance was a “nightmare”. He said there had been numerous malfunctions, particularly last winter, saying that many times during rush hour the gates would be down for 2 hrs. Lucht said it took two to three people to lift the gate and limited availability of parts. More importantly, he said the Federal Railroad Administration did not recognize these gates as standard: they were not bendable/breakable, and with a stop system that does not break, drivers were at risk. Lucht said WSOR found these gates performed best in warm areas on passenger lines.

Ladewig asked who had ordered them removed and Lucht said the OCR ordered them and it was fully supported by the Madison Mayor.

Gustina asked about the new subdivision on the Prairie sub which had 85 lb rail. Lucht did not know how many miles of 85 lb rail there was.

Kubly asked Lucht about the Oregon sub and the aggregate shipping from Janesville to Oregon. Lucht said this was a dedicated train from one Lycon facility to another and not stop in Madison.

**10. WisDOT Report – Staff may include Kim Tollers, Marty Morin, Dave Simons, Roger Larson, WDOT**

Kim Tollers spoke about the barrier gates from item 9, saying they were intended for lift bridges an essentially an experiment that did not work out. They were never designed for railroad installations.

She said that Frank Huntington had retired officially Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>. She said Dave Simon was the new Rail and Harbor's Chief and gave some of his background. She added that he was new to the RR section but was very good and he intended to come to a future meeting. Tollers said he was actively recruiting Huntington to come back part time.

Tollers said WDOT had closed on the Reedsburg sub Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>; with WRRTC as the infrastructure owner now and is a complete sale and therefore eligible for the FRPP and FRRAP programs. She said Marty Morin was in charge of the grant program and all the current projects had been approved except for the 65 bridge projects but they anticipated approval of those. She said WDOT was getting contracts in place to be ready once approval was given.

For next year, she said WDOT had requested \$60 million for the FRPP and FRRAP programs. She said they would know more next week when the budget was announced, saying that neither she nor Marty Morin have heard whether that amount would be raised or lowered.

Lastly, she spoke of the Tiger program and said that there was \$500 M available for funding.

**11. PRTC Administrator's Report –Mary Penn, PRTC Admin.**

Penn reported on her administrative tasks of the past quarter and handed out an updated budget which included the Green County contribution listed as both revenue and an expense. She noted that it was \$100 less than that approved due to the uncertainty of the Village of Browntown lease. She also told Commissioners that she had the 2015 meeting schedule available if anyone wanted a copy.

**12. Tri-County Trail Commission Report – Leon Wolfe**

Leon Wolfe said the TCTC had met the previous night and said there had not been a lot of snowmobile activity this winter. He said there had been discussion about widening bridges to accommodate grooming equipment and funding might be available but it was not a high priority at this point. Due to little snow fall this winter, ATVs could access the trail.

**13. Discussion and Possible Action on appointment of Vice-Secretary – Harvey Kubly, Chair**

Harvey Kubly said that with the current Secretary gone for the winter months, the Commission needed the ability for official documents to be signed at meetings, therefore he wished to appoint Phil Mrozinski Vice-Secretary.

- *Motion to approve Phil Mrozinski appointment as Vice Secretary – Sweeney/Gustina, Passed Unanimously*

**14. Update on Patterson Road Crossing/Bridge Project – Nathan Hartwig, Chair, Town of Clarno, Green County**

Fred Gruber said he had met with a landowner to discuss land acquisition particularly in regard to a power line. Due to the fact the trees were outside the ROW, he was meeting with the utility and the landowner to discuss on Tuesday. He said he would also be working with the landowner's attorney.

Gruber said he had noticed a problem with the exhibits of the project. He said when the signatures were gotten for the easements from the PRTC, the highway easement showed .33 acres on the exhibit and actually it was .18 acres. The reason was Ayers showed 33' from the center line. Eileen Brownlee said it would need to be revised. Gruber said he was working on that and they hoped to have this wrapped up. Ladewig asked why the 33' was excluded. Gruber did not know: all he knew was that it had been filed with the County Clerk excluding the 33'. Sweeney said he had always thought there was a 50' wide half row on the road on federal bridge funding work. Gruber said he had only ever heard 33' and Brownlee concurred. Gustina asked for timeline. Gruber said it would be gone to bid by April and work would commence by the end of the summer for completion at the end of October.

**15. Update and Discussion on Miscellaneous Bridge Issues – Mary Penn, PRTC Admin, Eileen Brownlee, Corp Counsel**

Eileen Brownlee spoke of all the varying bridge issues she had been looking at and said all the ones that had popped up had been on the WRRTC area. Penn said she had thought the Emerald Grove Bridge was on the PRTC line but she had been mistaken. She said she would talk to Lucht about getting a bridge inventory for mapping.

**16. Discussion and Possible Action on 2014 PRTC Audit Engagement Letter with Johnson Block – Mary Penn, PRTC Admin.**

Kubly said that this letter proposed an increased fee and thought he would talk to Jan Frohlich of Johnson Block to ask that the cost be dropped to that budgeted in October (\$1,150.00).

- Motion to approve the 2014 Audit engagement with \$1250 for fee – Sweeney/Thomas, Passed Unanimously

Sweeney encouraged Kubly to work with Johnson Block to drop the fee to that budgeted.

**17. Action Item – Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 1:42 PM – Gustina/Wiegel, Passed Unanimously