

PECATONICA RAIL TRANSIT COMMISSION

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

PRTC/WRRTC FORMAL FUNDING AGREEMENT WORKING COMMITTEE

May 16, 2014

Green Co. Courthouse 2nd Floor Courtroom, 1016 16th Ave • Monroe, WI

1. Call to Order – *Harvey W. Kubly, Chair*

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kubly at 2:25 PM

2. Establishment of Committee Members Present – *Mary Penn, PRTC Administrator*

<i>Commissioner</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Present</i>
<i>Harvey W. Kubly</i>	<i>Green</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>Ron Wolter</i>	<i>Green</i>	<i>Excused</i>
<i>Philip Mrozinski</i>	<i>Iowa</i>	<i>X</i>
<i>Charles Anderson</i>	<i>Iowa</i>	<i>X</i>
<i>Alan Sweeney</i>	<i>Rock</i>	<i>X</i>
<i>Wayne Gustina</i>	<i>Rock</i>	<i>x</i>

Also attending: Ken Lucht, WSOR, Frank Huntington, WDOT, Mary Penn and Troy Maggied, SWWRPC

3. Action Item. Certification of Meeting's Public Notice – *Noticed by Penn*

- *Motion to approve meeting – Sweeney/Gustina, Passed Unanimously*

4. Action Item. Approval of Agenda – *Prepared by Penn*

- *Motion to approve agenda – Mrozinski/Sweeney, Passed Unanimously*

5. Action Item. Approval of draft Minutes from January, 2014 meeting – *Prepared by Penn*

- *Motion to approve January 2014 minutes – Gustina/Mrozinski, Passed Unanimously*

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

6. Update and Discussion on Alan Sweeney's Meeting with Lafayette County Finance Committee, February 25th, 2014 – *Harvey Kubly, Chair*

Kubly asked Al Sweeney to report on the agenda item. Sweeney said he had drafted a letter which Kubly had, in case Sweeney had been unable to attend today's meeting. It detailed his visit to the Lafayette County Finance on Feb. 25, 2014. Sweeney and Ken Lucht both attended. Sweeney said he felt that Lafayette County was a valuable member to the Commission and had much to give to the Commission. He said there was very strong resistance to the idea of the shared benefit despite the evidence of the economic trail study which was shared with the Committee. He said it was pretty evident in his opinion that Lafayette County would contribute zero dollars to the PRTC despite their contractual obligations. He recommended moving forward with this as they would not change any minds and make sure that the rail infrastructure was kept in good repair so they had access both east and west, work with WRRTC, and had outlets for the goods and products that came on the PRTC rail lines.

Kubly asked if Mr. Wayne Wilson had any comments at the meeting and Sweeney said he could not recall anything that stood out. Kubly said he had not heard from Wilson and his intuition would be to contact him. Kubly said he felt that Wilson was their best possible hope of getting something from Lafayette County and thought that Wilson would have some appreciation for the County's

contractual obligations. At this point, Kubly said he would contact Wilson and if nothing else say it was a follow-up call and “see what I get”. Kubly thanked both Sweeney and Lucht for going to the meeting and apologized that he could not attend as it was a very busy time of year for him.

Phil Mrozinski asked what sort of options they had and agreed there should be follow up but what could the Commission do if they wanted to be “tough” about it. Kubly said he thought they would have to have Eileen Brownlee answer that and his thought was that anything the Commission tried to do it might cost a lot of money. Huntington said it would be counterproductive to ask them to leave because they were part of the Commission. Charles Anderson asked Sweeney about the study of economic benefits presented and confirmed that it was from the U. of WI presented to the Commission in 2011. Anderson asked if this was the same one as the Trail Study. Sweeney confirmed that the study presented said there was a \$15M benefit to the region and was not the trail study completed recently. There was discussion on the trail study. Sweeney said there was dispute from the Committee on the numbers reported in both studies. Mrozinski said that one of the studies specifically mentioned the benefit to the counties. Lucht said that the County was shocked to be getting an invoice for \$26,500. Sweeney said he was delivering a reminder of their contractual obligations but at this point, it would not do anything to concentrate on this. Kubly concurred saying it would be unproductive.

Kubly noted that the bulk of the trail was in Lafayette and next time the trail committee requested funding it might be useful to remind Lafayette County of that fact. Anderson explained the situation in the WRRTC with Crawford County in regard to its county contribution. He said he really thought a bridge problem in Crawford County was an instigator in getting the County to pay its contribution. However he noted that until rail went back into Lafayette County it was too bad and conceded that times were tough. He noted that Lafayette County was probably the poorest in the state. Anderson asked if Sweeney had got a copy of the County’s budget but Sweeney said no. Sweeney said he did not believe that the 2014 county contribution was in their budget.

Wayne Gustina said what if Kubly suggested to Wilson that the County pay a smaller amount of \$4-5K. Kubly said that in theory Lafayette County’s amount of the PRTC’s operating budget be ¼ of that. Kubly said he would try and see what he could do in talking to Wilson.

Sweeney said that maybe this Committee could work on Green County joining the WRRTC and/or create a mutual agreement between the two. Kubly said he wanted to get this issue settled first before approaching the board and asking them to join WRRTC. He thought that if he could say they had made progress with Lafayette County it would go better but agreed that that issue needed to be looked at.

Mrozinski asked if the Lafayette County Finance Committee took action on the county contribution issue or was it just generally discussed in the meeting. Sweeney said it did not come to a vote and his analysis was based on the response to the information he brought to the meeting.

7. Action Item – Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 2:45 PM – Gustina/Sweeney, Passed Unanimously