

# PECATONICA RAIL TRANSIT COMMISSION

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

## PRTC/WRRTC FORMAL FUNDING AGREEMENT WORKING COMMITTEE January 23, 2015

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

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

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kubly at 2:08 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>x</i>
<i>Philip Mrozinski</i>	<i>Iowa</i>	<i>excused</i>
<i>Charles Anderson</i>	<i>Iowa</i>	<i>excused</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, Kim Tollers, WDOT, Mary Penn, PRTC Administrator

**3. Call to Order** – *Harvey Kubly, Chair*

**4. Roll Call. Establishment of Committee Members Present** – *Mary Penn, PRTC Administrator*

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

- *Motion to approve certification of notice - Sweeney/Gustina, Passed Unanimously*

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

- *Motion to approve the agenda – Gustina/Wolter, Passed Unanimously*

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

- *Motion to approve October 2014 minutes – Wolter/Sweeney, Passed Unanimously*

### COMMITTEE BUSINESS

#### *Discussion*

**8. Continued discussion of possibility of Green County joining WRRTC**

Harvey Kubly said before he went before the Green County Board, he wanted some resolution from Lafayette County.

#### *Discussion & Possible Action*

**9. Discussion and possible action on Lafayette County Contribution**

Kubly said in October he had spoken to Jack Sauer and been led to believe that the County would probably contribute something and come to today's meeting but Sauer did not attend. Kubly said Penn should invite Sauer to the next meeting and ask him to attend formally. Kubly shared information he had requested of Penn via Joni Herren-Graves, whom he had seen at the WI Freight Rail conference in November. Herren-Graves had said she remembered a meeting in Mineral Point at "The Smoke Shop" on February 23,

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2005. Kubly asked the Committee members if they remembered this meeting but they did not. Kubly said they had discussed fencing and Sauer had attended that meeting. Kubly read from the minutes of that meeting verbatim, specifically the motion regarding the EWCRTC and WRRTC. He read more of the minutes to the Committee, quoting directly. Kubly said Sauer had admitted to the points made related in the minutes and it was on record. Ron Wolter said everyone was aware of the economic impact study in 2009 and as part of that study, there was a resolution by Lafayette County that supported resumption of rail service in the County. Wolter read the resolution on the RR15 plan to the committee, noting that this had been approved in 2007. Wolter said this showed the County was in approval and supportive of rail. Kubly thanked Wolter for sharing the resolution.

Alan Sweeney asked for copies of these documents for the next committee meeting. Kubly said that was all he had and unless anyone else had a better idea, they needed to get Sauer to the meeting. Wayne Gustina said they should contact him before the meeting. Sweeney said Sauer knew about the meeting. Wolter said they kept spending on projects and cash flow kept going down while the price of doing administrative tasks kept going up.

Kubly said Sauer recognized that they needed to pay their fair share but did not think they would volunteer and perhaps need to be pushed a little bit. He also said they had the trail which the County believed brought millions to them but the trail was on the PRTC corridor and therefore Lafayette County had an interest in preserving the corridor and paying to sit at the table. As opposed to “representation without taxation” which is what they had now. Wolter said he did not remember what the study showed but Sweeney said they did the study and Wolter said it could be used to remind them. Wolter said if ATVs were blocked, where would the County be and said this would be similar to blocking the SCWRTC Jane Addams trail. Sweeney said he “didn’t want to go there” and said to just put the “facts in front of the gentleman” and not go with threats. Kubly said he thought that if they could do their best to gently persuade them, they would get something.

Kubly spoke of the battle with the state of Illinois due to a taxing issue that had gone on for years with the SCWRTC. He said the RR corridor in Illinois belonged to the SCWRTC, in Wisconsin it belonged to WDOT. He said different parcels had been taxed and it was “a can of worms”. He said parts of the corridor had actually been bought and sold but in the end, the SCWRTC got Illinois to stop taxing and the Commission got their money. He said they had paid all along in order to keep the corridor and finally did get it back. He noted that a lot of the credit went to Amy Seeboth who had done a really good job for the Commission.

Kubly asked Penn to send out the documents including the economic study and the minutes from the 2005 meeting minutes.

**10. Action Item - Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 2:24 PM – Gustina/Wolter, Passed Unanimously