

SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN RAIL TRANSIT COMMISSION

PO Box 262 • 20 S Court Street • Platteville, Wisconsin 53818
 Harvey Kubly, Chair • Commission Office Phone 608.342.1637 • Fax 608.342.1220
 MEMBER COUNTIES: DANE • GREEN

**Wednesday, January 22nd, 2020, 2:00 PM, Fitchburg DNR Facility,
 Raptor Conference Room, 3911 Fish Hatchery Rd, Fitchburg, WI 53571-5367**

1. **2:00 Call to Order** – *Harvey Kubly, Chair*
2. Roll Call. **Establishment of Quorum** – *Matthew Honer, SCWRTC Administrator*

	Commission members present for all/part of meeting:	Others present for all/part of meeting:
Dane County	Jay Allen	<i>Absent</i>
	Chris James	X
	Roger Hillebrand, <i>Vice Chair</i>	X
Green County	Harvey Kubly, <i>Chair</i>	X
	Oscar Olson, <i>Secretary</i>	X
	Paul Beach, <i>Treasurer</i>	X
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matthew Honer - Admin. Lisa Stern, Susan Nast- WisDOT. Kathryn Gehrke, Rick Schmale, Missy Vanlanduyt—WIDNR

3. Action Item. **Certification of Meeting’s Public Notice** – *Prepared by Honer*
 Honer stated that the notice and agenda were sent to the counties and confirmation of posting was received.
 - Motion to approve certification of meeting – Hillebrand/James. Passed Unanimously*
4. Action Item. **Approval of Agenda** – *Prepared by Honer*
 - Motion to approve agenda. – James/Olson. Passed Unanimously*
5. Action Item. **Approval of draft October 2019 meeting minutes** – *Prepared by Honer.*
 - Motion to approve draft October 2019 minutes – Hillebrand/Olson. Passed Unanimously*
6. Updates. **Announcements by Commissioners**
 None.
7. Updates. **Public Comment**
 None.

REPORTS & COMMISSION BUSINESS

8. **SCWRTC Financial Report** – *Beach, Treasurer.*
 Beach asked if there were any questions regarding the treasurer’s report. Beach stated that he received a corrected billing from SWWRPC. Beach stated that the corrected invoice was for \$1,603 instead of the previously invoiced amount of \$2,892. Beach explained that the corrected billing covers the contract amount and there will not be a Q4 billing from SWWRPC. Beach asked if the management contract amount would change. Honer stated that SWWRPC only bills the total of its contract and sometimes the amount of work is over the amount of the contract and sometimes it is under, but SWWRPC always bills the entire amount. Honer stated that if the commission would like, SWWRPC can bill a quarter of the contract each quarter, making it consistent and helping budget for the year. The commission was in general approval of the suggestion.

Beach explained that a large invoice was received from BoardmanClark, this is due to the contracts that needed to be renewed in 2019. In order to pay the outstanding invoices from BoardmanClark he will need to withdraw funds from a savings CD and place that money into the checking account. Beach stated the cost of getting funds from each of the CD accounts. The most cost-efficient CD to pull from is the account at WI Bank and Trust. Beach stated that he will need to pull at least \$7,500 from a CD account. Beach stated that Greenwood Bank charges \$15 each month if the account is under \$2,500. Beach presented the bills for payment including: the revised bill from SWWRPC for \$1,603, a bill from BoardmanClark for \$4,579, and a bill from Kubly for Copies and Postage for \$9.75.

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- *Motion to accept the treasurers report. - James/Olson. Passed Unanimously.*
- *Motion to pay the bills including the amended bill from SWWPRC – James/Hillebrand. Passed Unanimously.*
- *Motion to withdraw \$8,000 from the WI Bank and Trust CD account and place it in the Greenwoods Checking account– Hillebrand/James. Passed Unanimously.*

9. WisDOT Report – Stern, WisDOT.

Stern stated that Kim Tollers has officially retired from WisDOT. Stern reported an update on the interim trail use agreement with the City of Madison. Stern stated that the City and WisDOT have come to an agreement. Stern stated that the intent is to extend the existing agreement for two years as the City and WisDOT explore how to address issues of encroachment. Honer asked if the two-year agreement would be on top of the 1-year MOU agreement that was discussed at the last meeting. Stern stated that it would not be on top of the 1-year agreement. Kubly stated that action cannot be taken at this meeting because it is not on the agenda. Honer stated that a special meeting can be held to take action on the MOU.

10. WIDNR Report – Gehrke, WIDNR.

Gehrke provided an update on trail use and conditions and stated that trail use has been down with the warm weather. The unpaved section is now open for snowmobiling. The paved section of the trail is being plowed for cyclists to use. Gehrke reported on maintenance including brush removal, exploration of options for the failed culvert outside of Monroe, and research into bridge decking alternatives. Gehrke stated that ATC will be requesting closure of the trail for a week to move a large overhead power line. Gehrke stated that the construction of the overpass (McKee Rd/PD) is progressing and is on track for this year. There are no new encroachment issues to discuss. The trail closure in Monroe is temporarily suspended during the winter months. Another ongoing issue is that high water/heavy precipitation continues to cause erosion. There are several events taking place on the trail in the upcoming summer. Gehrke stated that the SW Savannah Master Plan is currently being worked on and once the plan draft is ready there will be a 30-day public comment period. James asked who does the notification for the trail closure for ATC power line work, Gehrke stated ATC generally does the notification.

11. SCWRTC Administrator's Report – Honer, SCWRTC Admin.

Honer followed up with WIDNR regarding the Stewart Tunnel after the October 2019 meeting. He will be reaching out to the Commissioners whose appointments are up in April. He will be sending a records retention document to the Commission's attorney for review in the coming weeks to be ready for the Commission's approval in May. Honer reported other projects that he will be working through this year include updating information on private crossings on the trail, developing an onboarding document, and following up the records retention policy with a digitization schedule.

12. Update on Conditions at Stewart Tunnel – Missy Vanlanduyt and Rick Schmale, WIDNR

Missy Vanlanduyt introduced herself and stated she works in the recreation partnership section of the WIDNR. Rick Schmale introduced himself as the engineering and construction management chief with the WIDNR. Vanlanduyt reported the WIDNR is working on short-term options and long-term options for the Tunnel. An assessment will take place after winter to see if a short-term solution can be implemented to open it up for less than \$50K, but that short-term solution will be considered in relation to the required long-term solution. Vanlanduyt also stated efforts will be made for a temporary reroute during the summer. WIDNR is also looking at short-term solutions that involve insulating the tunnel. Vanlanduyt stated all aspects of short- and long-term solutions need to be reviewed in terms of public safety. Long-term solutions will focus on additional research and potentially working with the WI Dept. of Administration to hire a consultant to determine the best long-term course of action. Vanlanduyt stated that WIDNR is looking at four primary long-term solutions: netting the entire interior, lining the tunnel with concrete, daylighting, and then doing a permanent reroute. Missy stated each of these options is being looked at with the Department of Administration and the WIDNR budget considering that each option will require millions in investment.

Beach asked the life expectancy of the netting option. Schmale stated that it would be a short-term solution because eventually the netting will become overloaded with breakoff from the freeze/thaw cycle. Schmale stated it is likely a 10 – 15-year solution. Beach asked how long the tunnel is, Schmale stated it was 1234 ft. Beach stated that he understands the issue of the cost but would like to see the tunnel remain because it is an attraction of the trail. Hillebrand agreed.

Vanlanduyt stated that the WIDNR will be looking at all options to save the tunnel but also needing to consider the life of the structure. Vanlanduyt stated that the trails budget is less than \$3M/yr. and solutions are likely to be around \$10M. Kubly asked Schmale his preferred solution. Schmale stated that open cut is the best long-term solution. James asked if a partial cut/day-lighting has been looked at so that the tunnel attraction remains but issues can be resolved. Schmale stated that has not been looked at yet. Beach asked the average amount of fill above the tunnel, Schmale stated in the middle it is estimated

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to be about 50ft. Stern asked what that 50ft of material is in terms of rock and soil, Schmale stated that is unknown and is a big determinant of the price for open cutting the Tunnel. Honer asked what the permanent reroute would look like. Vanlanduyt stated that it might be similar to the existing snowmobile trail that hugs the tunnel. Stern stated that a reroute could potentially threaten the entire trail. Honer asked what would be done with the existing tunnel if a reroute were to happen. Vanlanduyt stated that any of the options would not involve abandonment of the tunnel. Schmale stated that in other locations he has seen tunnels open for a small section but mostly closed. Vanlanduyt stated that any of the potential options could be in the \$10M range and would require a legislative funding initiative to accomplish. Vanlanduyt stated that any major action will most definitely take into account the return of rail so that the tunnel does not need to be revisited.

13. Action Item - Adjournment

- *Motion to adjourn at 2:44 pm – Beach/Hillebrand. Passed Unanimously.*