

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

**Friday, July 22nd, 2020, 2:00 PM,
 Green County Courthouse, 2nd Floor Courtroom,
 1016 16th Ave, Monroe, WI**

1. **2:06 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	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matthew Honer - Admin. • Rich Kedzior, Lisa Stern, Teri Beckman – WisDOT • Phil Rynish, Savannah Erzen, Drew Hanson - WIDNR
	Chris James	X	
	Roger Hillebrand, <i>Vice Chair</i>	X	
Green County	Harvey Kubly, <i>Chair</i>	X	
	Oscar Olson, <i>Secretary</i>	X	

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. – Allen/Hillebrand. Passed Unanimously*

5. Action Item. **Approval of draft May 2020 meeting minutes** – *Prepared by Honer.*

- *Motion to approve May 2020 draft minutes –Olson/Hillebrand. Passed Unanimously*

6. Updates. **Announcements by Commissioners**

7. Updates. **Public Comment**

8. Action Item **Officer Elections** - *Honer*

Honer kept this item on the agenda in order to elect a new treasurer. The Commission determined that they will likely nominate the new appointment from Green County when appointed because the Commission’s accounts are currently located in banks located in Green County.

REPORTS & COMMISSION BUSINESS

9. **SCWRTC Financial Report** – *Kubly, Chair (Acting Treasurer).*

Kubly reported not much activity between the end of April and the end of June. Kubly reported total receipts of \$502.17 and no disbursements. The checking account balance at the end of June was \$5,332.66. Kubly reported the total balance of CDs and Checking for the Commission to be \$142,145.17. The Commission’s largest CD automatically renewed in June. Kubly stated that when the smaller CD matures in August, he suggests lowering the CD amount and keeping most in cash. Kubly reported three bills for payment, two bills of \$1,100.00 each for staff services and the other for \$30 for the bond.

- *Motion to accept the treasurers report and the payment of bills. – Hillebrand/Olson. Passed Unanimously.*
- *Authorize Harvey Kubly to act in the best interest of the Commission when Renewing the CD in August – Hillebrand/Olson. Passed Unanimously.*

10. WisDOT Report – Lisa Stern, *WisDOT*.

Stern reported that Ed Singer retired at the beginning of July and WisDOT has hired a new real estate specialist, Chris Kern. WisDOT continues working with the City of Madison to address issues in the renewal of the interim trail use agreement. Stern stated that WisDOT has an individual that will be doing a survey of encroachments. Kedzior stated that there is a new overpass over McKee Rd being constructed by the City of Fitchburg so a portion of the corridor is closed. Kedzior stated that contractors were storing their materials on the corridor which WisDOT was concerned about. Chris Kern introduced himself.

11. WIDNR Report – Drew Hanson, *WIDNR*.

Hanson corrected the WIDNR report regarding the flail ditch mowing. Hanson stated that he does not have much to add to WisDOT's report on the McKee Rd trail overpass. Hanson stated that WIDNR is working on regular brushing and maintenance is going on. Hanson stated that an additional project to remove buckthorn and honeysuckle. Hanson stated that there a few edits regarding the draft atv/snowmobiling map. Hanson stated that he hopes to update the trail map in the coming weeks.

Hanson introduced Phil Rynish, property planner for the WIDNR. Rynish introduced himself and Savannah Ernzen, lead on the Southwest Savannah Master Plan. Ernzen stated that the WIDNR is a year into the master planning process. Wisconsin is divided into 16 ecological landscapes, the southwest savannah being one of them. The Southwest Savannah Master Plan is a 15-year plan that shows what can and cannot happen by the DNR on state property. The Badger State Trail is part of this plan. The plan involves gathering background data, public input sessions to identify broad scopes, and eventual adoption. Public input in worked into a draft plan, that is then released for a 30-day public input period. Once that period is over, the DNR will make edits and present a proposed draft master plan. The adoption of the plan is done by the natural resource board.

Allen asked what the scope of the plan is. Ernzen stated that may include any activity and features of the state-owned property. Allen confirmed that the WIDNR is not dealing with private properties, and how the WIDNR deals with stormwater issues that might be impacting WIDNR properties. Rynish stated that addressing stormwater issues might take place, but the goal is to not set stormwater management plans for the region.

Honer stated he will distribute the plan, when released, to the Commissioners and will request feedback from them. He will draft a letter to the DNR with any thoughts or concerns the Commission has regarding the plan. The Commission agreed.

12. SCWRTC Administrator's Report – *Honer, SCWRTC Admin.*

Honer spoke with John Glyn from the Friends of the Badger State Trail Group and provided him with the UW-Platteville study on the Stewart Tunnel from 2018. The Commission signed a three-year audit engagement agreement in 2019 so there is no need to sign another agreement this year. Honer stated that he will be in touch with the auditors to determine when the audit process for 2019 will begin.

13. Update on Conditions at Stewart Tunnel – *Hanson, WIDNR.*

Hanson stated the WIDNR has been making progress with the Tunnel, including the installation of steel gates and signage to deter people from entering the tunnel. Hanson stated that WIDNR is looking to install 8ft tall chain link fence at the portals by September. There is concern regarding the historic nature of the tunnel that needs to be addressed when installing items into the tunnel. Hansen stated that WIDNR approached the townships regarding temporary reroute of the tunnel. The WIDNR is also working on installing doors as a short-term solution. Hansen stated the long-term solution is to look at hiring an engineering consultant. An off road reroute of the tunnel is something that may be considered as part of the DNR master planning process.

Allen asked if the Tunnel is currently open and if not, what people are doing. Hansen stated that it is closed and that a lot of trail users are ignoring the signs and going through the tunnel, some are going on the township roads which Hansen acknowledge is not a very safe option. Signs have not been posted regarding a detour because they had not worked with the townships on having the roads be part of the detour.

Kubly asked the purpose of the chain-link fence if doors will be installed. Hansen stated that the chain-link will stop people from entering the tunnel in the immediate, while they work on the doors. Honer suggested WIDNR utilize large hay/straw bales to block the portals. Using bales will stop people from entering the tunnel, allow the tunnel to be insulated over the winter, and not require state historical society approval. Honer believes this would be a less expensive and more immediate first step to stop people from entering the tunnel. It will also provide an indication if the tunnel can realistically be insulated.

Honer asked if SCWRTC action would assist in the project moving forward, either by avoiding long reviews by state agencies or assisting to provide funding. Hansen stated that the WIDNR will likely need assistance in paying for the engineering report.

SCWRTC JULY 2020 MINUTES - APPROVED

Honer stated that it is difficult to raise money for a report and believed the commission had a good chance of securing funding for doors when he approached the issue last summer.

14. Discussion and Action on 2021 Budget – Honer, Admin.

Honer presented the draft 2021 budget. Honer stated that most significant changes in the budget was the expected decrease in interest revenue requiring the Commission to draw more from saving to pay for operations.

- *Motion to approve the draft 2021 Budget – Allen/ Hillebrand. Passed Unanimously.*

15. Action Item – Adjournment

- *Motion to adjourn at 3:03 – Hillebrand/Olson. Passed Unanimously.*