

SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN RAIL TRANSIT COMMISSION

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

**Wednesday, January 22, 2014, 2:00pm, Fitchburg DNR Facility,
Drumlin Conference Room, 3911 Fish Hatchery Rd, Fitchburg, WI**

1. **2:02 PM** **Call to Order** – *Harvey Kubly, Chair*
2. Roll Call. **Establishment of Quorum** – *Mary Penn, SCWRTC Administrator*

Commission members present for all/part of meeting:	x	Others present for all/part of meeting:
Jay Allen, Dane Co.	x	Mary Penn, Administrator
Jim Haefs-Flemming, Dane Co.	Excused	Frank Huntington, Kim Tollers (2:14), WDOT
Paul Ziehli, Dane Co. Vice Chair	x	Dana White-Quam, WDNR
Harvey Kubly, Green Co., Chair	x	
Oscar Olson, Green Co.	Excused	
Ron Wolter, Green Co. Treasurer	x	

Commission achieved quorum.

3. Action Item. **Certification of Meeting’s Public Notice** – *Prepared by Penn*
 - *Motion to approve certification of meeting – Allen/Ziehli, Passed Unanimously*
4. Action Item. **Approval of Agenda** – *Prepared by Penn*
 - *Motion to approve agenda – Allen/Wolter, Passed Unanimously*
5. Action Item. **Approval of draft Minutes from October meeting** – *Prepared by Penn*
 - *Motion to approve October 2013 minutes – Allen/Ziehli, Passed Unanimously*

6. Updates. **Public Comment**
There were no public comments.

7. Updates. **Correspondence & Communications**
Penn reported she had had only once instance of correspondence in the past quarter. She had been asked by the Jane Addams Trails Commission Chair Steve Ehlbeck what, if any, the SCWRTC’s policy was in regard to the new Illinois concealed carry law on the trail. Penn reported she had communicated with both Dana White-Quam and Eileen Brownlee who both said that the SCWRTC could not regulate concealed carry in either Wisconsin or Illinois as state law superceded any RTC policy if one existed. Penn told the Commission that Ehlbeck said the JAT did not allow hunting or across the trail. Jay Allen asked some questions regarding the trail including asking about signage relating to hunting. Both White-Quam and Harvey Kubly agreed that any hunters on the trail needed to be informed before going out.

REPORTS & COMMISSION BUSINESS

8. **SCWRTC Financial Report** – *Ron Wolter, SCWRTC Treasurer*
 - Treasurer’s Report and Payment of Bills

Ron Wolter gave the Treasurer’s Report. He noted there had been payment for Quarter 3 and 4 2012 as well as quarters 1, 2, and 3 of 2013 paid in October. Next he listed the bills due which included

Bills included:

1. Kramer and Brownlee, Nov. 18, 2013 - \$75.00
 2. SWWRPC Q4, 2014, Administrative Services – \$2,648.08
- *Motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report – Ziehli/Allen, Passed Unanimously*
 - *Motion to table payment of SWWRPC, Q4, 2013 – Allen/Ziehli, Passed Unanimously*
 - *Motion to approve payment for Kramer & Brownlee for \$75.00 – Allen/Paul, Passed Unanimously*

Allen asked why there had been so many invoices from SWWRPC in the Treasurer’s Report. Penn said that the 2012 billing had been submitted late but did not know why. She reminded the Commission that they had not met for much of 2013, so there had been a backlog of invoices. Allen asked why the 4th Quarter of 2013 SWWRPC invoice was so much more in comparison to the other invoices of the past 5 quarters. Penn did not know but said she would find out. There was also some discussion on the ownership of the Commission’s current bank.

9. WisDOT – Staff may include Frank Huntingdon, Kim Tollers, Roger Larson, WDOT

Frank Huntingdon reported that the minutes from the Oct. 2013 meetings covered a lot of what was currently going on. He said that WDOT was in negotiation to buy a 7 mile segment of line from Madison to Reedsburg. He said that WDOT had hoped to get the acquisition done by the end of 2013 but there had been some language issues needing to be resolved. He said that once the acquisition was complete, other projects could be awarded. He said that one project that had been awarded included the Oregon line work which had already started. He said work would not go south of Oregon and the line south of Brooklyn would not be opened. Huntingdon said that the community of Evansville had said that they wanted their line opened as well but that would require cooperation with Union Pacific which was not always easy. He said it was possible but not likely. Allen asked about some crossings between Madison and Oregon. Huntingdon said those crossings would be put back in and paid for by the communities. Ron Wolter asked about the source of Lycon’s aggregates and there was some discussion about that. Allen asked when the rehab would be done and Huntingdon said it would be no later than the end of the 2014 construction season; work would begin as soon as the weather cleared.

Huntingdon spoke about a WSOR siding project between Milton and Janesville, adding that there was also some work between Janesville and the State line, and some work in Baraboo. All these projects had been awarded. He noted that there were at least 25 bridge projects in the area. Huntingdon said WSOR had proposed 60 bridge projects over the next 5 years. He then listed other rail projects elsewhere in the state starting, ongoing, or slated to be completed in 2014. He completed his report by talking about a line straightening project in Janesville which the State had already contributed \$8M to date. He said there had been a minor derailment on this very track recently and this rehabilitation project would help correct the problem that had contributed to the accident.

10. DNR Report – Dana White-Quam, DNR Regional Park Specialist

Dana White-Quam reported on the bathroom / trailhead project in Monroe, saying that the shell of the structure was built and interior work was ongoing and would be done by this spring’s biking season. On the Monroe bridge project, she said through compensation by the bridge builders to the DNR, they had acquired a Tool Cat (a vehicle like a BobCat, described by White-Quam as a “UTV on steroids”) and a drag for grooming. She said the ToolCat would be delivered quite soon and the snowmobile clubs would do the trail grooming with it this winter. The DNR would use the ToolCat for the rest of the year for trail maintenance (mowing, etc). She said this was not a best case scenario but short of having to replace the bridge, it was a solution that would work for both the clubs and the DNR.

Allen asked about the lifespan of the ToolCat and the ability to add a mower, asked if its replacement would be funded by the DNR, and where it would be stored. White-Quam said her understanding was either the City of Monroe or the snowmobile clubs could store it. She said the DNR would not be moving this equipment to other parks as it was dedicated to this area. Hopefully, she said with trained operators the Tool Cat would have a long, useful life.

Wolter asked for an update on the trail encroachments. White-Quam said that she and Brad Bates had gone out and GPS’d the sites and checked them against the ROW and WDNR real estate to see if there had been any sales in those areas. She said there had not been sales and reported that most of the encroachments were mowing and garden spaces. She said they had sent a letter to those encroaching and some had responded. She said these respondents had been told they could enter into a short term LU agreement but ultimately the goal was to remove all private uses. She said that one point that kept coming up was the tall grass and weeds in back yards. As the DNR moved forward, she said it may consider allowing abutting landowners to mow but no building or parking of personal equipment, etc. would be allowed. She said these were DNR land use agreements and added that the Operating Agreement together with the position of the SCWRTC, the DNR did not want to deal with individual agreements. Kim Tollers asked if there was a termination clause and asked for a copy of it. White-Quam said the DNR had used a standard land use agreement. Allen asked for a copy and it was agreed that White-Quam would send it to Penn who would distribute to the Commissioners.

SCWRTC APPROVED JANUARY 2014 MINUTES

11. SCWRTC Administrator's Report –*Penn, SCWRTC Admin.*

Penn reported that once the SCWRTC 2012 audit had been approved she would electronically distribute it to the Commission's member county clerks. She said she had received noted that Harvey Kubly had been reappointed by Green County to serve on the RTCs and noted that she had not yet found out when or if Jay Allen's appointment would be renewed. There was some discussion on this topic. Huntington commented that a commissioner's appointment ran a set term or until the county appointed a new person. Term limits were listed in the Commission's Charter.

12. Consideration and Possible Action on 2012 draft SCWRTC Audit with Johnson Block – *Mary Penn, PRTC Admin.*

Penn reminded everyone that they had received the audit at the October 2013 meeting.

- *Motion to approve the 2012 SCWRTC Audit – Allen/Wolter, Passed Unanimously*

13. Consideration and Possible Action on 2013 SCWRTC Audit Engagement Letter with Johnson Block – *Mary Penn, SCWRTC Admin.*

Penn noted she had sent Kubly a copy of the engagement letter. Once signed she said she would email it to Johnson Block and then return the hard copy to Kubly.

- *Motion to engage Johnson Block for the 2013 SCWRTC Audit – Allen/Wolter, Passed Unanimously*

Kubly noted that the only change between this and last year's engagement letter was an increase of \$50.00.

14. Action Item – Adjournment

- *Motion to adjourn at 2:41 – Allen/Ziehli, Passed Unanimously*