

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, April 23, 2014, 2:00pm, Fitchburg DNR Facility,
Drumlin Conference Room, 3911 Fish Hatchery Rd, Fitchburg, WI**

1. **2:04 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:		Others present for all/part of meeting:
Jay Allen, Dane Co.	absent	Mary Penn, Administrator
Jim Haefs-Flemming, Dane Co.	x	Kim Tollers, 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 – Wolter/Haefs-Flemming, Passed Unanimously*
4. Action Item. **Approval of Agenda** – *Prepared by Penn*
 - *Motion to approve agenda – Wolter/Haefs-Flemming, Passed Unanimously*
5. Action Item. **Approval of draft April meeting minutes** – *Prepared by Penn*
 - *Motion to approve January 2014 minutes – Wolter/Ziehli, Passed Unanimously*

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

7. Updates. Correspondence & Communications
Penn reported on correspondence regarding Jay Allen’s reappointment to the Commission. Kubly asked Jim Haefs-Flemming and Paul Ziehli about their appointment times. Penn confirmed that once appointed to the Commission, you would be on until another was appointed.

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.

 - *Motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report – Ziehli/Haefs-Flemming, Passed Unanimously*

Wolter said the SWWRPC Q4, 2014 bill had been tabled at the last meeting due to questions about its amount. Penn distributed a copy of Troy Maggied's email sent to Ron in January 2014 explaining the cost breakdown on the Q4 2013 billing. Harvey Kubly asked Penn if she agreed with what the email and she concurred. Wolter said that as far as he could tell, the Commission was under budget on this contract, and listed off the amounts of dollars billed by administrators over the past few 2 years. Kubly said that those years had a lot of staff time due to tax issues in Illinois. Wolter said that Maggied would prefer to invoice quarterly but Kubly said that would not work as the Commission did not always meet quarterly.

Bills included:

1. SWWRPC Q4, 2014, Administrative Services – \$2,642.08
 - *Motion approve payment of SWWRPC, Q4, 2013 – Haefs-Flemming / Ziehli, Passed Unanimously*

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

Kim Tollers reported that the Village of Oregon had moved to approve the sale and transfer of the Fitchburg-Evansville line to the WRRTC as did the City of Fitchburg so that process could move forward. She said in May both cities will consider the purchase agreements. Kubly asked if the WRRTC was purchasing the line. Tollers said if Fitchburg/Oregon wanted to surrender their ownership it would go to the Commission first. She said the cities wanted to give up the operating authority and the liability, adding that Frank Huntington was the authority on the agreements. Tollers said the purchase amount had been holding up the City of Fitchburg. Kubly said he thought it would go to the WDOT but Tollers said no, as that was not part of the original agreement. There was discussion on the parameters of the operating authority and who would become responsible. Wolter asked about the ownership of the whole line and where it terminated. Haefs-Flemming said that a number of crossings in Fitchburg would have to be reactivated. There was discussion about the crossings having to go back in and the cost associated with that. Paul Ziehli asked how this connected with the WRRTC. Penn distributed a copy of a map showing the lines in question during the discussion. Tollers said that the Reedsburg line was still under ownership of UP, and noted that the purchase agreement between WDOT and UP could be done this month and then must be approved by the Surface Transportation Board (STB). She said there was a HazMat site that needed review and some other loose ends that had to be wrapped up, before it could be sent to the STB. Hopefully, if everything works out, the sale would be completed soon.

Kubly asked about the line north of Evansville, saying that he thought the tracks were taken out in Brooklyn. Tollers said they were not planning on putting the track back in all the way to Evansville but the sale would include the land. Ziehli asked if everything would come from Madison and terminate in Oregon. Tollers said the customer, an aggregate producer was ready to go and since their permit did not allow them to haul their product by truck, they had to ship by rail.

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

Dana White-Quam reported that the trailhead project will be dedicated in Monroe on May 14th at 6:30 PM. She said the cooperative agreement for operations at this facility had not been finalized yet due to some "hiccups" but she was trying to finalize it and said it will soon be completed. She noted that the shelter was complete but the landscaping still needed to be done. She said the parking lot was put in by the WDNR under an infrastructure program supplying the funding and signage.

She spoke of the signage for the property and in Monroe, noting that it could be somewhat confusing to find the trailhead unless you knew the City. Wolter said the building looked nice. White-Quam agreed but said that getting there was not totally clear and explained how to get to the location. She said the WDNR planner would be working with the City to get signage up this summer.

White-Quam updated the Commission on the 8th Street Bridge, saying that the WDNR negotiated with the consultant the purchase of a winter grooming machine, a Trail Cat, which would also serve as a summer maintenance tool. She said the WDNR was trying to finalize the agreement with the snowmobile club but there was some disagreement on the ownership of the Trail Cat machine, saying that the WDNR felt strongly that the negotiated settlement should benefit WDNR as they supplied money to do the project.

Next, she said that the legislature had recently passed a law allowing night time usage of state trails for ATV users, so technically the trail is open unless posted closed.

She said there have been questions of access to the Sun Valley Parkway (which goes over the top of the trail), saying that when the corridor was acquired, WDNR had talked about getting an easement for access but some of the property owners refused. Some property has changed hands so the WDNR will try again to pursue an easement for access.

Tollers asked if there had been progress on encroachment issues in Monroe. White-Quam said they were still working on it and that they had sent out letters, adding that the next step was to make sure that the surveys that were done were correct. She said she planned to go and talk to one owner who has a garage on WDNR property, saying she was afraid of the property owner using adverse possession to keep the garage on the property. She said she thought that the city must have granted a permit for the garage but really did not know and noted that sometimes people get permits from the railroad. When another railroad owned the corridor, this might have happened. Ziehli asked Dana to look into an issue near Belleville on Cty D, regarding cleaning up a section of the trail, saying it looked very unkempt. White-Quam said this was the first she had heard about it and asked if all that was wanted was clean up and not by the WDNR. She said she would talk to Brad Bates and find out what the situation was and asked if Ziehli had any names she could contact or could contact her. Wolter suggested that she update Ziehli when she found something out.

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

Penn distributed a rail map and asked the Commission to give her any corrections to it. She noted that this map was a big step forward as it was created in GIS and not static. Kubly asked Penn to investigate the status of Commission property in Stephenson County to see if the Commission was being incorrectly billed again and Penn said she would check on this.

12. SCWRTC 2012 Election of Officers

Ziehli asked if they could still serve if they were currently not formally appointed and Kubly said yes.

- *Motion to have the officers remain as are currently – Ziehli/Haefs-Flemming, Passed Unanimously*

13. Action Item – Adjournment

- *Motion to adjourn at 2:48 PM – Haefs-Flemming/Wolter, Passed Unanimously*