

# 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 July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016

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 2:56 PM

**2. Establishment of Committee Members Present** – *Mary Penn, 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>x</i>
<i>Charles Anderson</i>	<i>Iowa</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>Alan Sweeney</i>	<i>Rock</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>Wayne Gustina</i>	<i>Rock</i>	<i>excused</i>

Also attending: Kim Tollers, WisDOT, Mary Penn, Admin.

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

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

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

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

**5. Action Item. Approval of draft Minutes from May 2016 meeting** – *Prepared by Penn*

- *Motion to approve draft May 2016 minutes – Sweeney/Anderson, Passed Unanimously*

### COMMITTEE BUSINESS

**6. Discussion of Lafayette County Contribution Issue**

Harvey Kubly said he had looked at the reply Penn had received from Lafayette County in regard to the county contribution and he had no doubt the County Board Chair had signed it. Phil Mrozinski said it could not be proven that the County Board ever saw it. Kubly said the only way to verify the letter was addressed by the Board was if the Finance Committee met between June 1<sup>st</sup> and June 21<sup>st</sup> when Penn got it back.

Mrozinski said the Commission could charge rent to the County or request a meeting with the Finance Committee. Alan Sweeney said that he had done that and it had not accomplished anything. Mrozinski said he kept thinking about the big survey and that Leon Wolfe had been so pleased to share that Lafayette County received \$5M from the trail. Mrozinski was perplexed that the County would not pay a contribution. Mrozinski said Wolfe had said he was not sure that Lafayette County should be on the PRTC and that Wolfe is on the Commission and on the trail. Kubly said Lafayette was one of the counties that formed the Commission initially. He said to try to get something out of Lafayette County, one approach would be to say we needed at least a minimum contribution for the overhead of the Commission although he admitted that it might get a little sticky because they might argue that Rock and Iowa counties sent their money to the Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission (WRRTC). He said the PRTC rents the rail corridor to WSOR but was not

sure to the Commission did not rent the trail to the Tri-County Trail Commission (TCTC). He said he thought it would be a similar thing. Penn said the management agreement might spell that out and would have to have Eileen Brownlee look at that. Kim Tollers said you might need to assess a fee to the TCTC and consequently it would return to Lafayette County in order to administer the trail. She said this might be a way to get some administration for the land the trail is on. She agreed that Brownlee should be consulted, saying that since the Board would not give them anything they would have to find another way to recoup the money to administer the Commission's property. Kubly pointed out Penn's and Brownlee's fees. Tollers agreed and gave the Village of Browntown as an example of costs related to management of the property, noting only the annual contribution from Green paid the Commission. Wolter said they should pay rent like the railroad did. Kubly said that was what he was thinking.

Charles Anderson said the TCTC got from \$6,000 to \$8,000 from the WDNR for reimbursement. Tollers said if snowmobiles were on it, dollars via snowmobile permit fees come back to them. There was discussion clarifying it was a multi-use trail. Tollers asked if ATVs paid a permit fee. Mrozinski explained what fees were required of trail users. Kubly said it seemed as though the TCTC segregated funds and expenses between snowmobiles and ATVs or at least they turned in certain expenses to someone else for reimbursement. Anderson said as far as \$5M went, they would be asked how much money the railroad brought to Monroe and Green County. Sweeney said the railroad did, absolutely. Anderson said you would have to be ready to answer that question as it could be used as a basis of assessment if the Commission got to that point.

Sweeney said he was not intending to push Lafayette County out, but obviously something had to be done and he requested the Chair have an agenda item at the Commission October meeting to discuss the trail fee per mile in Lafayette County. Sweeney said he thought the Commission could give Lafayette County the option of paying a portion of operational costs, adding that "zero was not going to work". He said if it was on the agenda it must be addressed, adding that he had taken all the information to the Lafayette County Board once before, including the extension study and was told it was not factual. Anderson asked if Lafayette County participated in paying for the trail fee. Penn said she could find and share it with the Committee. She also said she wanted to get a copy of the TCTC's fee schedule and budget. Anderson talked about his experience in paying users fees for snowmobiling.

Kubly asked Sweeney to clarify his agenda request and would the request be to Lafayette County. Sweeney said yes unless it could be approached differently. He said he liked Tollers' idea of a fee-per-mile to offset the unpaid annual contribution to the PRTC. Kubly said thinking down the road, if that was the way it would go, did the Committee think they would get a quarter of their administrative budget. Sweeney said a goal of a number would be fine.

Wolter said the Green County part of the trail was covered by the Green County contribution. Kubly said Green paid the full contribution. He said the County only had rail from Brodhead to Monroe but it was important. Sweeney agreed and said farmers would not have had a gain of 30 cents a bushel for years and saved themselves wear and tear on Hwy 11 through Lafayette County as otherwise grain would go to Dubuque. Sweeney said it was a logical way to approach the issue and the Committee could see where it went and maybe the Lafayette County Chair would show up to the meeting. Mrozinski clarified that the Committee could not make a recommendation today but could suggest an agenda item. As long as it was worded in such a way to open it up by the full Commission to follow through. Kubly said no "gentleness" had worked so far.

Sweeney said if Green County would like him to come to County Board to speak to them he could do so. Penn said she would send Kubly a copy of Green County invitation letter;

**7. Action Item - Adjournment**

- *Motion to adjourn at 2:38 PM – Anderson/Sweeney, Passed Unanimously*