

# PECATONICA RAIL TRANSIT COMMISSION

20 S Court Street • PO Box 262 • Platteville, Wisconsin 53818  
MEMBER COUNTIES: GREEN • IOWA • LAFAYETTE • ROCK

## PRTC/WRRTC FORMAL FUNDING AGREEMENT WORKING COMMITTEE

### January 24, 2014

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 Harvey W. Kubly at 2:50 PM

**2. Establishment of Committee Members Present** – *Mary Penn, PRTC 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>Excused</i>
<i>Alan Sweeney</i>	<i>Rock</i>	<i>x</i>
<i>Wayne Gustina</i>	<i>Rock</i>	<i>x</i>

Committee achieved quorum.

Also attending for some or all of the meeting: Ken Lucht, WSOR, Mary Penn, SWWRPC, Eileen Brownlee, Corp Counsel

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

- *Motion to approve meeting – Mrozinski/Gustina, Passed Unanimously*

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

- *Motion to approve agenda – Sweeney/Mrozinski, Passed Unanimously*

**5. Action Item. Approval of draft Minutes from October, 2013 meeting** – *Prepared by Penn*

- *Motion to approve October 2013 minutes – Mrozinski/Sweeney, Passed Unanimously*

#### COMMITTEE BUSINESS

**6. Discussion of possibility of Green County joining WRRTC**

Harvey Kubly said that this issue had been raised a couple times before and said he had met with the County Chair on the possibility and the Chair had had no objection. The Board Chair said it would have to go to the County Board and the case made to them. Sweeney said that Jefferson County just joined the WRRTC and it was done via a resolution at their county board meeting. He added that the county contribution to the WRRTC was now \$28,000. There was discussion about the difference between the PRTC and the WRRTC's county contribution amount. Kubly said he thought the intent was that Green would keep giving their contribution to the PRTC. Sweeney said he did not see it as an issue as Rock and Iowa are members of both Commissions; it is up to the individual counties. Kubly said he understood that a lot of major things were done at the WRRTC as opposed to the PRTC. Sweeney said the PRTC had invested a lot in the bridges on the PRTC line. He added that there were bigger issues on the WRRTC that could impact the PRTC and mentioned the Fox Lake Sub in Illinois as an example. Having "another tool in the toolbox" would have its benefits for Green County. Sweeney explained that Jefferson County had little track but realized their needs for freight rail access. If Green County came to join the WRRTC, Sweeney was not sure a working agreement would be necessary since they would be at the table.

He said the other county commissioners of the WRRTC realized it was a regional investment, a project that would benefit all. Sweeney said if the PRTC would go that route, there wouldn't need to be a working agreement in terms of capital investments. Kubly said he thought that if this went forward, there would need to be something in the resolution before the board that would state that Green County's contribution would go to the PRTC. Sweeney said once the County paid the contribution to the PRTC it could go elsewhere depending on the need. He said there would need to be discussion on the WSOR rent and one would assume that those payments would stay but it was a discussion that would have to take place.

Kubly said if this was something they wanted to move forward, the Committee could make a recommendation to follow through on but item 6 was not an action item. Sweeney suggested a recommendation be made to the Commission via the Committee Chair and Kubly agreed.

*Brownlee returned to the Courtroom.*

**7. Follow up discussion on Recommendation from PRTC/WRRTC Working Committee to the full Pecatonica Rail Transit Commission requesting Lafayette County contribute the amount equal to the county contribution the other PRTC member counties (\$26,500.00)**

Kubly said he had Penn put this item on the agenda in case discussion was necessary. He said he was happy that Wayne Wilson had come to the meeting and said he had made a good point that the county was not billed with the result that the Commission do something about it. Kubly acknowledged the issue had been ignored for too long but "you have to start someplace". He guessed that Lafayette County might come back with something but it might not be what the Commission was asking. Sweeney said they needed to be proactive in responding to Lafayette County and suggested the possibility of contacting some Lafayette County Supervisors with the benefits of rail to the County.

Phil Mrozinski asked who would contact the Lafayette County Board and said he believed Kubly had volunteered to go. Kubly asked Eileen Brownlee for her thoughts on the issue. Brownlee said she guessed the County would have to make a decision and at this point there was nothing to discuss but there were mechanisms to get out of the Commission and offered Richland County's leaving the WRRTC as an example. She said there were some options in the Charter and thought that the Commission could protect the corridor but since Lafayette County had not paid in their contribution it could be interesting. She said Lafayette County was impacted by rail but their primary interest was the trail and said when they had tried to convert some track to rail in the past, it was clear that Lafayette County's interest was the trail. She thought that if the corridor was not going to ever be converted to rail, the property might become "patched out" to adjoining property owners.

Sweeney asked Brownlee for her thoughts on item 6 and Kubly explained what he had learned from the Green County Board Chair, adding that the Chair understood they were part of a bigger region in terms of track. Brownlee said that with Jefferson County joining, the WRRTC was obviously not adverse to new members and could not imagine any objection to Green County joining it. She asked what the WRRTC could do to assist Green County in joining. Kubly said it would be an agenda item for the full commission in May via a resolution to recommend Green County join the WRRTC. Brownlee asked if it would be better for the WRRTC to make a statement of interest to Green County. She did not see what action the PRTC would take in Green County joining the WRRTC. Sweeney said the Working Committee's idea was if Green County joined WRRTC, a working agreement would not be needed since Rock, Iowa, etc. did not have one. Brownlee agreed. Kubly said Frank Huntington had said Green County was eligible since the WRRTC had track in the County.

Sweeney said he would discuss how to go about this with Penn to the effect that the WRRTC entertain a statement of interest in Green County joining the WRRTC. Kubly said he thought that the Working Committee should keep meeting in order to monitor the issue in Lafayette and Green counties.

Mrozinski said that he wanted to let the Committee know he was not running for reelection in April and this might be his last meeting. He said he had enjoyed being on the Commission very much. Kubly thanked Mrozinski for his input. Mrozinski said no one else was on the ballot and he had been approached about the possibility of a write-in campaign. He said he did not want an empty seat at board meetings and would be doing some thinking over the next couple of months.

**8. Action Item - Adjournment**

- *Motion to adjourn at 3:16 PM – Gustina/Wolter, Passed Unanimously*