

# PECATONICA RAIL TRANSIT COMMISSION

719 Pioneer Tower • 1 University Plaza • Platteville, Wisconsin 53818  
MEMBER COUNTIES: GREEN • IOWA • LAFAYETTE • ROCK

DRAFT MINUTES

## Pecatonica Rail Transit Commission

1:00pm • Friday, Oct. 28th 2011 • Green Co. Courthouse, Basement Conf. Rm, 1016 16<sup>th</sup> Ave • Monroe, WI

1. Harvey Kubly, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.
2. Commissioners present for all or part of the meeting:

	Commissioner	Position	Present		Commissioner	Position	Present
Green	Harvey Kubly	Chair	X	Iowa	Charles Anderson	Secretary	
	Oscar Olson	Treasurer	X		Jerry Dorscheid		X
	Ron Wolter		X		Phillip Mrozinski		X
Lafayette	Leon Wolfe		X	Rock	Ben Coopman	Alternate	
	Patrick Shea		X		Wayne Gustina		X
	Gerald Heimann	Alternate			Alan Sweeney	1st Vice Chair	
	Ted Wiegel				Terry Thomas	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair	X

Others present for all or part of the meeting: Ken Lucht (WSOR), Frank Huntington & Roger Larson (WDOT), Amy Seeboth (PRTC Administrator).

3. Certification of Public Notice – Seeboth, PRTC Administrator
4. Motion accepting the Agenda, prepared by Seeboth – Dorscheid / Wolter - passed unanimously.
5. Motion approving PRTC July and August 2011 Draft Minutes- -Dorscheid / Shea - passed unanimously.
6. Public Comment - None
7. Correspondence & Communications – Seeboth mentioned the WI DOT Freight Rail Conference is next week and invited the Commissioners to attend.

### REPORTS & COMMISSION BUSINESS

8. PRTC Financial Report – Oscar Olson, PRTC Treasurer passed out copies of the treasurer's report.
  - Motion approving Treasurer's Report - Gustina / Mrozinski - passed unanimously
  - Motion approving Bills (the Johnson Block approval is pending audit approval later in the meeting) – Mrozinski / Wolfe - passed unanimously
9. Wisconsin & Southern Railroad's Report on Operations –
  - Update on overall operations, new business and maintenance activities - Kathleen Sackett, Director of Sales and Marketing reported that WSOR has seen a 5.8% growth between 2010 and 2011. They are still not running to the level that they were at prior to 2008 but are working their way there.
  - The season is mandating that fall tasks are being finalized and will soon be working on winter activities. They just replaced a bridge east of Hanover in August/September. They have two crossings that they updated recently. They are in the process of designing a bridge replacement just west of Broadhead over the Sugar River. They have no major operation incidence to report at this time.
  - WSOR has several new growth opportunities including frac sand. They are beginning to ship units of 50 of these across Prairie du Chien over to Chicago (coming from Clayton, Iowa).
  - WSOR is continuing to grow their various transload customers.
  - Canned and frozen foods market has been growing larger as folks eat out less.
  - Q&A (topics on this Agenda / recommendation for future report topics)
10. PRTC Administrator's Report – Seeboth updated the Commission on PRTC administrative work and the fact that the trail connecting Platteville to Belmont (to the Cheese Country/PRTC Corridor) is going forward and should be completed in

2013. The TCTC contact Seeboth to ask some questions about ownership issues. The Commission reviewed 2012 meeting dates and decided that they would be January 27<sup>th</sup>, May 18<sup>th</sup>, July 27<sup>th</sup>, and October 26<sup>th</sup>.

10. **WisDOT** – Frank Huntington reported that the WDOT awarded two FRPP grants to WSOR and that the appraisal for the UP Madison-Reedsburg line is complete and valued at \$41million. The improvements have yet to be appraised and they expect this to be at least another \$8-9 million.
11. **Tri-County Trail Commission Update**- Wolfe reported that the TCTC trail survey has 3 weeks left. He said that it has been a long time going. Dave Marcoullier, UW-Madison Professor, is comfortable with the statistics so far and seems to think they will have some very valid results. The TCTC has been hearing less comments on the gravel now than they were before. They are working on prepping for the snowmobile season now. Funds are available to expand bridges and the TCTC is looking to apply for these to expand three bridges so that groomers can get through them more easily. As part of the trail survey TCTD is setting up focus group meetings with stakeholder groups. These focus groups start next Thursday night. TCTC is aware of several properties that may be encroaching on the trail and want to communicate these issues to PRTC. Seeboth will follow up on these.
12. **Update on Comfort Station** – PRTC received a lease from Darlington. It needs to be signed by PRTC and the issue should be complete.
13. **Consideration and approval of 2010 PRTC Audit with Johnson Block**- The audit is missing some information. Seeboth is to get the corrected version from Johnson Block and place the Audit on the agenda for review in January. Per the above motion, the Johnson Block bill is not be paid until the Audit is approved.
14. **Consideration and possible approval of funding an official survey in Calamine Property**- The TCTC asked that the PRTC consider funding a land survey on the PRTC Calamine Property so that the DNR can do more remediation work. The Commission were concerned that the DNR should be able to pay for this survey themselves since it is something they want to do.
  - **Motion to not fund the land survey request in Calamine – Mrozinski / Shea – Passed Unanimously**
15. **Consideration and possible approval of WE Energies Utility Permit**- WE energies needs to do some work along the corridor. They paid the permit fee and are compliant with PRTC requirements.
  - **Motion to approve the WE Energies Utility Permit – Gustina / Wolfe – Passed Unanimously**
16. **Continuation of discussion on PRTC finances and financial history** – This conversation is carried over from the April Meeting. Commissioner Sweeney had requested this agenda item so that new Commissioners can be brought up to speed on the topic. In the past, local contributions have been shared between WRRTC and PRTC, but in practice, PRTC has contributed their share to projects along the WRRTC line every year of this history except for 2010. WRRTC has never contributed a local share dollar to a project on the PRTC line.

PRTC Commissioners agreed that they would like to initiate a long-term discussion with WRRTC on how dollars are being spent. They are considering a request to establish an agreement with WRRTC regarding these local share's. An agreement to this affect was considered in the past (called the 66 agreement) but never completed.

Kubly suggested that it would behoove the PRTC to have some written agreement based upon track mileage. He asked that Seeboth review the Charter as best she can and see what the Charter says about the relationship between the four PRTC Counties, and find the agreement between WRRTC and East Counties Consortium that deals with the same/a similar issue and bring these findings to the January PRTC Meeting for further discussion.
17. **Motion to adjourn at 2:19** – *Gustina / Wolter – passed unanimously*