

# PECATONICA RAIL TRANSIT COMMISSION

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

1:00 PM • Friday, October 23, 2015 • Green Co. Courthouse, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Courtroom, 1016 16<sup>th</sup> Ave • Monroe, WI

1. 1:01 PM      **Call to Order** – *Harvey Kubly, Chair*
2. Roll Call.      **Establishment of Quorum** – *Mary Penn, PRTC Administrator*

**Commissioners present for all or part of the meeting:**

<i>Commissioner</i>		<i>Position</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Commissioner</i>		<i>Position</i>	<i>Present</i>
<i>Green</i>	<i>Harvey W. Kubly</i>	<i>Chair</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>Iowa</i>	<i>Charles Anderson</i>	<i>Secretary</i>	<i>1:14PM</i>
	<i>Oscar Olson</i>		<i>x</i>		<i>William G. Ladewig</i>		<i>x</i>
	<i>Ron Wolter</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>x</i>		<i>Philip Mrozinski</i>		<i>x</i>
<i>Lafayette</i>	<i>Leon Wolfe</i>		<i>absent</i>	<i>Rock</i>	<i>Ben Coopman</i>	<i>Alternate</i>	
	<i>Larry Ludlum</i>		<i>absent</i>		<i>Wayne Gustina</i>		<i>excused</i>
	<i>Gerald Heimann</i>	<i>Alternate</i>			<i>Alan Sweeney</i>	<i>1st Vice Chair</i>	<i>x</i>
	<i>Ted Wiegel</i>		<i>x</i>		<i>Terry Thomas</i>	<i>2nd Vice Chair</i>	<i>x</i>

Commission achieved quorum.

**Other present for all or some of the meeting:**

- Mary Penn, SWWRPC
- Ken Lucht, WSOR
- Kim Tollers, WDOT
- Eileen Brownlee, Corp. Counsel

3. Action Item.      **Certification of Meeting’s Public Notice** – *Noticed by Penn*
  - *Motion to approve certification of public meeting – Ladewig/Mrozinski, 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 July 2015 meeting** – *Prepared by Penn*
  - *Motion to approve minutes of July 2015 meeting – Wiegel/Ladewig, Passed Unanimously*
6. Updates.          **Public Comment** – *Time for public comment may be limited by the Chair*  
 There were no public comments.
7. Updates.          **Correspondence & Communications** – *Discussion may be limited by the Chair*  
 Mary Penn listed the Commission correspondence she had dealt with since the last meeting.

**8. PRTC Financial Report – Ron Wolter, SCWRTC Treasurer**

- *Motion to approve Treasurer's Report – Olson/Mrozinski, Passed Unanimously*
- *Motion to approve bills – Ladewig/Sweeney, Passed Unanimously*

Ron Wolter gave the Treasurer's Report to the Commission which he distributed and listed invoices received and checks received which included the WSOR Lease and the Green County contribution. Penn confirmed the SWWRPC had sent the Q1 and Q2 2015 invoices.

**9. WSOR Operation's Report – Ken Lucht, WSOR**

Ken Lucht reported that routine track inspections were ongoing. He said capital projects in 2015 and into 2016 would be very aggressive. He reported on the progress of some projects outside the PRTC area, including continuous welded rail (CWR) on the Fox Lake Sub. He said crossings and bridges would be covered under item 13. He noted a \$19 M project in Sheboygan/Kohler to establish rail there for Bemis Manufacturing. Lucht said construction was slated to be completed this year.

He said there were some grants pending at WisDOT: a CWR project between Waukesha and Milton (CWR) and three for the Prairie Sub (including the TIGER grant). One of the Prairie Sub projects was for 36,000 ties between Prairie du Chien and Avoca. He said this track was surrounded by wet areas which led to maintenance issues. Lucht said the third application was for a Phase 1 CWR project to Wauzeka. He said this was the beginning of CWR for the whole Prairie Sub, adding that this sub was getting heavy use leading to more maintenance issues.

Lucht said business was good and grain was moving. Sand was down due to depressed oil prices and some sand customers were laying off some people. He said WSOR was anticipating the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarters of 2016 to rebound on sand and said WSOR would finish the year 2-3% more in carloads.

Harvey Kubly asked about if there were 800 ties per mile and if that were every third tie. Lucht said it was a replacement of between a quarter and a third of all ties, adding that it had been 25 years since they had been replaced.

Bill Ladewig asked if there had been delays at WisDOT. Lucht said the rail section had been great but there had been some lag time associated with filling positions. He praised WisDOT in their efforts in working with WSOR. He said the big challenge was matching grant awards with the construction season.

**10. WisDOT Report – Staff may include Kim Tollers, Rich Kedzior**

Kim Tollers spoke about Rich Kedzior as the new FRPP and FRIIP coordinator for the Rails and Harbors Section hire, saying he had been unable to come to the meeting. She said there was some backlog on project agreements but WisDOT did not expect to see a continued backlog after Kedzior got caught up.

Tollers also spoke about the November 17<sup>th</sup> WDOT Freight Rail Conference and invited Commissioners to come. She said Commissioners could register with her at today's meeting.

**11. PRTC Administrator's Report – Mary Penn, PRTC Admin.**

Mary Penn reported on her administrative duties in the past quarter, updating the Commission on the state of affairs with the Village of Browntown. She reminded the Commission that it had taken action to place No Trespassing signs in the event the Village did not pursue a Temporary Access Permit (TAP). She said the Village had refused to enter into a TAP with the PRTC and was instead demanding a map or survey of the parcel in question. Eileen Brownlee asked if the Village asked this of all its adjoining property owners. She it was a continuing attempt to get the PRTC to undertake the Village's costs or actions and she did not see the Commission doing that.

Oscar Olson said the Village residents were offended that the Village had paid the lease for the bar owner in the past. Ladewig said the PRTC ought to put up a (No Trespassing) sign as soon as possible because once the snow started, people would start dumping snow there. Kubly said he presumed the Green County Highway Department could place the signs and could submit a bill to Penn. Penn was instructed to contact Jeff Wunschel to pursue this.

**12. Tri-County Trail Commission Report – Leon Wolfe**

As Leon Wolfe was absent, Ted Wiegel gave the report. He said the trail had been graded a couple of weeks ago to prepare for the snow season. He said they will cut the weeds on the sides and the TCTC had not gotten maintenance dollars to do so from the WDNR yet.

## PRTC OCTOBER 2015 MINUTES - DRAFT

### 13. Discussion and Possible Action on WSOR 2015 Capital Program – Ken Lucht, WSOR

- *Motion to approve 2015 Programs as presented - Anderson/Wolters, Passed Unanimously*

Ken Lucht distributed a handout to the Commission. He spoke of the PRTC commitments to past projects and reported that the 2012 bridge replacements (to upgrade them to support 286,000 lbs. capacity) between Janesville and Monroe projects were all completed. He talked about the last year replacement of bridge F108 west of Brodhead on Bagley Rd, saying that bridge project was also completed.

In the 5 Year Capital Plan, Lucht said WSOR was going to concentrate on bridges and crossings in the PRTC area. For 2015 projects, the emphasis was at-grade crossings. Lucht mentioned the CTH K and the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Street replacement projects in Brodhead as examples.

Lucht noted carloads and how traffic had gone in years past. He discussed the listings of customers and said not much had changed other than volume with about a 5-6% increase in volume (mostly grain either to Chicago and/or the local ethanol plant). He said the rail was a great benefit to all the member counties, pointing out the rail volume as compared to truck traffic and related road maintenance. Lucht said local moves continued to increase through grain and sand movement. He said these are produced and consumed locally.

He showed the listing of all the at-grade public crossings and reiterated that WSOR was concentrating on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue crossings in Brodhead and the CTH K crossing. He described the cost and outcome of these projects, saying WSOR was asking the PRTC to dedicate their \$26,000.00 county contribution to these projects.

Alan Sweeney asked if there were any billing left or amounts due on the bridge project. Lucht said they had all been billed out.

Lucht noted there were no 2016 crossings list out as yet but he would have it by the next meeting. He said every year there would be public crossing replacements. Tollers asked for lifespan of a concrete crossing. Lucht said 30 to 40 years.

Ladewig asked if all these crossings were maintained on a digital map. Tollers said they were working on that. Lucht said WSOR and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) website had crossing data. He directed them to the FRA website to get crossing numbers. Ron Wolters asked for a timber crossing lifespan. Lucht said roughly 20 years, adding that these were generally for town and county trunk roads.

Terry Thomas asked about an upcoming closing and Lucht said the contractors would work under traffic conditions while trains continued to run.

### 14. Consideration and Possible Approval of 2014 draft PRTC Audit with Johnson Block – Mary Penn, Admin

- *Motion to approve the 2014 audit – Mrozinski/Olson, Passed Unanimously*

Penn presented the draft 2014 audit for the Commission's consideration. She noted the two conditions listed by auditors, their recommendations to address the conditions, and the response of management. She said they were the same conditions as past years and were due solely to the small size of the Commission.

### 15. Allowable Recreation Activities on ROW – Leon Wolfe

As Wolfe was absent, Wiegel spoke and said the issue at hand had been a question about using the trail as access for trapping. Wiegel said the TCTC had met and voted on the issue and it was ok with them. Penn noted that recreation was allowed on the trail under terms of the Interim Trail Agreement.

### 16. Action Item - Adjournment

- *Motion to adjourn at 1:46 PM – Sweeney/Wiegel, Passed Unanimously*