

PECATONICA RAIL TRANSIT COMMISSION

20 S Court Street • PO Box 262 • Platteville, Wisconsin 53818

MEMBER COUNTIES: GREEN • IOWA • LAFAYETTE • ROCK

1:00 PM • Friday, May 19th, 2017 • Green Co. Courthouse, 2nd Floor Courtroom, 1016 16th Ave • Monroe, WI

1. 1:10 PM **Call to Order** – Alan Sweeney, 1st Vice Chair, Chair Harvey Kubley Absent.
2. Roll Call. **Establishment of Quorum** – Matthew Honer, Administrator

Commissioners present for all or part of the meeting:

	Commissioner	Position	Present		Commissioner	Position	Present
Green	Harvey W. Kubly	Chair	Absent	Iowa	Charles Anderson	Secretary	x
	Oscar Olson		x		William G. Ladewig		Excused
	Ron Wolter	Treasurer	x		Philip Mrozinski	Vice-Secretary	Absent
Lafayette	Leon Wolfe		x	Rock			
	Larry Ludlum		Absent		Wayne Gustina		Absent
	Gerald Heimann	Alternate	Absent		Alan Sweeney	1st Vice Chair	x
	Ted Weigel		x		Terry Thomas	2 nd Vice Chair	x

Commission achieved quorum. = 7

Other present for all or some of the meeting:

- Troy Maggied, SWWRPC
- Matthew Honer, SWWRPC
- Kim Tollers, WisDOT
- Peter Chen, Alliant Energy
- Al Mumm, Alliant Energy
- Ken Lucht, WSOR

3. Action Item. **Certification of Meeting's Public Notice** – Noticed by Honer
 - Motion to approve certification of public meeting – Anderson/Wolfe, Passed Unanimously
4. Action Item. **Approval of Agenda** – Prepared by Honer
 - Motion to approve agenda – Weigel/Olson, Passed Unanimously
5. Action Item. **Approval of Draft January 2017 Minutes** – Prepared by Maggied
 - Motion to approve draft October 2016 minutes – Thomas/ Weigel, Passed Unanimously
6. Updates. **Public Comment** – Time for public comment may be limited by the Chair
None.
7. Updates. **Correspondence & Communications** – Discussion may be limited by the Chair
Honer reported he had received a notice of liability insurance being continued and an invitation from Ken Lucht of WSOR, for several members of the Pecatonica Rail Transit Commission to attend WSOR's presentation of its 2016 financials. The presentation will take place at Hill Farms State Transportation Building in Madison on June 20th at 11 am. Please contact Ken if you are interested in attending.

REPORTS & COMMISSION BUSINESS

8. PRTC Treasurer's Report and Payment of Bills – Ron Wolter, PRTC Treasurer

Wolter provided the Treasurer's Report to the Commission and listed the bills to be paid. The commission had \$86,778 on hand on December 31st, 2016. Since then the commission received receipts equaling \$7,250.15 and disbursements equaling \$4,007.64. Checking balance on March 31st, 2017 equaled \$90,021.07.

Oscar Olson inquired about Lafayette county user fee. Wolter responded that PRTC sent a bill to Lafayette Co. for what the commission thought they owed. The commission had been trying to get them to contribute. Wolfe asked about the check to Boardman & Clark, Sweeney responded that it was a check for the counsel of Eileen Brownlee.

Wolter presented a bill from SWWRPC for 1st quarter expenditures totaling \$3065.54.

- *Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report – Anderson/Wolfe, Passed Unanimously*
- *Motion to approve payment of bill – Anderson/Wolfe, Passed Unanimously*

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

Lucht handed out the 2016 rail car density map, an update from the 2012 map. He explained that it breaks up each subdivision by how many carloads travel each line. The major difference on the Monroe subdivision is the increase in grain heading east into Janesville and then to the Fox Lake Subdivision into Chicago. Lucht explained that WSOR is using the Milwaukee to Chicago CP line more than in the past, which accounts for the decreased use of the Fox Lake Subdivision. Ken explained that the map tracks the usage on each subdivision which in turn helps WSOR focus on improvements. He used the Milton to Waukesha line as an example of a line that sees heavy traffic that requires maintenance and replacements. Increased traffic on the Prairie line was explained as a result of elevators in Boscobel and Muscoda and the new Trans- Load facility in Prairie du Chien.

Wolter asks about a connection between Waukesha to Milwaukee. Lucht explained that WSOR has trackage rights with CN, between Waukesha and Slinger, to connect the WSOR divisions but WSOR does not have trackage rights on the CN line down to Chicago due to that line's large amount of traffic. Anderson asked the reason for large amounts of traffic on the Waukesha Subdivision. Lucht explained that large amounts of grain move down the Waukesha Subdivision. Sweeney asked if the Oshkosh Truck traffic needs to come into Janesville due to the CP trackage rights being limited to grain, Lucht stated that was correct. Wolfe asked about an increase in sand traffic out of Prairie du Chien since 2012. Lucht stated that there is a significant increase in sand traffic since 2012. Sand is moving east through Madison to Chicago. Demand has increased in ND, TX, and PA. Olson asked about the amount of grain from the Monroe – Janesville line that travels to Chicago. Lucht stated that it is heading east into Janesville and that some is going to Chicago. Lucht also stated that a considerable amount of grain also heads west to ethanol plant in Monroe. Lucht stated that over 50% of ethanol leaves Monroe by truck, WSOR is looking into increasing the amount of finished product being moved by rail.

Lucht stated that WSOR has completed weed spraying on the Monroe subdivision. Business is strong and WSOR is looking for laborers, conductors, and engineers. WSOR accepted a marketing award from the American short line and regional association. WSOR was only one of two awardees this year. WSOR highlighted their business partnership with Oshkosh truck. Lucht invited a few members from the commission to the 2016 financial presentation on June 20th.

Lucht asked the interest of commission members to take a rail excursion trip on June 28th on WSOR's business cars. It would be a joint trip with the Wisconsin River RTC on the Fox Lake Subdivision, between Fox Lake, IL and Janesville.. Lucht stated the trip will highlight the three bridges that were rehabilitated in the last year and the GM plant. The trip will be approximately three hours.. The Commission expressed interest and Lucht responded that he will plan on that date and start working on the details.

Anderson asked about the bridges between Monroe and Janesville. Lucht responds that they are complete. Anderson asks about raising the speed limit, Lucht responded that they have already.

10. WisDOT Report – Kim Tollars, WisDOT

Tollars reported that Great Lakes Basin Inc. officially applied to the STB for status to become a railroad. Tollars stated that WisDOT has not submitted a comment. Anderson asked about the ability of Great Lakes Basin Inc. to determine a route once they become a railroad. Tollars responded that once GLB Inc. become a railroad they can condemn land for their right-of-way.

11. PRTC Administrator's Report – *Troy Maggied, PRTC Admin.*

Maggied reported that Matt Honer started on March 20th and is transitioning into the administrator role. Maggied reported that there was a discussion with a landowner in South Wayne who had planned to do work on a depot. Kim Tollars provided guidance on that issue. Maggied reported that SWWRPC provided notice of increase in the Annual Fee for administration. The increase in the 2018 contract is from the current \$6,000 annual rate to \$6,600. The increase reflects an increase in administrative labor and the lack of increase in the contractual rate for over a decade.

12. Tri-County Trail Commission Report – *Presenters may include Leon Wolfe, Ted Weigel*

Weigel reported that the trail was open and there are plans were made to grade prior to Memorial Day. He also reported there was effectively no snowmobile season and that there are some rough patches but it has been greatly improved in the past 11 years. Wolfe reported there is part of the trail between Calamine that is very rutted, but it will be graded. Wolfe reported the trail is busier with the camping season starting. Maggied asked about issues regarding maintenance in entrance and exit areas of the trail. Weigel responded there is no issues with most of entrance areas being blacktop.

13. Discussion and Possible Approval of Alliant Energy Underground Utility Installation on Trail in Mineral Point – *Honer, SWWRPC*

Honer presented a utility crossing permit application from Alliant Energy for an underground transverse crossing of a natural gas line. Honer reviewed the permit with the assistance of WisDOT engineers. The utility conforms to the Trans 29 specifications required for active rail utility crossing with the exception of a variance that asked for the use of plastic rather than steel pipe, to facilitate easier installation. Al Mumm from Alliant Energy stated that a large hill on the west end is problematic to installing steel pipe and that Alliant Energy intends to directional drill the utility underneath the creek and rail line, setting up on the east end of the trail. Mumm explained that the use of plastic rather than steel allows Alliant to bend the pipe to facility installation. Tollars advised that the utility permit is acceptable but should include language that requires the utility to fully conform with Trans 29, at the expense of the utility, if rail is to return to the line. Alliant Energy Representative Peter Chen agreed that the suggested provision is acceptable to Alliant Energy.

- *Motion to approve the Utility Permit, with the provision that if rail were to return to the line, the utility will replace the plastic variance pipe with steel pipe conforming to Trans 29 standards, at the Utility's expense. – Weigel/Wolfe, Passed Unanimously*

14. Presentation of GIS Mapping the Monroe Subdivision – *Kim Tollars WisDOT, Troy Maggied SWWRPC*

Kim Tollars presented the online GIS tool to the commission with a presentation. The tool maps the Monroe Subdivision and its assets and history. WisDOT will continue to inform the commission on updates to the mapping project.

15. Adjournment

- *Motion to adjourn at 2:15 PM – Anderson/Thomas, Passed Unanimously*