

PECATONICA RAIL TRANSIT COMMISSION

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

1:00pm • Friday, July 27, 2012 • Green Co. Courthouse, Basement Conf. Rm, 1016 16th 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:

	Commissioner	Position	Present		Commissioner	Position	Present
Green	Harvey Kubly	Chair	x	Iowa	Charles Anderson	Secretary	x
	Oscar Olson		x		William G. Ladewig		x
	Ron Wolter	Treasurer	x		Philip Mrozinski		x
Lafayette	Leon Wolfe		x	Rock	Ben Coopman	Alternate	
	Patrick Shea		x		Wayne Gustina		x
	Gerald Heimann	Alternate			Alan Sweeney	1st Vice Chair	x
	Ted Wiegel		x		Terry Thomas	2nd Vice Chair	x

Other present for all or some of the meeting:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mary Penn, PRTC Administration Ken Lucht, WSOR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bob Voegli, Tri-County Trail Commission Kim Tollers, WDOT
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3. Action Item. **Certification of Meeting's Public Notice** – *Noticed by Penn*
 - Motion to approve notice of public meeting - *Thomas/Gustina, Passed Unanimously*
4. Action Item. **Approval of Agenda** – *Prepared by Penn*
 - Motion to approve agenda - *Olson/Mrozinski, Passed Unanimously*
5. Action Item. **Approval of draft Minutes from May, 2012 meeting** – *Prepared by Penn*
 - Motion to approve May 2012 minutes – *Wiegel/Wolfe, Passed Unanimously*
6. Updates. **Public Comment** – *Time for public comment may be limited by the Chair*
No comments were submitted.

7. Updates. **Correspondence & Communications** – *Discussion may be limited by the Chair*

Al Sweeney said the WRRTC county contribution had increased and that the WRRTC had sent a letter requesting the increase, submitting the letter to the PRTC as correspondence.

REPORTS & COMMISSION BUSINESS

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

Ron Wolter presented the treasurer's report to the Commission.

- Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report - *Sweeney/Anderson, Passed Unanimously*

Wolter presented a single bill from SWWRPC (for quarters one and two of 2012)

- Motion to pay the submitted bill – *Anderson/Wolfe, Passed Unanimously*

9. **PRTC Administrator's Report** – *Penn, PRTC Admin.*

Mary Penn passed around an email and phone sheet, requesting Commissioners to update their contact information. She also reminded Chair Kubly that based on the former administrator's notes, preparation for the yearly audit was beginning and she asked that Kubly work with her to collect any necessary information.

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

- Update on Maintenance Activities

Ken Lucht said that the majority of maintenance this summer has been dedicated to addressing impacts on the rail due to the heat wave. The rail temperature must be tested every 2 hours when the temperature is above 90F. When rail is above 125F, speed must be reduced to 10mph which means that for the past 3 weeks transportation has significantly slowed. He said when temps are over 125, welded rail cannot be used. Jointed rail cannot be used when temps are over 145F and that has also been occurring. WSOR is still under heat restrictions; he said that WSOR has been working with its customers in order to address their transportation needs.

- Update on Capital Projects

Lucht said that a crossing replacement project approved in the PRTC area work is underway and should be complete in 2012. WSOR has also gone out for bid for bridge projects. He reminded the Commission that funding was approved earlier this year for 4 bridges between Janesville and Monroe.

He also said there is more welded rail between Milwaukee and Slinger. Crews are completing rail work between Madison and Milton and hope to be completed by the end of the year. For 2013, WSOR had submitted grants for 4 primary projects:

1. "Marcus Ann" line
2. Janesville – Avalon install welded rail (14-15 miles) to cover Fox Lake pockets of jointed rail. Rail in GM plant in Janesville will also be corrected.
3. New capacity in form of a passing siding on north side of Janesville to better able to move trains smoothly and quickly on their main route to Chicago.
4. Co-apply with WRRTC in buying the Reedsburg line (about 75 miles) from Union Pacific.

- Report of Business Development

Lucht noted that there had been a derailment a train of 25 cars of grain on July 4th. The train jumped track due to "sunkink", including one of the locomotives. Three cars tipped but the grain was salvaged and 3 cars were scrapped. This event was covered under their current SIR. The derailment is an example of why WSOR is so concerned about heat related issues on the track.

- Other Continuing Issues/Topics

Lucht said that he would request an action item on the next PRTC agenda to have a letter written to the State asking for improved funding on rail programs. He is hoping that the budget will return to \$60M dollars (a previous funding level). WSOR will have proposal to increase the FRP beyond \$60M so a lack of funding won't impact the current state of rail infrastructure. WDOT is also considering its budget by the end of the year so WSOR's vision is in line with WDOTs. He said he would give a presentation on this issue at the next meeting. Kim Tollers asked if the siding would be a new capacity project or a redo? Lucht said this project would be the first siding in his time at WSOR, adding there is a backlog of 20,000 feet of lost capacity and this siding would be a good project to address this. Tollers said this looked like a good thing for the train industry. Ladewig asked if 3rd party contracts are covered by their insurance. Lucht replied that the businesses are self-insured. Ladewig wanted to see contracts to be reassured that the companies were adequately insured. Lucht said that the operating agreements also addressed insurance. He told Ladewig to work Mary Penn to draft a letter asking for certificates of insurance on major projects (bridges, etc.) and she said she would work with him on that.

11. Tri-County Trail Commission Report -

Leon Wolfe said the TCTC had met last evening and said that the pond project at Calamine is ongoing but that there was some question as to the correct property line and that it needed to be surveyed so the contractor could work properly. There is interest in building a 30x40 shelter at Calamine that would stand partly on corridor property (one was also mentioned for Monroe as well). Kubly asked for clarification on the proposed shelter, if it were in the corridor or on Commission property? He was told that they would be on Commission property but not in the corridor.

There was much discussion as to the feasibility of getting a survey done on such short order, including the cost of such a survey, particularly since it seemed at first as though the TCTC were asking for an action by the PRTC which would not be possible, due to the lack of an agenda item on the subject at the meeting.

Sweeney said it appeared as if the TCTC was not asking for money. Wiegel interjected that what the TCTC was asking for was for permission to proceed with a survey so if the TCTC should return in the future with a bill asking the PRTC to pay for the survey it can be addressed. Kubly reiterated that something like this should be on the agenda. Sweeney said it was the Chair's decision and that the issue does impact the PRTC. Wolfe said the pond work must to be done to accommodate cricket

frogs (give them space) so they can fix other parts of the corridor without impacting frog populations which are a threatened species. There was additional discussion on the appropriateness of an action item request without an agenda item on this issue. Weigel said the TCTC had passed a motion to survey the property but since they don't own the property thought it appropriate it to bring it to the PRTC to ask for "their blessing". Wayne Gustina suggested contacting a few surveyors to get an estimate on the price of a survey. Kubly asked when the project would begin. The answer was August 1st, with work on the pond to start on 8/16 but that the project must end by October 1, which would give only a 3 week window for a survey. Sweeney suggested that the TCTC come back to the PRCT with 2 survey bids, and if approved, the survey would be paid for by the PRTC. If the PRTC rejected it, he said that he didn't know where the money would come from. Kubly then asked if that would satisfy the TCTC needs, adding if the Commission should ask for a bid cap. Sweeney said this would be Kubly's decision to make. Wiegell said if the cost of the survey was over \$1,000, the TCTC would pay the difference. Kubly asked if anyone objected to this scenario and there were no objections. Sweeney then asked if the trail study was completed yet. Wolfe said that it should be from the printers by this fall. Wolfe commented that the survey results suggest that TCTC should be doing more than managing the trail; the study suggests that there should be more PR and marketing to bring more people to the trail but he did not know if such marketing was appropriate for TCTC. He said that the Tri-County ATV club had reservations on further promotion since they believe the trail is at capacity, adding that there has been ongoing discussion on whether the TCTC or the counties should be promoting the Cheese Country Trail.

12. WisDOT Report – WATCO/WSOR-WisDOT insurance issue status

Kim Tollers said there were no updates on the insurance issue, saying that Frank would have to address this at the next meeting.

12. Discussion and Possible Creation of 2-3 Member PRTC/WRRTC Fund Sharing Committee – Harvey Kubly, Chair

Kubly reminded the Commission of the history behind this agenda item, saying that there is no formal agreement on the county contributions between the PRTC and WRRTC. He announced that he had appointed himself, Ron Wolter, and Phil Mrozinski to be the committee and that he would contact WRRTC next week to begin work on this issue, adding that addressing the issue is long overdue. He added that he had deliberately not chosen Commission members to the committee who were members of the PRTC and the WRRTC in order to prevent any conflict of interest. Anderson asked what the committee would do. Kubly said that at present there is no formal agreement addressing the issue of county contributions between the two rail transit commissions and that it is long overdue to address this. Sweeney said that even an understanding (MOU) would be a good first step.

13. Action Item - Adjournment

- **Motion to adjourn at 1:55 PM - Gustina/Wiegell, Passed Unanimously**