

Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission

Full Commission Mtg – Friday, 05 Nov 2010 @ 10am • Dane Co. Hwy, 2302 Fish Hatchery Rd, Madison, WI

1. Karl Nilson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
2. Commissioners present for all or part of the meeting:

Crawford	Tom Cornford	X- Committee	X
	Rocky Rocksvold		X
	Vacant		
Dane	Gene Gray	Treasurer	X
	Jim Haefs-Fleming		X
	Forrest Van Schwartz	Advocate	X
Grant	Ivan Farness		X
	Margaret Ruf (arrived at 10:15)	Secretary	X
	Robert Scallon	2nd Vice Chair	X
Iowa	Charles Anderson	X- Committee	
	Gerald Dorscheid	Vice Treasurer	X
	Robert Zinick		

Rock	Ben Coopman	Alternate	
	Wayne Gustina		X
	Alan Sweeney	Vice Chair	X
	Terry Thomas		X
Sauk	Joel Gaalswijk		X
	Rob Sinklair	Assistant Secretary	X
	Scott Alexander		X
	Marty Krueger	Alternate	
Walworth	Jerry Grant		X
	Richard Kuhnke	X- Committee	
	Allan Polyock		X
Waukesha	Karl Nilson	Chair	X
	Richard Manke		X
	Fritz Ruf		X

Others present for all or part of the meeting:

Roger Breske (Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Railroads); Amy Seeboth (SWWRPC / WRRTC Administrator); Frank Huntington, Ron Adams, & Roger Larson (WisDOT); Ken Lucht & Tim Karp (WSOR); Virgil Kasper (Pink Lady RTC); Jim Matzinger (Dane County, WRRTC Accountant); Jeremiah Tucker (Sauk Prairie Eagle)

3. Motion accepting Seeboth’s certification of Public Notice. Sweeney / Thomas- passed unanimously.
4. Motion accepting the Agenda, prepared by Seeboth. Grant / F. Ruf - passed unanimously.
5. Motion approving the draft Oct. Minutes with noted corrections. F. Ruf / Farness – passed unanimously.
6. Public Comment – None
7. Correspondence & Communications – Seeboth told the Commissioners that the Wisconsin Rail Plan 2030 is available for review – public comments are due by Nov. 15th. The public hearing is Nov. 8th in Stevens Point. She also informed the Commissioners that both the Eckleberry/Defabbio and MH Materials Crossing Permits are in the process of being signed right now.

REPORTS & COMMISSION BUSINESS

8. Presentation by Commissioner Breske, Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Railroads - Commissioner Breske gave a brief presentation to the Commission and then took questions. OCR is a small agency – 6 full time positions. They are responsible for public crossings in the State. They are a quasi-judicial agency. They have budget of \$4.4million a year for signal installations and have scheduled the remaining 8 WSOR wigwags for removal. All OCR wages are paid for by private railroads, the budget is passed through the WI Finance Committee, but not paid for by State. The Commissioner encouraged folks to contact the OCR if they have a rough crossing they would like looked at.
9. WRRTC Financial Report– Jim Matzinger, Dane County CPA / WRRTC Accountant provided copies of the treasurer’s report to each Commissioner. He added that Crawford County’s payments are behind and that RTC does not have the cash necessary to make the payment to WSOR right now and that they have to either change their commitment to WSOR or change the county assessment. Crawford has committed to \$11,000 this month and will work on the rest. Rock County added that they increased their allocation in 2010.

- **Motion accepting the treasurer’s reports for Sept., Oct., and Nov. and payment of bills for Nov. - Sinklair / Van Schwartz – passed unanimously**

10. Wisconsin & Southern Railroad’s Report on Operations – Ken Lucht, WSOR, reported on the following:

- *Monthly Maintenance Activities* –WSOR has done weed control on the entire system and brush cut ½ of system so far and will continue into fall as long as they are able. They are doing normal track inspections, daily or bi-weekly, and repairing broken rail where they find it.
- *Update on Capital Projects Underway* – They have completed laying welded rail on the Madison Sub between Milton and Stoughton- all rail has been installed and surfacing has been done from Milton to Edgerton, they will surface up to Stoughton in next 4-5 weeks. They are also working on a tie project between Janesville and Monroe and expect to complete it today. Next, the crew will be installing 6,000 ties in Reedsburg. In 2010 they would like to install welded rail in Waukesha if the budget works out. In Cottage Grove, they have a couple of customers who are projecting up to a 40% increase in business in 2012. In the northern division in Hartford, the tank car traffic is expected to increase 30% next year. In Ripon, tank car traffic is expected to be up 50%.
- *Other Continuing Issues:* 2011 WSOR calendars will soon be out. If you don’t receive one, let Lucht know. WSOR 30th anniversary book will also soon be out and made public. Soo Line railroad 1003 is a steam engine based in Hartford, it is traveling around right now and on Nov. 13th, it will bring Santa into Hartford.

11. WRRTC Administrator’s Report – Seeboth reported on the following: Commissioner Anderson informed her that he recently lost his wife- the Commission will send him a sympathy card. Seeboth attended the annual Freight Rail Conference last week; she gave a brief update on this event.

12. WDOT Update – Huntington reported that High Speed Rail project is on hold. Even if high speed rail may not proceed, WDOT still may acquire the UP lines and possibly CP. Track and improvements for all of the track they own in the Madison area and the track from Madison to Reedsburg is roughly estimated to have a value of just less than \$6 million. Lucht asked whether the DOT might take on an active role in the property management issues that need to be addressed on the Watertown Line should the High Speed Rail Project not proceed. Huntington said that they would treat it like any other line.

13. Update on Sauk County Rails to Trails Stakeholder Group – Virgil Kasper (Pink Lady) said that he had spoke with Marty Krueger, Sauk County Chair, at 8:30 this morning- Marty had said that there will be another meeting coming up before Thanksgiving is what they are hoping. At the last meeting a directive was given to WSOR, the Villages and to United Cooperative to meet, and after that, WSOR and United Cooperative were to meet. Both these meetings have occurred.

14. Consideration of adjourning to closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. sec. 19.85(1)(e) for review of and discussion regarding WDOT/WRRTC/WSOR/Amtrak Passenger Rail Agreement, as competitive reasons require a closed session.

- **Motion to adjourn to closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. sec. 19.85(1)(e) for review of and discussion regarding WDOT/WRRTC/WSOR/Amtrak Passenger Rail Agreement, allowing WDOT and WSOR to remain in the closed session as they are parties to the agreement – Alexander / Scallon – Roll Call Vote:.**

Crawford	Tom Cornford	X- Committee	Y
	Rocky Rocksvold		Y
	Vacant		
Dane	Gene Gray	Treasurer	Y
	Jim Haefs-Fleming		Y
	Forrest Van Schwartz	Advocate	Y
Grant	Ivan Farness		Y
	Margaret Ruf	Secretary	Y
	Robert Scallon	2nd Vice Chair	Y
Iowa	Charles Anderson	X- Committee	
	Gerald Dorscheid	Vice Treasurer	y
	Robert Zinick		

Rock	Ben Coopman	Alternate	
	Wayne Gustina		Y
	Alan Sweeney	Vice Chair	Y
	Terry Thomas		Y
Sauk	Joel Gaalswijk		Y
	Rob Sinklair	Assistant Secretary	Y
	Scott Alexander		Y
Walworth	Marty Krueger	Alternate	
	Jerry Grant		Y
	Richard Kuhnke	X- Committee	
Waukesha	Allan Polyock		Y
	Karl Nilson	Chair	Y
	Richard Manke		Y
	Fritz Ruf		Y

The motion passed unanimously. Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission entered into closed session.

- **Motion to end closed session – Grant / Manke – passed unanimously**
- **Motion to authorize Chairman Nilson to sign a non-disclosure agreement concerning negotiations on the WDOT/WRRTC/WSOR/Amtrak Passenger Rail Agreement, allow review of the documents by the WRRTC attorney and Commissioners, and to authorize a call for special meeting or turn an executive commission into a full commission meeting if necessary for timely review. F. Ruf /Sinklair - passed**

15. Motion adjourning the meeting at 11:47 a.m. - Manke / Thomas - passed unanimously.