

# Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission

X- Com Mtg – Friday, 10 June 2011 @ 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
	<i>Vacant</i>		
Dane	Gene Gray	Treasurer	X
	Jim Haefs-Fleming		X
	Forrest Van Schwartz	Advocate	X
Grant	Ivan Farness		
	Margaret Ruf (left at 11:45)	Secretary	X
	Robert Scallon	2nd Vice Chair	X
Iowa	Charles Anderson	X- Committee	X
	Gerald Dorscheid	Vice Treasurer	X
	Robert Zinck		

Rock	Ben Coopman	Alternate	
	Wayne Gustina		X
	Alan Sweeney	Vice Chair	X
	Terry Thomas		X
Sauk	Joel Gaalswijk		
	Rob Sinklair (arrived at 11am)	Assistant Secretary	X
	Scott Alexander		X
Walworth	Marty Krueger	<i>Alternate</i>	
	Jerry Grant		
	Richard Kuhnke	X- Committee	X
Waukesha	Allan Polyock		
	Karl Nilson	Chair	X
	Richard Manke		
	Fritz Ruf		

## Others present for all or part of the meeting:

Amy Seeboth (SWWRPC / WRRTC Administrator); Frank Huntington (WisDOT); Ken Lucht (WSOR); Brett Hulse (WI Assembly District 77); Terri Griffith (Rep. Brooks Assistant, WI Assembly District 50)

3. Motion accepting Seeboth's certification of Public Notice. *Sweeney / Gustina- passed unanimously.*
4. Motion accepting the Agenda prepared by Seeboth. *Cornford / Anderson - passed unanimously.*
5. Motion approving the draft May Minutes. *Kuhnke / Dorscheid – passed unanimously.*
6. Public Comment – None
7. Correspondence & Communications – Seeboth informed the Commission that Charles Anderson was re-appointed by Iowa County for another term.

## REPORTS & COMMISSION BUSINESS

8. **WRRTC Financial Report**– Jim Matzinger, Dane County CPA / WRRTC Accountant, was not present but left copies of the treasurer's report for each Commissioner.
  - Motion accepting the treasurer's report for May and payment of bills. – *Van Schwartz / M. Ruf – passed unanimously*
9. **Wisconsin & Southern Railroad's Report on Operations** – Ken Lucht, WSOR, presented on the following:
 

*Monthly maintenance Activities:* WSOR is very busy now that they are into the summer. Their weed control program is underway and they are working on spraying all 600 miles of their system. They are doing their general track inspections and broken rail repair. They found over 200 internal defects between Milton Jct. and the City of Waukesha so far (it is 90lb rail and almost 100 years old). They are completing some bridge repair work including John Nolan Drive in Madison. They are also working on a bridge 1.3 miles east of Spring Green.

*Update on Capital Projects:* The Phase Two Welded rail project between Stoughton and Madison will take place this year. The rail has been ordered for this Phase Two and they plan to start installing it in July. This project is funded by the Commission and the WDOT. WSOR will be inviting the Commissioners out sometime this summer to watch the welded rail be installed. Also, 24-25 miles of continuous welded rail is being installed on the Milwaukee to Slinger line. They will start in Slinger. A couple of bridges in the WRRTC region are being worked on as well.

11. **WRRTC Administrator's Report** – Seeboth reported that she will soon be contacting the County clerks to check on re-appointments to the Commission. She is also updating the website as she goes and will let the Commission know when a fairly final version is up so that they can review it and let her know if they have any comments or suggestions.
12. **WDOT Update** – Frank Huntington, WDOT, reported on the UW Power Plan project, that there was a miscommunication between the UW-Madison, the contractor and the WDOT and the rail was bulldozed before the permit was finalized. The WDOT is working on fixing this as they need to recoup the cost of some of the material that was not salvaged. Huntington also reported on a possible sale of property in Avalon- the WDOT will be selling some of the excess corridor there to Mallard Grain. He also said that funding for next biennium FRPP may potentially be reduced. The WDOT cannot do much about the budget at this time - as it is working its way through the legislative process, they must wait and see. Jim Tracey will be retiring later this month and they do not know if they will be able to refill his position.
13. **Consideration and action on private crossing (Ekleberry/Defabbio) in Town of Muscoda** –
  - **Motion permitting a joint private crossing to the Ekleberry and Defabbio's in the Town of Muscoda**– *Sweeney / Gustina – passed unanimously*
14. **Consideration and possible action on coordinating a WRRTC response to Joint Finance Committee's action to cut funding for FRPP**- Brett Hulsley and Terri Griffith (Rep. Brooks from most of Sauk County) attended the meeting. Lucht provided a background on this topic and passed out a map of the rail system. He said that 75% of the system still only meets the standards of 100 years ago and that the currently proposed budget restrictions will result in a major delay to planned WSOR projects.

Hulsley added the following: one of the main reasons he supported the HSR money was that the rail between Madison and Milwaukee severely needs money and \$60 million is not enough. The Federal money would have taken care of many of these needs. He said that freight needs to work more closely with passenger rail and he appreciates the WRRTC's support. He is looking to bump up the FRPP budget amount to \$120 or \$130 million (this is the amount that WDOT thinks they can handle).

Van Schwartz said that he, Lucht and Gray put together a response to the FRPP proposal- they sent it directly to a number of representatives and also handed them out at the Capitol.

- **Motion that Seeboth email all State representatives this afternoon asking that they vote in favor of \$60 million for FRPP in the next budget. Include a copy of the letter WRRTC already mailed them, the summary from Van Schwartz, the WSOR Map handed out today, and a copy of a letter of support from the Mayor of Plymouth**– *Thomas / Van Schwartz – passed unanimously*

*The Commission Recessed for a 10-minute break at 11:20*

15. **Consideration and action on construction permit for Washington/Water Street in Prairie du Sac**
  - **Motion approving amendment of the construction permit for Washington/Water Street in Prairie du Sac allowing the tracks to be removed** – *Dorscheid / Sinklair – passed unanimously*
16. **Update on Sauk County Rails-and-Trails Stakeholder Group** – Van Schwartz was the stakeholder appointed by the Commission to attend these meetings- he provided us with the following update: The final meeting was held in Baraboo on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. There was a plan at that time that met unanimous consensus to end the overall stakeholder group meetings and Chairman Kruger is going to appoint small stakeholder groups in Sauk County to deal with specifics. Small groups have not been formed yet, Van Schwartz got the impression that these groups will be made of the Sauk County folks.
17. **Update and review of Shorewood Hills concrete pad, ditch and plantings**- Huntington reported that a Madison would like to expand the stop area and do some landscaping/tree planting on the rail corridor next to a bus stop located on University Ave. WSOR has reviewed this and indicated that as long as it complies with State / WSOR standards (line of sight etc), it is okay.

- **Motion to concur with the WDOT permit to allow expansion of the University Avenue bus stop and plantings onto rail corridor**– *Gustina / Gray – passed unanimously*
- 18. Update and review of Big Hollow flood control project under the railroad corridor in Spring Green** – Huntington updated the Commission on this item. He said that during the heavy rains that occurred three years ago, a fairly substantial portion of a subdivision flooded in Spring Green. That area has been demolished and a multi-million dollar effort has begun to drain the water from that area to the Wisconsin River. To do this, they are proposing a drainage pipe that goes under the corridor and WDOT is permitting this as a utility permit. Huntington wants the Commission to know about this project and provide concurrence with it if they find it okay. WSOR has said that they are okay with the project.
- **Motion acknowledge receipt of document CF9F6981 and concurrence with project as outlined by Huntington** – *Van Schwartz / Anderson - passed unanimously*
- 19. Discussion and possible action regarding Badger Army Ammunition Plant easement and Sauk City / Prairie du Sac Rail-to-Trails** - Huntington explained that if this track is not used for its intended purpose (rail or trail) within two years of the original agreement date, the easement will dissolve. The agreement was signed in October of 2009, and it has not yet been used in either way. The WDOT would like to begin developing an interim trail use and rail bank agreement between WDOT, DNR, and WSOR.
- **Motion to allow Seeboth to start initial work on an interim trail use and rail bank agreement with WDOT, DNR, and WSOR for BRAPP**– *Sinklair / Dorscheid – passed unanimously*
- 20. Consideration and possible action on WRRTC 2012 liability insurance with Richgles-Shaefer Insurance**
- **Motion to contract with Richgles-Shaefer for 2012 Liability Insurance at \$15,553**– *Van Schwartz / Alexander – passed unanimously*
- 21. Motion adjourning the meeting at 12:08 p.m.** - *Cornford / Sinklair - passed unanimously.*