

WISCONSIN RIVER RAIL TRANSIT COMMISSION

719 Pioneer Tower • 1 University Plaza • Platteville, Wisconsin 53818
Karl Nilson, Chair • Commission Office Phone 608.342.1636 • Fax 608.342.1220 • Website www.wrrtc.org
MEMBER COUNTIES: CRAWFORD • DANE • GRANT • IOWA • ROCK • SAUK • WALWORTH • WAUKESHA

SUBJECT: Friday, November 4th, Full Committee Agenda
TO: Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commissioners & Other Interested Persons
FROM: Amy Seeboth, SWWRPC Planning Mgr. / WRRTC Administrator

Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission

Full Committee Meeting - Friday, Nov. 4th 2011 @ 10am

Dane County Hwy Garage, 2302 Fish Hatchery Rd, Madison, WI

WRRTC's Schedule of Meetings:

2011

November 4 Full Commission Meeting
December 9 XCom Meeting

2012

January 6 XCom Meeting
February 10 Full Commission Meeting
March 9 XCom Meeting
April 6 XCom Meeting
May 4 Full Commission Meeting
June 8 XCom Meeting
July 6 XCom Meeting
August 10 Full Commission Meeting
September 7 XCom Meeting
October 5 XCom Meeting
November 9 Full Commission Meeting
December 7 XCom Meeting

(dates in red are subject to change)

NOTE: The WRRTC's meetings are usually held at 10:00 a.m. on the **first Friday after the first Tuesday** of the month at the **Dane County Highway Building** in Madison, WI.

NOTICE is sent to: County Clerks in WRRTC's Region for Posting and to Local News Media as an FYI.

Thank you for your interest and assistance.

To learn more about WRRTC, please visit our website at www.wrrtc.org

Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission

Full Committee Meeting - Friday, November 4th 2011 @ 10am
 Dane County Hwy Garage, 2302 Fish Hatchery Rd, Madison, WI

- 10 minutes estimated | Action Items*
1. 10:00 AM **Call to Order** – Karl Nilson, Chair
 2. Roll Call. **Establishment of Quorum** – Amy Seeboth
 3. Action Item. **Certification of Meeting’s Public Notice** – Noticed by Seeboth
 4. Action Item. **Approval of Agenda** – Prepared by Seeboth
 5. Action Item. **Approval of draft Minutes from the October meeting**– Prepared by Seeboth
 6. Updates. **Public Comment** – Time for public comment may be limited by the Chair
 7. Updates. **Correspondence & Communications** – Time for reports / discussion may be limited by the Chair

REPORTS & COMMISSION BUSINESS

- 10 minutes estimated | Update & Action*
8. **WRRTC Financial Report** – Jim Matzinger, Dane County CPA / WRRTC Accountant
 - Treasurer’s Report for October and Payment of Bills

10 minutes estimated | Update

 9. **Wisconsin & Southern Railroad’s Report on Operations**
 - Update on Monthly Maintenance Activities
 - Update on 2011 Capital Projects
 - Continuing Issues / Topics

5 minutes estimated | Update

 10. **WRRTC Administrator’s Report** – Amy Seeboth, WRRTC Admin.

5 minutes estimated | Update

 11. **WisDOT** – Frank Huntington, WisDOT

10 minutes estimated | Possible Action

 12. **Consideration and approval of bill of sale for Town of Bradford Bridge in Rock County, WI**

30 minutes estimated | Information

 13. **Presentation by Commissioner Forrest Van Schwartz – (WR)RTC 101**

15 minutes estimated | Possible Action

 14. **Discussion regarding WRRTC communication methods and practices**
 - a. *Commissioners had asked that this item be placed on an agenda during a quieter month- The Commission would like to learn more about media and popular communication methods and discuss what they should perhaps be doing to communicate differently with the public or representatives.*

Action Item

 15. **Adjournment**

Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission

X-Committee – Friday, 07 October 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. Those present for all or part of the meeting:

Crawford	Tom Cornford	X- Committee	X
	Rocky Rocksvold		
	Vacant		
Dane	Gene Gray	Treasurer	X
	Jim Haefs-Fleming		
	Forrest Van Schwartz	Advocate	X
Grant	Ivan Farness		
	Margaret Ruf	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	
	Terry Thomas		X
Sauk	Joel Gaalswijk		
	Rob Sinklair	Assistant Secretary	X
	Scott Alexander		X
	Marty Krueger	Alternate	
Walworth	Jerry Grant		
	Richard Kuhnke	X- Committee	
	Allan Polyock		
Waukesha	Karl Nilson	Chair	X
	Richard Manke		X
	Fritz Ruf		

Others present for all or part of the meeting:

Amy Seeboth (SWWRPC / WRRTC Administrator); Frank Huntington and Sheri Walz (WisDOT); Ken Lucht (WSOR); Eilen Brownlee (WRRTC Attorney, Kraemer and Brownlee); Jim Matzinger (WRRTC Accountant / Dane County); Alan Anderson (Pink Lady RTC); Chris James and Kevin Connors (Dane County Staff).

3. Motion accepting Seeboth's certification of Public Notice. *Dorscheid / Cornford- passed unanimously.*
4. Motion accepting the Agenda prepared by Seeboth. *M. Ruf / Thomas - passed unanimously with this amendment.*
5. Motion approving the draft September Minutes. *Dorscheid / Scallon – passed unanimously.*
6. Public Comment – None
7. Correspondence & Communications – Van Schwartz provided the Commissioners with a rail-related news article for their review. Huntington reminded the Commissioners that the WDOT is hosting their 2011 WisDOT Freight Rail Conference on Nov. 2nd and all Commissioners are invited to attend.

REPORTS & COMMISSION BUSINESS

8. WRRTC Financial Report– Jim Matzinger, Dane County CPA / WRRTC Accountant provided Commissioners with a copy of the treasurer's report.
 - Motion accepting the treasurer's report for June, July, August and September. – *Anderson / Sinklair – passed unanimously*
 - Motion accepting the payment of bills. – *Dorscheid / M. Ruf – passed unanimously*
9. Consideration and approval of 2010 Draft WRRTC Audit by Johnson Block (moved from item 15 on agenda). (*Chair Nilson had to step out for this item; Scallon chaired this item*).
 - Motion approving the draft 2010 audit – *Thomas / Gustina– passed unanimously*
10. Wisconsin & Southern Railroad's Report on Operations – Ken Lucht, WSOR, presented on the following:

Update on Monthly Maintenance Activities – WSOR is currently working on crossing replacements on the Madison Sub. Next week Monday and Tuesday they will be rebuilding two crossings on County B in Stoughton. They are going to be rebuilding the Brearly St. crossing in Madison next week. They have bridge outages on Madison Sub near Door Creak road. Finally, they are tallying production totals for 2011 and have a preliminary spreadsheet right now. Once maintenance crews are done with this they will report on these results.

Update on 2010 & 2011 Capital Projects- 2010 projects: welders are still on site between Milton and Stoughton, will be still working on this through next year. They are working on a crossing project between Slinger and Milwaukee. For 2011 projects, Stoughton to Madison is being installed with welded rail to Broom Street; this should be done in the next couple of weeks and they will still need to weld the joints after that. They also will be installing 1.2 miles of welded rail in Waukesha. DOT announced 2012 grant awards last week: one is a system-wide bridge study. Lucht said he will keep the Commission posted on these once they begin.

Continuing Issues / Topics- Lucht reported that WSOR has an electronic company looking for a site in Whitewater or Watertown who will hopefully make a decision in next couple of months. In Avalon a grain company has just purchased more land and would like to bring more corn and grain through their facility, which will result in an increase in rail traffic. The WSOR newsletter is coming out in next couple of weeks- Lucht said Commissioners should let him know if they do not receive it. Finally, WSOR is working on deciding on a day to have the Commission come out and watch rail inspection (Madison to Avalon train ride) and they should be able to give a date out at November meeting. Any other county folks are welcome to attend as well.

- 11. WRRTC Administrator's Report** – Seeboth updated the Commission on some crossing permits that she is working on and discussed future events with them.
- 12. WDOT Update** – Frank Huntington, WDOT, reminded the Commission about the freight rail conference. He also said that an announcement has been made for rail grants and loans on the projects that they have made a decision on. Marinette Marine received funding, there are a couple other projects in the western part of state that they have not made a decision on yet- they are awaiting need STB concurrence in order to do this.
- 13. Consideration and possible approval of Sauk City request to acquire or lessen the Rail Road right-of-way for property located at Block 18 of the Original Plat, parcel numbers 181-0156, 181-0150 and 181-0155, Lots 7 through 12.** The DOT received this request from the Village and because of the lease agreement between the DOT and WRRTC, WRRTC has the first right to purchase this property; thus this request is being brought before the Commission for their consideration.
 - **Motion to not acquire the property and concur with the DOT proposal** – *Anderson / Sinklair– passed unanimously*
- 14. Consideration and possible action on the refining the terms of a private crossing permit for Scot Forge in Spring Grove, IL.** After the Commission's initial review of this crossing request, it became clear that Scot Forge had a slightly different intent for the crossing than initially thought. Seeboth and Lucht explained the conditions of the crossing as discussed with Scot Forge. The Commission verbally agreed to proceed with the permit as understood and approved of by WSOR.
- 15. Discussion and possible action on development of local match for UP line to Reedsburg in coordination with the Pink Lady RTC and other partners.** Alan Anderson from Pink Lady RTC had requested that this item be placed on the agenda. Huntington explained that WI DOT has been working with WSOR and the UP to get an appraisal of UP line from Madison to Reedsburg. Once this line is appraised many questions will arise, including whether the RTC will pay for the local match on the purchase of this line and how they will find the funds to do this. Anderson reported that Sauk County is fairly aware of the issue but they still have to figure out how much they are willing/able to pay and if they are going to do it. Anderson said that he was not sure where Dane County stands on this issue. He is wondering how Dane County can be engaged in this conversation. Van Schwartz said he and Commissioner Gray will continue working on this. Anderson said that Pink Lady would certainly like to see this purchase happen, but understand that there are budget realities.
- 16. Consideration and possible action on promoting the continuous welded rail project in McFarland to local representatives and interested parties.** This item was added to the agenda because Van Schwartz requested that Seeboth forward a video of the project to Seeboth asking her to forward it onto the local representatives of the Commission.
 - **Motion to distribute the welded rail video to commission that uses email and to the county clerks to the wrrtc counties** – *Van Schwartz / Manke– passed unanimously*
- 17. Discussion and possible action regarding the planned Lower Yahara River Trail between McFarland and Madison.** Chris James from Dane County Parks and Kevin Connors, Director for Dane County Land and Water Resources were present to explain their recently funded bike/ped project that will possibly make use of WRRTC corridor in Madison. The County has been working with WSOR / WI DOT / Madison and Mcfarland since 2007 on this project. They Have a committee that has been meeting for the last three years to develop conceptual plans for this path and have had public information meetings for a while about this, too. The County is working on a four party agreement with WI

DOT/WSOR/WRRTC/and Dane County to share corridor in two areas. In 2010, Dane County received \$3 million in transportation funds and County is putting in \$800 for this project. The County wanted to keep the WRRTC updated on the project but need no action at this time; they said they will be coming back in the next couple of months for Commission consideration. The DOT Staff added that that this project fits within dot experience and policy.

18. Motion adjourning the meeting at 11:13a.m. – M. Ruf / Cornford - passed unanimously.



Wisconsin & Southern Railroad Co.

1890 E. Johnson Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53704

Phone 608-243-9101 Fax 608-243-9225 Web Site www.wsorrailroad.com

October 26, 2011

To: Members of the Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission

RE: **Rail Inspection Trip Madison, WI to Avalon, WI**
Monday, November 14, 2011 – 8:00a.m. to 12 Noon

Dear Commissioner,

On Monday, November 14th, the WSOR will host a Rail Inspection Trip on the Southern District beginning at Madison's Johnson Street Yard and ending at Avalon, WI. We will tour the Madison and Fox Lake Subdivisions in Dane, Rock & Walworth Counties. Timeframe will be from 8:00am to 12pm. Please reserve this important trip on your calendar and look forward to further details as they become available.

If you have any questions, please give me a call at (414) 750-6402. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ken Lucht, Community Development Mgr.
Wisconsin & Southern Railroad Co.