

DRAFT MINUTES

# PECATONICA RAIL TRANSIT COMMISSION

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

1:00 PM • Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012 • Green County Courthouse,  
Basement Conf. Rm., 1016 16<sup>th</sup> Ave • Monroe, WI

1. Harvey Kubly, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.
2. Roll Call / Establishment of Quorum:

Commission members present for all/part of meeting:		Others present for all/part of meeting:	
Harvey Kubly, Green Co., PRTC Chair	X	Amy Seeboth	SWWRPC & past PRTC Administrator
Oscar Olson, Green Co., Treasurer	X	Mary Penn	SWWRPC & new PRTC Administrator
Ron Wolter, Green Co.	X	Ken Lucht	WSOR
Leon Wolfe, Lafayette Co.	X	Bill Gardner	WSOR
Patrick Shea, Lafayette Co.		Stefan Loeb	WATCO
Ted Wiegl, Lafayette Co.	X	Kim Tollers	WDOT
Charles Anderson, Iowa Co. Secretary		Jerry Guth	TCTC, Green Co.
Jerry Dorscheid, Iowa Co.	X	Bob Voegli	TCTC
Phillip Mrozinski, Iowa Co.	X (1:22 PM)		
Ben Coopman, Rock Co., Alternate			
Wayne Gustina, Rock Co.	X		
Alan Sweeney, Rock Co., 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Chair	X		
Terry Thomas, Rock Co., 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair	X		

3. Certification of Public Notice, Given by Seeboth – Dorscheid / Wolfe – passed unanimously
4. Motion accepting the Agenda, prepared by Seeboth – Sweeney / Gustina - passed unanimously.
5. Motion approving PRTC October 2011 Draft Minutes- -Thomas / Wolter draft minutes approved – passed unanimously
6. Public Comment - None.
7. Correspondence & Communications – Mary Penn was introduced by Seeboth, WSOR press release on Rock and Dane County was distributed.

## REPORTS & COMMISSION BUSINESS

8. PRTC Financial Report – Oscar Olson, PRTC Treasurer, passed out copies of the treasurer’s report.
  - Motion approving Treasurer’s Report – Wolter / Wiegl - passed unanimously
  - Motion approving Bills – Wolfe / Dorschied - passed unanimously
9. Wisconsin & Southern Railroad’s Report on Operations – Bill Gardner discussed the new WSOR and WATCO partnership. Gardner then introduced Stefan Loeb, representative of WATCO. Any concerns regarding this partnership should refer to Loeb. Loeb stated that he or another WATCO rep would be present for future meetings if necessary. Gardner also gave a presentation on WSOR’s 2011 performance.
  - Introduction to 2012 Capitol Project – Ken Lucht gave a presentation outlining the 2012 Capitol improvement needs of WSOR, including their request for PRTC funding for bridge work as highlighted in his presentation. This request consisted of the PRTC 2012 Capitol funds of \$26,520 and additional funding of \$123,000 from PRTC investment funds.

## DRAFT MINUTES

(This presentation can be found at <http://www.swwrpc.org/transportation/PRTC.php>.) It was decided that this funding request must occur during the budget discussion (item 17).

10. **PRTC Administrator's Report** – Seeboth noted that the Belmont/Platteville (Cheese Country Trail) project is going forward and should be done by 2013. She added that community members and interested parties of the Cheese Country Trail are meeting to talk about Trail access improvement. Also, on Nov. 10, 2011 Seeboth attended a Tri-County Focus Group as a representative of the PRTC. Seeboth reported that the SCWRTC had met and discussed the fee for special meetings, she noted that Brownlee had advised that you can set a special meeting fee as long as it's written into the fee schedule and the special meeting has a single agenda item. Seeboth recommended that PRTC consider renewing/amending their fee schedule at the next, regularly scheduled PRTC meeting. Penn will put it on that agenda.
11. **WisDOT** – Kim Tollers of WDOT introduced herself as the replacement of Sheri Walz. There was no report.
12. **Tri-County Trail Commission Update**- Leon Wolfe noted the TCTC met on 1/26/12 and approved a .14 cents/mile on their survey work but that the survey will not be done by 2/23 as anticipated as the data may not be available but should be done by their next meeting. Seeboth reminded the PRTC that encroachment issues are their purview and that she and Penn will work with Deb Kranhenbuel of TCTC to address the encroachments. Jeff King, DNR Warden, and Fred Kelly, Monroe Chief of Police, have reported encroachment locations. This issue will be addressed on the next agenda.
13. **Right of Way Access** –Seeboth described that ATC (American Transmission Company) has hired Asplundh Tree Expert's to trim trees along the trail route. As a maintenance issue, tree trimming is actually a Tri-County responsibility and it was approved by them. However, PRTC needs to approve it as well. It was noted that conditions are currently good for cutting. Steve Streik of Asplundh had requested bridge weights limits and it was agreed that the bridges will support any tree-trimming equipment. Wolfe requested that any costs for re-grooming be added to the permission as there was concern regarding the soil being too soft for heavy equipment and ruts in the bed should be corrected. Seeboth also read the Vegetation Management Summary from ATC to the Commission.
  - **Motion to approve Asplundh Tree Expert's Trimming Work Along the Utility, Requiring Asplundh Pay for Any Trail Damages Resulting** – *Mrozinski / Wolfe – passed unanimously*
14. **Consideration and approval of 2010 PRTC Audit with Johnson Block** - *Sweeney/Wolter – passed unanimously*
15. **Consideration and approval of 2011 PRTC Audit Engagement Letter with Johnson Block** - *Wieg/Thomas – passed unanimously*
16. **Consideration and approval of 2012 Staff Services Agreement for \$6,000** - *Mrozinski/Wolfe – passed unanimously*
17. **Consideration and approval of 2012 Budget** – Seeboth delineated the budget item by item, pointing out that the PRTC did not contribute to WRRTC in 2011. The Commission must designate to which RTC they intend to pay their county contribution in 2012 and Kubly said that the county contribution issue would need to be discussed as a separate agenda item; Sweeney concurred, noting that the respective counties will have to be involved in order to proceed on the issue.
  - **Motion to approve draft budget excluding the County Contribution** – *Sweeney/Mrozinski – passed unanimously*
18. **Continuation of discussion on PRTC finances and consideration of local match agreement with WRRTC** – Seeboth distributed the 2004 WRRTC/ECWRTC agreement as a model to use in drafting same between WRRTC and PRTC. She said that there had been discussion at one point to pass this type of agreement before (“66<sup>th</sup> Agreement”) but no agreement was ever drafted and it was never resolved. Seeboth went through the agreement w/the Commission which states the intention “to share finances to pay for local projects that affect both”. Lucht stated the 2004 agreement was developed as a response to less state funding dollars at the time and once the State started increasing funding, the need for this agreement was no longer needed. Lucht said he did not believe such an agreement was necessary for the PRTC/WRRTC. Sweeney asked Lucht what to do if WRRTC did not contribute to PRTC. Lucht said that since Iowa County has both trail and rail needs but is in 2 commissions it is a tough question. In reference to WSOR's request for \$123,000 from PRTC investment funds, Sweeney noted that PRTC's CDs are not making money and that perhaps the money would be better spent by WSOR to improve bridges. Sweeney added that dollars need to be spent on critical bridges near Monroe. Kubly stated that a special meeting should be held to address the PRTC's county contribution due to all the issues involved; Feb. 17 2012 1:00 PM was agreed as the special meeting date and time.
19. **Motion to adjourn at 3:02 PM**– *Weigle / Wolter – passed unanimously*