

WRRTC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APRIL 2015 MEETING MINUTES

**WISCONSIN RIVER RAIL TRANSIT COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING - FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2015 @ 10AM
DANE COUNTY HWY GARAGE, 2302 FISH HATCHERY RD, MADISON, WI**

1. 10: 05 AM **Call to Order** – *Alan Sweeney, Chair*
2. Roll Call. **Establishment of Quorum** – *Mary Penn*

Crawford	Tom Cornford (2 nd Vice Chair)	x	Jefferson	Augie Tietz (3 rd Vice Chair)	x
Dane	Gene Gray (Treasurer)	x	Rock	Alan Sweeney (Chair)	x
	Chris James (1 st Vice Secretary)	x	Sauk	John Miller (1 st Vice Treasurer)	NA
Grant	Robert Scallon (1 st Vice Chair)	x	Walworth	Richard Kuhnke (2 nd Vice Treasurer)	x
Iowa	Charles Anderson (Secretary)	x	Waukesha	Karl Nilson (4 th Vice Chair)	x

Commission met quorum.

Staff present for all or some of the meeting:

- Mary Penn, WRRTC Administrator
- Ken Lucht, WSOR
- David Simon, Kim Tollers, WDOT
- Jim Matzinger, Dane County CPA

3. Action Item. **Certification of Meeting’s Public Notice** – *Noticed by Penn*
 - *Motion to approve posting of meeting – Cornford/Scallon, Passed Unanimously*
4. Action Item. **Approval of Agenda** – *Prepared by Penn*
 - *Motion to approve agenda – Nilson/Kuhnke, Passed Unanimously*
5. Action Item. **Approval of March Executive Committee Minutes**– *Prepared by Penn*
 - *Motion to approve March Executive Committee minutes – Nilson/Gray, Passed Unanimously*

6. Updates. **Public Comment** – *Time for public comment may be limited by the Chair*
 Alan Sweeney asked the representatives from Frontier Communications to introduce themselves to the Committee. There were no other public comments.

7. Updates. **Correspondence & Communications** – *Discussion may be limited by the Chair*
 Mary Penn listed the correspondence she had dealt with in the past month, including her conversation regarding insurance and permits. In regard to a question related to Commission administrative procedures, she said Eileen Brownlee concurred that a discussion and possibly an action item would be on the May meeting agenda when the Full Commission met.

8. Updates. **Announcements by Commissioners** – *No Discussion Permitted*
 There were no announcements.

REPORTS & COMMISSION BUSINESS

9. **WRRTC Financial Report** – *Jim Matzinger, Dane County CPA / WRRTC Accountant*
 - *Motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report and checks - Anderson/Cornford, Passed Unanimously*

Jim Matzinger presented the Treasurer’s Report to the Committee. He said there had not been a lot of activity for the 1st quarter but noted there were still projects from last year to be paid. He also added that had been some revenue collected via permit fees.

Charles Anderson asked about the exact total of the accounting services. Lucht asked about the total billables for the rehabilitation project.

10. **Wisconsin & Southern Railroad’s Report on Operations** – *Ken Lucht, WSOR*
 Ken Lucht updated the Committee on the Milton siding project which was going very well. By May 1st the project should be completed and he noted it was a “major, major capacity improvement”. On the Fox Lake sub continuous welded rail (CWR) project between Janesville and Avalon, there were welding crews on the track and from Beloit Avenue to five points in Janesville WSOR was going out to bid. WSOR was also working on overhead bridges in Janesville.

Lucht noted that there was a bridge project at Blue River on the Prairie sub with a complete bridge replacement on the structure. He said this week there was a 48 hr. window to cut the deck. There would be 286K lb. loads supported and it would have CWR. In Wauzeka, there was a 48 hr.

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window of interruption to replace the deck on a bridge there. Lucht said this was going to be a “banner year” for WSOR, WDOT and the Commission to update the track.

Terry Thomas commented that track lights on Beloit Ave weren't on but the crew was right there working on the track.

Karl Nilson spoke about the groundbreaking at Plymouth and said it was a nice affair, attended by a lot of dignitaries and it was very well done. He said the railroad got a lot of good exposure as well as the commissions. Lucht said that service had resumed in Oregon so sand was getting shipped. He said WSOR did have about 19 trains go before the season ended. Lastly, he said that 2 weeks ago work on the Plymouth to Kohler segment was ceremoniously begun.

Tom Cornford asked about the Prairie project and if there was any feedback from the City. Lucht said WSOR had not received any feedback but WSOR was giving feedback to the City as requested.

Nilson said that on NPR he had heard about fracking sand derailment on a northern WI track, not on WRRTC track.

11. WDOT Report—*Kim Tollers, WDOT*

Dave Simon said that he did not have a lot to report. He reiterated the budget process and noted that during the time between the Governor's budget and the WDOT's budget there was a lot of political activity going on. He said he had not heard anything about FRPP or FRIIP but noted he was not usually in the loop on that but if he heard anything, he would report on it. He said they should know the budget by June.

Simon noted he had also gone to the Plymouth groundbreaking. He said the Secretary enjoyed himself well. Simon spoke to the good public/private partnership this opportunity showcased.

Lastly, Simon said the performance measures for WDOT showed there was a goal to bring WDOT tracks to higher standards every year. He said WDOT's goals were in sync with WRRTC and WSOR's. He spoke of a new internal goal (bridge conditions) that may eventually become an external goal. He said WDOT was going to count bridges as the structure alone, not length of the bridge. He said there were many, many bridge projects in the “hopper”. Lucht said there were about 100 bridges backed up to 2013 and said WSOR had a lot of bridge projects ahead of them. As bridges were improved, the bridge performance measures would inch up.

Gary Ranum asked about the 286,000 lb measured and if it was gross weight per car (car and load) on the track.

Nilson asked if the bridges all carried weight would there be more attention given to little bridges to bring numbers up. Simon said all bridges were being concerned equally.

Augie Tietz asked how many bridges were on the line from Watertown to Madison. Lucht said not too many but there were some and Lucht could get exact numbers for him.

12. WRRTC Administrator's Report — *Mary Penn, WRRTC Admin.*

Mary Penn gave her report on administrative duties of the past month. There was discussion on procedures and it was suggested that the May agenda include an item dealing with Commission procedures.

Robert Scallon said he had been in a budget meeting in LaCrosse and said the WCA said the budget cuts would be very hard on senior citizens.

13. Discussion and Possible Action on Utility Permit (Permit # 2015-1-WI) for Frontier Communications Bore at T6N R9E Section 35, Oregon Sub, City of Fitchburg, Dane County, Wisconsin — *Deb Friederichs, Frontier Communications*

Ed Stieber, representing Frontier, explained the project to the Commission, noting they were placing fiber optics under the track along CTY Hwy M to serve a prison.

- *Motion to approve Utility Permit (#2015-1-WI) contingent upon WSOR approval – Anderson/Gustina;*
- *Motion to amend original motion – Nilson/Cornford, Passed Unanimously*
- *Motion to approve Utility Permit (#2015-1-WI) contingent upon WSOR approval and the inclusion of data be supplied to Diggers Hotline – Anderson/Gustina; Passed Unanimously*

Stiebers said June 1 was the deadline for the project and noted that the project was intended for the prison's security. Nilson confirmed that the line would be bored. Steiber said typically the bore would be 10' under the track in PVC duct, boring for a total of 150'. Nilson asked if the installation would go into the Call 800 Locate Services. Stieber confirmed it would and the Committee looked at the schematic provided. Charles Anderson confirmed that this project was for the prison only as of now but Steiber said it might be used by other customers in future.

Tollers noted that a 10' directional bore below track was “well within parameters”. Tollers and Lucht discussed involving WDOT in utility permits and Tollers said she was sure WDOT would be glad to review them as the WRRTC didn't have the expertise to determine feasibility. Tollers said the WRRTC could approve contingent upon review of either WSOR or WDOT and Lucht said if some of the information could be forward to him WSOR could act.

16. Action Item. Adjournment

- *Motion to adjourn at 10:45 AM – Cornford/Scallon, Passed Unanimously*