

PECATONICA RAIL TRANSIT COMMISSION

20 S Court Street • PO Box 262 • Platteville, Wisconsin 53818
 MEMBER COUNTIES: GREEN • IOWA • LAFAYETTE • ROCK

1:00 PM • Friday, April 23rd, 2021 • Green Co. Courthouse, 2nd Floor Courtroom • 1016 16th Ave, Monroe, WI

1. 1:00 PM **Call to Order** – *Harvey Kubly, Chair*
2. Roll Call. **Establishment of Quorum** – *Matthew Honer, Administrator*

Commissioners present for all or part of the meeting:

| Commissioner | | Position | Present | Commissioner | | Position | Present |
|--------------|------------------|----------------|---------|--------------|-----------------------------|------------|---------|
| Green | Harvey W. Kubly | Chair | X | Iowa | Charles Anderson | Secretary | Excused |
| | Oscar Olson | | X | | Bill Ladewig | | X |
| | John Buol | | Absent | | Ricky Rolfsmeyer | | X |
| Lafayette | Nancy Fisker | | X | Rock | Wayne Gustina | | Excused |
| | Eric Stauffacher | | Absent | | Alan Sweeney | Vice Chair | X |
| | Donna Flannery | Vice Secretary | X | | Russ Podzilni | | X |
| | John Reichling | Alternate | - | | *indicates zoom attendance. | | |

Commission achieved quorum.

Other present for all or some of the meeting:

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| • Matthew Honer – Admin. | • Ken Lucht – WSOR |
|--------------------------|--------------------|

3. Action Item. **Certification of Meeting’s Public Notice** – *Noticed by Honer*
 - *Motion to approve certification of public meeting – Sweeney/Ladewig. Passed Unanimously.*
4. Action Item. **Approval of Agenda** – *Prepared by Honer*
 - *Motion to approve the agenda – Podzilni/Olson. Passed Unanimously.*
5. Action Item. **Approval of draft January and March 2021 Minutes** – *Prepared by Honer*
 - *Motion to approve draft January and March 2021 minutes – Sweeney/Rolfsmeyer. Passed Unanimously.*
6. Updates. **Public Comment** – *Time for public comment may be limited by the Chair*
None.
7. Updates. **Announcements by Commissioners** – *Discussion may be limited by the Chair*
8. Action Item. **Election of Treasurer** - *Kubly, Chair*
 - *Motion to nominate John Buol as Commission Treasurer – Olson/Ladewig. Passed Unanimously.*

REPORTS & COMMISSION BUSINESS

9. PRTC Financial Report – *Kubly, Acting Treasurer*

Kubly explained the Greenwood account is now closed. Kubly explained receipts and disbursements. Checking Balance of \$105,126.43. There are four \$25k CDs at Woodford State Bank. Olson asked what the CDs were earning. Kubly stated that he is not aware of the top of his head. Ladewig asked if the SWWRPC invoice included the additional work. Rolfsmeyer asked CD 41879 was renewed. Kubly Confirmed

- *Motion to approve Treasurer’s report. –Rolfsmeyer/Ladewig. Approved Unanimously.*

Two bills for approval from SWWRPC for \$1650 and the other from Kubly for postage and copies from the audit.

- *Motion to pay the bills. Ladewig/Olson. Approved Unanimously.*

10. WSOR Operation’s Report – Lucht, WSOR

Lucht stated the 2021 maintenance plan is ongoing. Between Monroe and Janesville, there will be two crossings near Orfordville being reconstructed and State Hwy 11 in Juda will be rebuilt this summer. Spraying will take place in May as well. Bridge inspections are ongoing throughout the network. Rail testing is planned for this spring and is done on an annual basis above and beyond the maintenance agreement. The Monroe Sub is in good condition. 85 – 90# rail and good ties. The next upgrade on the Monroe Sub. will be to Continuous Welded Rail (CWR).

Lucht stated funding was received from WisDOT for bridge replacements on the Monroe Sub. in 2022. Lucht expects to go out to bid this year. Service remains solid in Monroe and local business expansions have increased rail traffic. Network wide, Lucht expects carloads to fall this year. WSOR is focused on finishing up the CWR project on the Waukesha Subdivision and a CWR project will start between Prairie du Chien and Wauzeka.

Sweeney asked about the status of Hillside Rd bridge outside of Zenda. Lucht and Honer gave an update and stated that it is likely that the Milwaukee Road sold the bridge to the township in 1930.

Ladewig asked about the use of concrete slabs being used for crossings. Lucht stated they are used because they help quickly fix the crossing and only make sense in certain areas. Kubly asked if there is money for freight railroads in the federal bills that have been passed recently. Lucht stated that much of the money goes to the states so it is up to the states where they would like to spend it. Lucht received a letter from Amtrack that they are targeting the line between Milwaukee and Madison and from Madison to Portage. Lucht stated WSOR will watch how it plays out and always needs to consider politics. Lucht did state that WSOR has an intercity passenger rail agreement with the WRTC.

11. WisDOT Report –

No one available for the report.

12. Tri-County Trail Commission Report – Trails Representative.

Flannery reported the grant for the rip-rap project is ongoing. Paperwork is done and they are awaiting bid returns. Kiosks are being worked on. Trail is open and in good shape for riding.

13. PRTC Administrator’s Report – Honer, PRTC Admin.

Honer reported things have been quiet, up until the prior two days, since the Special March meeting. He did receive returned signed private crossing agreements from the permits that were sent out after the January meeting. He also received evidence of a crossing easement. Honer stated he is currently working to address crossing issues with the Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission and the results of these discussion will be brought to the PRTC at a future meeting. Honer stated he was contacted just in the past two days regarding the 2020 audit and about an ongoing property issue on the Cheese Country Trail. He will likely be bringing these issues to the Commission in July.

14. Discussion and Action on PRTC Capital Contribution to Janesville Connection and Bridge Rehabilitation Project – Lucht, WSOR.

Lucht presented the issue in Janesville and the history of rail operations over the bridges in Janesville. Lucht explained that WisDOT submitted an INFRA grant for the Janesville Bridge project. The project costs are expected to be \$10.4M. Lucht stated WSOR is looking for PRTC support of the application and two years of funding for the project.

Sweeney asked if the grant is awarded when the project is expected to be completed. Lucht stated that he expects it to be completed within three years.

Fisker asked if there are other capital projects that the Commission would want to commit its capital funding to. Honer responded that the Commission adopts a balanced budget every year with a capital contribution. In years past, the Commission has contributed its capital contribution to projects where its money can be most effective such as with grant applications such as this. Other than the Capital Contributions, the Commission does not undertake a lot of capital projects. Ladewig asked what year’s capital budgets would

be submitted. Honer stated that the 2020- and 2021-years capital project budget amount was \$33,050/year and he believes these two years would be beneficial contributions.

- *Motion to commit two years, determined by the administrator, of PRTC capital funding to the Janesville Bridge – Sweeney/Podzilni. Passed Unanimously.*

15. Adjournment

- *Motion to adjourn at 1:57 pm – Olson/Fisker. Passed Unanimously.*

DRAFT