

SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN RAIL TRANSIT COMMISSION

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MEMBER COUNTIES: DANE • GREEN

Wednesday, October 23, 2013, 2:00pm, Dane County Highway Building, 2302 Fish Hatchery Road, Madison, WI

1. Vice Chair Paul Ziehli, called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.
2. Roll Call. **Establishment of Quorum** – *Mary Penn, SCWRTC Administrator*

Commission members present for all/part of meeting:		Others present for all/part of meeting:
Jay Allen, Dane Co.	2:12	Mary Penn, Administrator
Jim Haefs-Flemming, Dane Co.	x	Frank Huntingdon, Kim Tollers, WDOT
Paul Ziehli, Dane Co. Vice Chair	x	Troy Maggied, SWWRPC
Harvey Kubly, Green Co., Chair	excused	
Oscar Olson, Green Co.	x	
Ron Wolter, Green Co. Treasurer	x	

Commission achieved quorum.

3. Action Item. **Certification of Meeting’s Public Notice** – *Prepared by Penn*
 - *Motion to approve certification of meeting – Haefs-Flemming/Wolter, Passed Unanimously*
 4. Action Item. **Approval of Agenda** – *Prepared by Penn*
 - *Motion to approve agenda – Olson/Haefs-Flemming, Passed Unanimously*
 5. Action Item. **Approval of draft January 2013 minutes** – *Prepared by Penn*
 - *Motion to approve draft January 2013 minutes – Wolter/Olson, Passed Unanimously*
 6. Updates. **Public Comment**
No public comments.
 7. Updates. **Correspondence & Communications** – There was no correspondence or communications to report.
 8. **SCWRTC Financial Report** – *Ron Wolter, SCWRTC Treasurer*
Ron Wolter gave the Treasurer’s Report for the past quarters. Ron reported on percentage of return of cds, showing a constant decline.
 - *Motion to approve the Treasurer Report – Olson/Haefs-Flemming, Passed Unanimously*
- Bills to pay include
- SWWRPC Q3/Q4, 2012 – \$574.43, Q1, \$1,054.46, Q2 \$281.79, Q3 \$21.67 = \$1,932.35

- Johnson Block period ending 8/31/13 - \$1100.00
- Tri-Insure - \$30.00

Total bills \$3,062.35.

- *Motion to pay bills – Haefs-Flemming/Olson, Passed Unanimously*

9. WisDOT – Staff may include Frank Huntington, Roger Larson, WDOT

Frank Huntington brought the Commission up-to-date on a number of ongoing projects, particularly the acquisition of the Reedsburg line. WDOT is still in negotiations with Union Pacific and hope to have the purchase concluded by the end of the year. There are some utility permit questions needing resolution, and WDOT will need to get agreement from the Surface Transportation Board. The acquisition process takes some time to get the agreement language settled. Jim Haefs-Flemming asked if this were the same as the Cottage Grove line and Huntington said that was the beginning of the line, adding that the line is about 70 miles long. He said the projected price was about \$25 to \$30 M. Jay Allen asked if it were an operating line and Huntington said that it was used by WSOR. Huntington said WDOT is providing a grant to open the line and would need to get authority for bonding so they could get a contract in place. He said the line probably would not be open until the spring. Paul Ziehli asked about the line's ownership. Huntington said agreements already exist between WRRTC and Fitchburg and Oregon and would be operated by WSOR. Allen asked about the bond amount and Huntington said the bond would be about \$2.8M for the whole project, \$2.3M for the grant amount. Huntington said bridge work needs to be bid out but had not happened yet. Huntington said WSOR is looking at bridge work on the line, adding that there were about 20 – 25 bridges that needed work in the WSOR operational area. He said there were applications in for about 60 bridges that WSOR would like to work on over the next couple of years. Huntington explained what the operator could do to continue to operate even with lines needing maintenance. When asked, Huntington said cars may be stored south of Oregon but there were no plans to renew the track south of Oregon. He said the Lycon plant would be the terminus for active rail.

In other projects, Huntington spoke about an 8000' passing track in Janesville, saying that this was key access for WSOR, enabling them to reach the national system via Chicago. He explained WSORs needed a passing track in order to put trains together and enable passing. Another project with partial funding was for a track through the City of Janesville with a fourth project just approved for track rehabilitation in an industrial track in Baraboo. Ron Wolter asked about frac sand shipping down to Chicago and Allen asked about the Janesville line itself. Huntington said the line would be realigned thru the GM plant in Janesville. Statewide, Huntington said the line between Plymouth and Kohler has been purchased, a line out of service since the 1980's. He said this line was being reconstructed and the hope was to get engineering done with bids going out over the winter. He said it was about an \$11M project). Huntington also spoke about a spur track serving Merchant Marine was under construction.

Next, Huntington said that the State budget adopted in July had increased funding for transportation work to \$52M, up from \$30M in the current biennium. He said this was adequate to slowly catch up on projects. Lastly, he mentioned the shelter project in Monroe had been permitted. Oscar Olson asked if the bathrooms were being built. Huntington was not sure if the bathroom project were underway but repeated that the shelter work had been permitted. Olson next asked about the bridge in Monroe but Dana White-Quam, WDNR was not at the meeting to answer questions. There was discussion by the Commission about what happened in regard to the Monroe trail bridge and the need to find a solution to make the bridge work without a replacement. Olson asked about the trailhead and Huntington said that he believed that it was a City of Monroe project, not the WDNR.

Huntington told the Commission that Ron Adams had retired in the summer and there was a new section chief. Olson asked about the operation on the Reedsburg line and Huntington said WSOR runs on it currently. He listed some of the businesses using the rail including food cans, plastics, and a grain co-op. He said up to about 4500 cars/year ran on the line and that it would be a challenge to run the line, particularly given the bridge at Merrimac which could cost up to \$35M. He said some work would be necessary over the next 5 years but the line is operable. Huntington said when the bridge was built Lake Wisconsin did not exist so the pilings were not built to be submerged. He said an inspection 4 years ago showed some necessary maintenance but noted that the fact that it is a lake makes turbulence not so much of an issue.

APPROVED OCTOBER 2013 SCWRTC MINUTES

10. WDNR Report – Dana White-Quam, DNR Regional Park Specialist

No report. Ziehli asked Mary Penn to ask White-Quam for a debriefing on the Monroe trail bridge for the next meeting.

11. SCWRTC Administrator's Report –Mary Penn, SCWRTC Admin.

Penn distributed the 2014 meeting schedule.

12. Consideration and Possible Action of 2014 SCWRTC draft Budget – Mary Penn, PRTC Admin.

Penn distributed the budget and ran through the amounts.

- *Motion to approve the 2014 SCWRTC draft budget – Allen/Olson, Passed Unanimously*

13. Consideration and Possible Action on 2012 draft SCWRTC Audit with Johnson Block – Mary Penn, PRTC Admin.

Penn distributed the draft audit and explained that the only caveat she found was the determination that due to the organization's small size, there is a risk due to a lack of checks and balances. Ziehli recommended tabling approval of the audit, giving the Commission until the next meeting to review it.

- *Motion to table the 2012 draft SCWRTC audit until next meeting - Allen/Olson, Passed Unanimously*

14. Consideration and Possible Action on 2014 Staff Services Agreement with SWWRPC – Mary Penn, PRTC Admin.

Penn gave Ziehli the staff services contract. Penn reminded the Commission there had at one time been a request to increase the amount to pay for special meetings but had not been approved. She said she had used the old budget for 2014, only changing the year on the draft budget.

- *Motion to approve 2014 staff services agreement with SWWRPC for the amount of \$4400 – Allen/Haefs-Flemming, Passed Unanimously*

Since Harvey Kubly was not at the meeting, Penn agreed to bring the contract to the Friday PRTC meeting for his signature.

15. Action Item – Adjournment

- *Motion to adjourn at 2:45 PM – Allen/Olson, Passed Unanimously*