

# PECATONICA RAIL TRANSIT COMMISSION

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

1:00pm • Friday, October 26, 2012 • Green Co. Courthouse, Basement Conf. Rm, 1016 16<sup>th</sup> Ave • Monroe, WI

1. 1:03 PM **Call to Order** – *Harvey Kubly, Chair*
2. Roll Call. **Establishment of Quorum** – *Larry Ward (substitute Admin)*

## Commissioners present for all or part of the meeting:

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	Commissioner	Position	Present		Commissioner	Position	Present
Green	Harvey W. Kubly	Chair	x	Iowa	Charles Anderson	Secretary	x
	Oscar Olson		x		William G. Ladewig		x
	Ron Wolter	Treasurer	x		Philip Mrozinski		x
Lafayette	Leon Wolfe		x	Rock	Ben Coopman	Alternate	
	Patrick Shea		x		Wayne Gustina		x
	Gerald Heimann	Alternate			Alan Sweeney	1st Vice Chair	x
	Ted Wiegel		x		Terry Thomas	2nd Vice Chair	x

## Other present for all or some of the meeting:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Larry Ward, substitute for PRTC Administration</li> <li>• Ken Lucht, WSOR</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bob Voegli, Tri-County Trail Commission</li> <li>• Frank Huntington, WDOT</li> </ul>
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3. Action Item. **Certification of Meeting's Public Notice** – *Noticed by Penn*
  - Motion to approve notice of public meeting – *Mrozinski/Wolf, Passed Unanimously*
4. Action Item. **Approval of Agenda** – *Prepared by Penn*
  - Motion to approve agenda - *Wiegel/Sweeney, Passed Unanimously*
5. Action Item. **Approval of draft Minutes from July, 2012 meeting** – *Prepared by Penn*
  - Motion to approve May 2012 minutes – *Thomas/Wolfe, Passed Unanimously*
6. Updates. **Public Comment** – *Time for public comment may be limited by the Chair*  
No comments were submitted.

7. Updates. **Correspondence & Communications** – *Discussion may be limited by the Chair*  
No correspondence or communications to report.

## REPORTS & COMMISSION BUSINESS

8. **PRTC Financial Report** – *Ron Wolter, SPRTC reasurer*  
- Treasurer's Report and Payment of Bills

Ron Wolter presented the treasurer's report to the Commission noting the fund total is \$191,987.16, with two bills, one from Oscar Olson for postage and supplies totaling \$32.00 and the other from Johnson Block for the audit at \$1,100.00

- Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and pay bills - *Anderson/Sweeney, Passed Unanimously*

9. **WSOR Operation's Report** – *Ken Lucht, WSOR*.

Ken Lucht summarized the maintenance activities, traffic, and some business opportunities, noting that they were winding down the construction season. They added a geometry car, which has helped to understand where the system needs improvement.

Capital projects – the biggest project is the welded rail and rock in Dane County and near Milton. There are ten bridges in need of work with 80% of the cost supported by state funding. Another project is in Washington and Milwaukee counties,

including welded rail, switches, etc. Lucht also distributed a pamphlet highlighting this project. Lucht also spoke of crossings project between Janesville and Monroe, with four crossings being bid-out to private contractors. He said that bridge work (pilings and stringers) is being done between Janesville and Monroe and the hope is that this will be done in Spring, 2013.

WSOR has applied to the state for funding, specifically for funding for welded rail between Janesville and Avalon. This is a key connection to their largest market. They also are applying for 8,000 feet of side rail near Milton/Janesville to improve capacity.

WSOR is working with co-applicants on the purchase of the Reedsburg line owned by UP. Lucht said Sauk Co business partners want this to be purchased by the state and operated by WSOR.

Grain is happening right now but is down from normal and frac sand is picking up. Military traffic is also up.

Charles Anderson asked about the geometry car and if its results mean that repairs can be done immediately? Lucht said there is a crew behind and Frank Huntington said repairs need to be made within 30 days.

Ron Wolter asked where frac sand is being loaded and Lucht said Markesan and Prarie du Chien. Other sites are being proposed, too.

**10. Consideration and Possible Action on Support Letter for WSOR's Capital Plan for 2013/2015 State Budget – Ken Lucht, WSOR**

Lucht asked for a support letter. He passed out a packet that outlines WSOR's capital needs. He said grant levels at the State last budget had gone from \$60 Million to \$30 Million and WSOR would like to see that go back up and they would also like to see the state purchase the Union Pacific rail line. He guided the PRTC members through the packet, which explains the types of problems that need to be addressed.

Harvey Kubly asked about the cost of rebuilding and Lucht said \$600-700,000 per mile. Kubly asked if WATCO is interested in purchasing Union Pacific lines in the area and Lucht said yes, they are. Huntington said that rehab costs will run about what it will cost to purchase.

- Motion to send a support letter to Secretary Gottlieb - *Thomas/Wiegel, Passed Unanimously*

**11. PRTC Administrator's Report –Mary Penn, PRTC Admin.**

Larry Ward passed out the 2013 meeting schedule.

The Commission agreed that the January agenda should include a resolution to acknowledge Bill Gardner on the agenda.

Ward passed out an email from Eileen which cautioned about having an un-noticed meeting of the WRRTC/PRTC, which had been scheduled following the PRTC 10/26 meeting. Sweeney said that they can wait until January. Phil Mrozinski agreed and said that he'd like to get some information. They will meet right after the January meeting.

**12. WisDOT Report – Staff may include Frank Huntingdon, Kim Tollers, Roger Larson**

Frank Huntington talked about the budget and how the funding had been reduced. There are several large projects that will need to be funded. Huntington's colleagues have been putting numbers and info together to be sent in to the Governor in November. There will be lots of discussion and Feb-March will be the budget.

Sweeney asked about the investment risk for the Cottage Grove line – is bonding being considered? Huntington said yes, that would be the source of funding. The land title is always a question.

William Ladewig asked about federal money and Huntington said that there weren't good opportunities right now from federal funding.

Huntington said that a resident of Monroe would like to use a portion of the rail corridor for access to the rear of his residential lot and asked the PRTC if they want to consider this. Sweeney said that the Commission should bring this back to the January meeting and that was agreed.

Huntington said that WATCO and WSOR and WisDOT met to review their audits. Huntington gave Mary Penn info on their traffic and perhaps that info could be shared further in January. Lucht said that grain was a major product, noting that WRRTC and PRTC can attend this meeting next year. WSOR has been investing a lot in maintenance. There was \$14.4 M in investment by WSOR in 2011 and traffic is up. He added that in 2011 they had \$800K in derailment cost and in 2012 it was \$400,000.

Huntington pointed out that there is a slim profit for the amount of capital invested.

**13. Tri-County Trail Commission Report – Leon Wolfe**

Leon Wolfe said that in Calamine things are progressing. The trail coordinator is leaving and they are trying to find a replacement. Sweeney asked and Wolfe said that the study will be out soon and Sweeney asked that the study be shared with the PRTC.

**14. Discussion and action regarding the Patterson Road bridge – Frank Huntington**

Huntington said that the township is putting some additional information together and January 2010 still stands. But if the rail line goes back in does the PRTC want to do anything different. If the bridge needs to go back in, the PRTC might want to go on record that they do not want to be responsible for the cost.

Another bridge at issue (Five Corners Bridge) is on a town road and Huntington will call Penn to brief her on this item. Both bridge issues are to be included in the January 2013 PRTC agenda.

**15. Consideration and possible approval of draft 2011 PRTC Audit with Johnson Block – Penn**

Kubly said that in the past he has signed the letter stating that the Commission gave the auditors the information and that the Commission was unaware of anything to be concerned about. Sweeney moved that Kubly sign and approve seconded by Wayne Gustina and approved.

- Motion for Chair Harvey Kubly sign and approve draft 2011 PRTC audit letter - *Sweeney/Gustina , Passed Unanimously*

**16. Presentation of Brownlee Memo regarding July 2012 PRTC Survey Discussion – Penn**

Larry Ward distributed Commission Attorney Eileen Brownlee's memo regarding discussion from the July 2012 meeting, which cautioned the Commission on taking action without being an agenda item and cautioning the Commission. Ted Wiegel asked why the Commission needed a letter and Kubly said that he understands her concerns. Sweeney said that he wasn't shocked either. Kubly said that he relies on staff for guidance.

**17. Action Item – Adjournment**

- Motion for adjournment - *Gustina/Wiegel , Passed Unanimously*