

PRTC OCTOBER 27, 2023 MEETING MINUTES – APPROVED DECEMBER 8, 2023

Pecatonica Rail Transit Commission Commission Meeting – Friday, October 27, 2023 at 1:00 pm

1. 1:00 PM **Call to Order** – Harvey Kubly, Chair 1:00 pm
2. Roll Call. **Establishment of Quorum** – Misty Molzof, Admin

Green	Harvey W. Kubly, Chair	X	Iowa	Charles Anderson, Secretary	X
	Kurt Schafer, Treasurer	X		Bill Ladewig	X
	Todd Larson	X		Kevin Peterson	X
Lafayette	Kurt Malott	Excused	Rock	Tom Brien	Excused
	Luke McGuire	X		Alan Sweeney, 1 st Vice Chair	X
	Donna Flannery, Vice Secretary	Excused		Russ Pedzini	Resigned
	Jeff Berget, Alternate	Excused			

Others present for all or some of the meeting:

- Misty Molzof, Administrator - Eileen Brownlee, Attorney	- Lisa Stern, WisDOT - Dan Powers, Deb Powers, John Schwartzhoff, and Frank Ames
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3. Action Item. **Certification of Meeting's Public Notice** – Noticed by Molzof.
 - Motion to approve meeting's public notice – Ladewig/Schafer. Passed Unanimously.
4. Action Item. **Approval of Agenda** – Prepared by Molzof.
 - Motion to approve the agenda. Sweeney/Schafer. – Passed Unanimously.
5. Action Item. **Approval of draft July, 2023 Meeting Minutes** – Prepared by Molzof.
 - Motion to approve the July, 2023 meeting minutes adding motion maker and second to item #8, treasurer's report and payment of bills. Anderson/McGuire. Passed Unanimously.
6. Updates. **Public Comment** – None.
7. Updates. **Announcements by Commissioners**– None.

REPORTS & COMMISSION BUSINESS

8. **Approve Treasurers Report and Payment of Bills** – Schaefer, Treasurer
 - Motion to approve treasurers report, payment of invoice to SWWRPC: \$1,836.00 for 3rd quarter services, and re-investing funds that recently matured (10/5/2023) for 12 months. Schafer/Anderson. Passed Unanimously.
9. **WSOR Operations Report** – Lucht, WSOR – None.
10. **WisDOT Report** – Stern, WisDOT
Stern reported that the MOU's between WSOR and Union Pacific are underway and PRTC will need to take action at January, 2024; PRTC is 1-2 years away from owing money towards the purchase of Janesville bridges; WisDOT RR & Harbors is fully staffed with Ben Mohlke as Freight Rail Program Manager and Scott Edmundson as new Real Estate Specialist; and the Freight Rail Conference is scheduled for November 7th, Stern will send information to Molzof for registration.
11. **Tri-County Trail Commission Report** – Peterson & McGuire
Peterson stated that the trail has been well used; Lafayette County recently graded the trail; the trail is ready to transition to snowmobile club; the Calamine shelter building is slated for construction in Spring, 2024; Tom Jean is stepping down as trail coordinator in March, 2024; and the commission is in the process of hiring a new coordinator.
12. **Administrator's Report** – Molzof, Admin.
Molzof reported that the 2024 meeting dates are as follows: January 26th, May 24th, July 26th, and October 25th.
13. **Safety Instructions for Railroad Visitors and Officials** – Lucht, WSOR – None.
14. **Permit Requests**
 - Motion to approve overhead telephone/communication install in Mineral Point, applicant – Frontier Communications, as presented, subject to confirmation with WSOR. Ladewig/McGuire. Passed Unanimously.

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15. Discussion on Encroachments and trespassing issues – Molzof, Admin.

- *Motion to allow attorney to follow through and negotiate with Powers as previously discussed and including July motion in point which was as follows: "Motion to approve charging adjoining property owner, Powers, two times the value pursuant to Wis. Stats. and vetted by the attorney for illegally harvested trees on PRTC property in Lafayette County, Town of Wayne." Ladewig/Larson. Passed 7 to 1, Sweeney opposing.*

Dan Powers addressed the commission in disagreement with charge for the illegal tree harvest on PRTC property. Powers stated that the loggers used an application on their phone to determine boundary line and were unaware that the trees they were harvesting were on PRTC property. Schwartzhoff stated that \$17,066.00 was what the logging company received for the trees removed from PRTC property.

16. Trail Encroachment in Calamine, WI – Brownlee, Attorney.

- *No Action*

Brownlee stated that this is in process: matter has to go into federal court asking for declaratory judgement.

17. Adjournment.

- *Motion to Adjourn at 1:35 pm. Sweeney/Ladewig. Passed Unanimously.*