

PECATONICA RAIL TRANSIT COMMISSION

20 S Court Street • PO Box 262 • Platteville, Wisconsin 53818

MEMBER COUNTIES: GREEN • IOWA • LAFAYETTE • ROCK

1:00 PM • Friday, October 22nd, 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	X
	Oscar Olson		X		Bill Ladewig		X
	John Buol		Excused		Ricky Rolfsmeyer		X
Lafayette	Nancy Fisker		Excused	Rock	Wayne Gustina		X
	Eric Stauffacher		Absent		Alan Sweeney	Vice Chair	X
	Donna Flannery	Vice Secretary	X		Russ Podzilni		X
	John Reichling	Alternate	Absent		*indicates zoom attendance.		

Commission achieved quorum.

Other present for all or some of the meeting:

- Matthew Honer – Admin. - Lisa Stern, Todd Wojciuk - WisDOT	- Ken Lucht – WSOR - Jeff Stauffacher, Lafayette County Resident.
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3. Action Item. **Certification of Meeting's Public Notice** – Noticed by Honer
 - Motion to approve certification of public meeting –Ladewig/Rolfsmeyer. Passed Unanimously.
4. Action Item. **Approval of Agenda** – Prepared by Honer
 - Motion to approve the agenda – Podzilni/Anderson. Passed Unanimously.
5. Action Item. **Approval of draft July 2021 Minutes** – Prepared by Honer
 - Motion to approve the draft July 2021 minutes – Ladewig/Olson. 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
None

REPORTS & COMMISSION BUSINESS

8. PRTC Financial Report – Buol, Treasurer and Honer, Admin

Honer provided an update on the cash flow and balance sheet for Q3 2021. Anderson asked about the additional \$1k in the County Contribution. Honer stated that Green County increased their contribution to help bring Green County's contribution in line with the member counties of the WRTC.

- Motion to approve Treasurer's report and pay the bills. – Anderson/Rolfsmeyer. Approved Unanimously.

9. WSOR Operation's Report – Lucht, WSOR

WSOR replaced and rebuilt Pan Rd, Johnson St., East 5th, and Highway 11 on the Monroe Sub. this summer. Replaced a siding in Hanover from 75# to 90# rail. There was maintenance tie replacements on the Monroe Sub. and some maintenance ties are being replaced on the Madison Sub. The Continuous Welded Rail (CWR) project on the Waukesha Subdivision was the year's big capital project and it is mostly complete. WSOR is awaiting a salvage quote. WSOR is awaiting the grant agreement for the Phase 3 of the Merrimac Bridge. Lucht stated that WSOR undertook safety audits of its yards and equipment this past week. Lucht stated that the Janesville GM plan is for sale and WSOR believes some sites have great opportunity for transload.

Ladewig asked if WSOR received any type of covid funding from WSOR. Lucht stated they did not.

10. WisDOT Report – Lisa Stern.

Stern provided an update about the auditing requirements and stated that according to the land-use agreement the PRTC will not be required to do an annual audit. Kubly asked if we do not do an audit, are there any other requirements. Stern stated the Commission's quarterly financial reports are sufficient for WisDOT going forward.

Stern stated that rehabbing the Court St Crossing in Janesville is complete. WisDOT expects the FRA to finalize the Merrimac Bridge in November and will hope to have a grant agreement with WSOR by the end of the year.

Kubly requested an action on the next meeting's agenda to adjust the Commission's budget to reflect not requiring an audit.

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

Flannery stated the cricket frog study has held up the rip-rap project between Ferndale and Tibbits Rd. It looks like the project will be able to go forward in May. The Tri-County Trail Commission (TCTC) has determined that once the trail is open for snowmobiles no ATVs will be allowed until the trails close for snowmobiles, even if there is no snow on the trail. Donna said that they are looking at installing more signage next spring where the trail enters and leaves municipalities to regulate user speeds.

Anderson asked if ATVs can get on the trail wherever they want, Donna clarified that the signs will be placed at the entrances and exits from cities. Ladewig asked if there are signs that state the riders are riding at their own risks. Flannery did not believe so, but will ask the TCTC.

12. PRTC Administrator's Report – Honer, PRTC Admin.

Honer stated he has reached out to the TCTC to see if they can share their most recent bridge reports. Honer also had communication from the Mineral Point Railroad Historical Society, who are looking to install a railroad engine either near the PRTC property or on the PRTC property. Honer shared with the society that an existing Offer-to-Use Agreement (OTUA) exists between the historical society and the PRTC. The engine they are proposing to site is the last engine to leave mineral point on the railroad. Ladewig requested the Mineral Point Railroad Historical Society provide a detailed site proposal.

13. Discussion and Update on Janesville Bridge Project – Honer, Lucht, and Stern

Lisa stated the project scored really high on the INFRA grant but was not awarded. USDOT advised WisDOT to apply for a CRISI grant. Lucht added the CRISI grant would cover 60% of the costs and that all three operating rail transit commissions have identified this project as a priority. Lucht stated that WSOR is soliciting letters of support from customers. Honer explained that although the Commission approved the chair to sign these letters of support for the Janesville Bridge Project, Honer wanted to provide an update to the Commission.

14. Discussion and Possible Action on Trail Use in Calamine – Honer.

Honer explained that a letter was sent to Mr. Stauffacher regarding the property in question. The property is an area of excess right-of-way that the Commission appears to own. The issue arose when Mr. Stauffacher approach Honer about private crossing licenses so that he may access his farm fields. Upon review Honer stated that the issue of land ownership needed to be resolved before the crossing agreements. Honer stated that at the July meeting, the Commission took action to have PRTC Council send Mr. Stauffacher a letter informing him of his trespass and that the Commission may take action to prevent trespass. Honer stated that he has not received any response from Mr. Stauffacher to discuss his use of the PRTC property. Honer followed up with PRTC Council ahead of the meeting and council stated that removing the crops, fencing the property, and filing a trespass complaint are options available to the Commission.

Stauffacher introduced himself to the Commission and stated he received the letter from PRTC Council, which stated that if Stauffacher did not stop using the Commission's property the Commission may take action, including fencing or taking down Mr. Stauffacher's crops. Stauffacher does not agree that the Commission owns the property and he has the evidence that he owns the property. Honer stated that he had reached out to Mr. Stauffacher several times seeking this information but was ignored. Honer explained the Commission's records are from the original Valuation Maps from the railroad, these are the primary records the Commission has and seem to correspond to the deed that conveyed the property from WisDOT to the Commission. Honer acknowledged that WisDOT had sold some of the excess right-of-way while it owned the property but he has found no evidence of this in this location.

- *Motion to place this on the next agenda and to ask Eileen and WisDOT to work with Mr. Stauffacher. – Ladewig/Podzilni. Passed Unanimously.*

15. Adjournment

- *Motion to adjourn at 1:59 pm – Sweeney/Podzilni. Passed Unanimously.*