

PECATONICA RAIL TRANSIT COMMISSION

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

MEMBER COUNTIES: GREEN • IOWA • LAFAYETTE • ROCK

1:00 PM • Friday, May 27th, 2022 • Green Co. Courthouse, 2nd Floor Courtroom • 1016 16th Ave, Monroe, WI

1. 1:03 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	Excused	Iowa	Charles Anderson	Secretary	X
	Kurt Schaefer		X		Bill Ladewig		X
	Todd Larson		X		Kevin Peterson		Excused
Lafayette	Kurt Malott		Excused	Rock	Tom Brien		X
	Luke McGuire		Excused		Alan Sweeney	Vice Chair	X
	Donna Flannery	Vice Secretary	Excused		Russ Podzilni		X
	Jeff Berget	Alternate	X		*indicates zoom attendance.		

Commission achieved quorum.

Other present for all or some of the meeting:

- Matthew Honer – Admin. - Lisa Stern, Todd Wojciuk - WisDOT	Josh Meyer and Alexa Dash, Alliant Energy
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3. Action Item. **Certification of Meeting's Public Notice** – Noticed by Honer
 - Motion to approve certification of public meeting – Ladewig/Brien. Passed Unanimously.
4. Action Item. **Approval of Agenda** – Prepared by Honer
 - Motion to approve the agenda – Podzilni/Ladewig. Passed Unanimously.
5. Action Item. **Approval of draft July 2022 Minutes** – Prepared by Honer
 - Motion to approve the draft July 2022 minutes – Ladewig/Podzilni. Larson Abstained. Passed.
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
8. Action Item. **Election of Officers** –
 - Motion to nominate Harvey Kubly as Chair. – Schaefer/Anderson. Motion to close nominations – Ladewig/Anderson. Passed Unanimously.
 - Motion to nominate the existing officers. – Anderson/Podzilni. Motion to close nominations – Ladewig/Schaefer. Passed Unanimously.
 - Motion to nominate Kurt Schaefer as Treasurer. – Sweeney/Podzilni. Motion to close nominations – Ladewig/Anderson. Passed Unanimously.

REPORTS & COMMISSION BUSINESS

9. PRTC Financial Report – Honer, Admin

Honer presented the financials and bills for payment. Ladewig asked when the Commission can expect to be billed for the capital contributions. Honer stated that it might be a few years as the Janesville Bridge project is still in discussion phase. Larson asked about the annual contributions and the total amount. Honer stated that the Commission's capital budget has been accumulating as the Janesville Bridge is on hold, so the Commission has a large account at the moment. The annual capital contribution amount is determined by our budget and county contributions but is usually pretty close to the \$34,000 the Commission receives from the Counties.

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

10. WSOR Operation's Report – Lucht, WSOR

WSOR was not available for the meeting.

11. WisDOT Report – Lisa Stern.

WisDOT was not available.

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

Honer reported on an email he received from Flannery. The TCTC is in the process of letting the rip-rap project in two papers for two weeks. Lafayette County conservation will be monitoring the cricket frog populations during the project. The TCTC submitted an application to rehab five bridges on the trail, widening them. Final approval is expected in August. An economic impact study that looked at ATV/UTV usage in the state identified a \$48 million impact to Lafayette County and \$1.2 billion statewide. Ladewig asked that the Economic Impact study be shared with all of the counties.

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

Honer stated that he made a trip from Mineral Point to South Wayne with Tom Jean on the trail to identify encroachments and visit the TCTC's upcoming project locations including the rip-rap project. Several encroachments were identified including a private-property posting on land owned by the commission. Honer requested that the TCTC remove the posting. Tom Jean identified several bridges that he is seeking funding to increase the width of. At least one bridge was identified to have debris cleaned out from underneath as it is pretty well clogged.

14. Update and Possible Action on Trail Encroachment in Calamine, WI - Honer, PRTC Admin

Honer reported that an MOU was entered into that will share the cost of a title search and allow the neighboring property owner to continue to farm the fields where property ownership is contested. The property owner indemnifies the commission and based on the trail visit, Honer does not think the landowner is using the active corridor in this location. Larson asked about why the Right of way is larger than normal in this location. Honer explained the reasons why the railroad might own excess land in this location may include car storage, river rerouting, and industry speculation. Honer stated the letter report of title is going back to when the railroad acquired the property.

15. Discussion and Action on Utility Permit in Calamine – Honer and Pete Chen, Alliant Energy.

Pete discussed the proposed permit. Larson asked about how utility permits are dealt with in respect to protecting the corridor for prospective rail usage. Honer explained that state law requires railroads (and the commission) to allow utilities to cross or utilize the corridor and that the Commission and WisDOT utilize railroad standards for utility crossings. So if rail were to ever return, the utility is installed to rail standards.

- *Motion to accept the permit as presented. – Ladewig/Anderson.. Passed Unanimously.*

16. Discussion and Action on Resolution 2022-1, recognizing the contributions of Oscar Olson to the PRTC – Sweeney, Vice Chair.

WHEREAS, the Pecatonica Rail Transit Commission (PRTC), consisting of the counties of Green, Rock, Lafayette, and Iowa, has as its purpose the preservation and continuance of rail service on the system of rail lines extending between Monroe, Wisconsin and Mineral Point, Wisconsin; and,

WHEREAS, Oscar Olson served as a Commissioner of the PRTC representing Green County, from 2002 to 2022, and in that capacity, served as the Commissions' Treasurer, and made significant contributions during that time; and,

WHEREAS, the PRTC, its member counties, and the State of Wisconsin have received innumerable benefits from the dedicated service of Oscar Olson over the many years of his service as a commissioner; and,

WHEREAS, it is the opinion of the PRTC that this body should testify to and recognize the contributions of Oscar Olson to the goals of the PRTC and to the preservation of railroad service in southern Wisconsin;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the PRTC, in legal session assembled, does hereby extend our heartiest thanks and our heartfelt gratitude, and our very best wishes to our friend, Oscar Olson; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be set forth upon the minutes of this meeting, and that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to Oscar Olson as testimony to the great esteem and honor in which we hold him.

- *Motion to adopt Resolution 2022-1, recognizing the contributions of Oscar Olson to the PRTC – Ladewig/Anderson. Passed Unanimously.*

17. Adjournment

- *Motion to adjourn at 1:31 pm – Brien/Schafer. Passed Unanimously.*