

PRTC JULY 28, 2023 MEETING MINUTES – APPROVED 10/27/2023

Pecatonica Rail Transit Commission Commission Meeting – Friday, July 28, 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	Excused
Lafayette	Kurt Malott	Excused	Rock	Tom Brien	X
	Luke McGuire	X		Alan Sweeney, 1 st Vice Chair	X
	Donna Flannery, Vice Secretary	X		Russ Podzilni	Excused
	Jeff Berget, Alternate	X			

Others present for all or some of the meeting:

Misty Molzof, Administrator	Ken Lucht, WSOR
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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 Maggied.
 - Motion to approve the agenda. Ladewig/Anderson. – Passed Unanimously.
5. Action Item. **Approval of draft June, 2023 Meeting Minutes** – Prepared by Molzof.
 - Motion to approve the June, 2023 special meeting minutes changing item #8 to reference the April minutes. Ladewig/Schafer. 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 and payment of invoices to SWWRPC: \$1,836.00 for 2nd quarter services and \$1,283.95 for forestry project in Lafayette County to be billed to Powers for illegal tree harvest. Ladewig/Anderson. Passed Unanimously.
9. **WSOR Operations Report** – Lucht, WSOR
 Lucht reported Bridges F34 and F82 have been or are in process of replacement of timber to steel trusses, there has been communication with UP on the Janesville Bridges and contracts are in the works, there are grant programs through WisDOT that could aid in replacement of five bridges of which \$6.75 million is from federal programs, and the remaining \$7 million would be locally funded through WisDOT, Commission, or others. The end result will increase the weight ratings on the bridges and decrease the extreme inconsistencies and efficiencies currently happening. Michels was started Phase 3 of the Merrimac Bridge project, five spans have been replaced, and they are hopeful the project will be complete a couple of months early. WSOR has been performing routine brush cutting and weed spraying, the rail detector test car has tested everything on the Monroe Sub and a couple of minor defects were fixed right away, there were no major defects, and no defects on the welded rail. WSOR is working on the 99 miles on the Prairie Sub and averaging 6-7 internal defects per mile, once the welded rail is in place, these will be eliminated. Maintenance and tie replacement has occurred from milepost 81 to milepost 91, the 15,000 sq. ft. \$5.5 million modern locomotive shop construction project is underway, groundbreaking was on June 27th, the underground and concrete are all in, and WSOR is excited for this project as it will position them for the next 100 years, and it was 100% funded by WSOR. Molzof joined a Hi-Rail trip from Janesville to Monroe, was able to see the bridge replacement project in process, corn planted in right-of-way, unpermitted crossings, and other things happening along the rail.
10. **WisDOT Report** – Stern, WisDOT – None.
11. **Tri-County Trail Commission Report** – Flannery, TCTC
 Flannery reported that there is a lot of trail use, many UTV's from IL since IL is not allowing road access to UTV's, they are working on some grant applications for rehabbing two bridges, trail maintenance include new gravel being put down on sections of the trail is occurring, and they are hopeful that the Calamine Pavilion project will start in August.

12. Administrator's Report – Molzof, Admin.

Molzof Reported that the Hi-Rail trip was a great experience and she has been working on the Lafayette County illegally harvested tree issue.

13. Permit Requests – None.

14. Discussion on Encroachments and trespassing issues, Illegal Tree Harvest on PRTC Property in Lafayette County – Molzof, Admin.

- *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. Sweeney/Larson. Passed Unanimously*

15. Trail Encroachment in Calamine, WI - Molzof, Admin.

- *Motion to approve bringing a declaratory judgement action on the Stauffacher trail encroachment issue in Calamine, WI. Larson/Schafer. Passed with McGuire abstaining.*

Molzof reported that per Eileen Brownlee, we are at a standoff. Mr. Stauffacher wants the PRTC to deed him property he considers his. Attorney Brownlee doesn't think the property is his and continues to offer a lease. Attorney Brownlee recommends bringing a declaratory judgment action to get a court ruling on the ownership of the property.

16. 2024 Staff Services Agreement - Molzof, Admin.

- *Motion to approve 2024 Staff Services Agreement with Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission as presented with 5% fee increase from 2023 to 2024. Sweeney/Flannery. Passed Unanimously.*

17. 2024 Budget - Molzof, Admin.

- *Motion to approve 2024 Budget as presented. Sweeney/Anderson. Passed Unanimously.*

18. Adjournment.

- *Motion to Adjourn at 1:55 pm. Ladewig/Anderson. Passed Unanimously.*