

WRRTC August 08, 2025 MEETING MINUTES – APPROVED

Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission Commission Meeting – Friday August 08, 2025 at 10:00 am

1. 10:00 AM **Call to Order – Carl Orr, 1st Vice Chair 10:01**

2. Roll Call. **Establishment of Quorum – Admin**

Crawford	Carl Orr, 1 st Vice Chair	X	Jefferson	Mary Roberts	X
	Mark Gilberts	X		John Kannard, Vice Secretary	X
	Tom Cornford	Absent		Jeff Smith	X
				Dan Herbst, Alternate	Absent
Dane	Kevin Potter	X	Rock	Dave Homan, 2 nd Vice Treasurer	X
	Jeff Huttenburg, Treasurer	X		Tom Brien	Absent
	Jim Bolitho	X		Kevin Stone	X
Grant	David Wiederholt	Absent	Sauk	Brian Peper	X
	Mike Lieurance	X		Gaile Burchill	X
	Robert Scallon, 2 nd Vice Chair	Excused		Marty Krueger, Chair	Excused
				Tim McCumber, Alternate	Excused
Green	Harvey Kubly, 1 st Vice Treasurer	X	Walworth	Al Stanek	Absent
	Larry Kranig	Absent		Richard Kuhnke, 2 nd Vice Secretary	Excused
	Mark Gundlach	X		Allan Polyock	Excused
Iowa	Charles Anderson, Secretary	X	Waukesha	Rick Beutler, 3 rd Vice Treasurer	Absent
	Kate Reimann	X		Karl Nilson	Absent
	Craig Hardy	Absent		Wayne Euclide	X
	Michael Gates	X			

Commission met quorum.

Others present for all or some of the meeting:

• Scott Edmundson, WisDOT • Julia Potter, WRRTC Attorney • Troy Maggied, SWWRPC	Ken Lucht, WSOR Alan Anderson, Pink Lady Don Vruwink, OCR
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3. Action Item. **Certification of Meeting's Public Notice** – Noticed by Admin.
Motion to approve meeting's public notice – Anderson/Reimann. Passed unanimously

4. Action Item. **Approval of Agenda** – Prepared by Admin.
Motion to approve the agenda as posted – Smith/Reimann. Passed unanimously

5. Action Item. **Approval of draft July 11, 2025 Meeting Minutes** – Prepared by Admin.
Motion to approve the July 11, 2025 meeting minutes – Lieurance/Reimann. Passed unanimously

6. Updates. **Public Comment** – Time for public comment may be limited by the Chair.
Alan Anderson reported that weight restrictions are removed from the Merrimac bridge, and the impacts of this on local businesses. Wayne Euclide introduced himself as the new representative from Waukesha County.

7. Updates. **Announcements by Commissioners**
None

REPORTS & COMMISSION BUSINESS

8. **WRRTC Financial Report** – Treasurer
Huttenburg presented the monthly financial statements for June 2025. There were no transactions. LGIP interest was reported. Project funds are available and presented for the Janesville bridge. One bill for \$350.74 for a public meeting notice for the 2026 budget.

Motion to approve the June 2025 Treasurer's Report and payment of bill as presented. Anderson/Burchill. Passed unanimously.

9. Wisconsin & Southern Railroad's Report on Operations – Lucht, WSOR

Lucht reported on maintenance projects leading to Class II status on various subdivisions. Weed and brush control are completed for this year, and will resume in January. Track expansion in Darien has received all permit approvals. Traffic is down this year. Most grain is still at the elevators and not yet shipped. Sand is also down significantly, and traffic in Green Lake County is also down. Carload and revenue are projected to be down this year over last year. DOT has helped with encroachments on the railroad ROW. A new septic system was installed in the railroad ROW outside of Bridgeport, along with a portion of a new garage tied to a recreational property. A new private crossing application has been submitted to the Commission in Boscobel and will be presented to the Commission at the September meeting. Weight restrictions are removed from the Merrimac Bridge after 5 years. The system still needs improvements on the system to support businesses who need improved shipping productivity, with the main limitation being on the Janesville bridge. A federal grant was awarded for this project, but the project cannot begin due to conflicts with another railroad which is not providing access to the bridge for the work. Lucht and several commissioners urged individuals to engage legislators to help address this issue. The Commission requested an agenda item on the September meeting to address this. Lucht will send a visual aid for distribution along with the September agenda.

10. Discussion and possible action on offer to use agreement for Market Street encroachments, Oregon, WI – Chair

Attorney Potter provided an update on the history of this agreement. It is a WRRTC issue since it is occurring in Illinois. The permitting and process reflect those performed by WisDOT. The term is for 2-years and \$500 annual fee per other similar agreements. Huttenburg recommended adding a clause that shifts litigation fees away from the prevailing party, in the event that this permit goes to court. WSOR and WisDOT would also need to approve this clause. Huttenburg stated that this clause give incentive for parties to settle instead of engaging in litigation. The permit retains the Commission's ability to terminate the agreement with 60 days' notice and remove any encroachments in the ROW, recovering costs on these expenses. Lucht noted that three businesses are conducting business on the ROW, including loading operations, on a daily basis. He recommended that the fee be adjusted higher to reflect market use. Bolitho and Kannard stated that the property descriptions lack any tie to monuments or boundary lines that would enable future parties to identify the exact location of the use area. Potter stated that full legal descriptions are not required, however the Commission could require this. The agreement will be amended to state that the use is on the east side of the track, adjusting the exhibit to show "Johnson Street" fully labeled. Other recommended adjustments were recommended. Attorney Potter will make the necessary adjustments and update the use agreement. Edmundson will provide the Commission DOT standards for fees for future consideration.

Motion to direct legal counsel revise the agreement with the comments noted and to include the "fee-shifting" clause recommended by Huttenburg - Reimann/Kannard. Passed unanimously.

11. WisDOT Report

The Merrimac Bridge is wrapping up the punch list items. WisDOT is discussing a ribbon cutting with WSOR.

12. Permits / Licenses

None.

13. Adjournment.

Motion to Adjourn at 11:03 am. Gilberts/Anderson. Passed unanimously.