

PECATONICA RAIL TRANSIT COMMISSION

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

MEMBER COUNTIES: GREEN • IOWA • LAFAYETTE • ROCK

1:00 PM • Friday, January 25th, 2019 • Green Co. Courthouse, 2nd Floor Courtroom, 1016 16th Ave • Monroe, WI

1. 1:02 PM **Call to Order** – Charles Anderson,, 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	Excused
	Oscar Olson		X		VACANT		
	Paul Beach		X		Ricky Rolfsmeyer		absent
Lafayette	Leon Wolfe	Vice Secretary	X				
	John Bartels		X	Rock	Wayne Gustina		X
	Andy Schilling		absent		Alan Sweeney	Vice Chair	X
	Gerald Heimann	Alternate			Terry Thomas		X

Commission achieved quorum.

Other present for all or some of the meeting:

- Matthew Honer, SWWRPC - Kim Tollers - WisDOT	Ken Lucht - WSOR
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3. Action Item. **Certification of Meeting's Public Notice** – Noticed by Honer
 - Motion to approve certification of public meeting – Bartles/Sweeney. Passed Unanimously.
4. Action Item. **Approval of Amended Agenda** – Prepared by Honer
 - Motion to approve amended agenda – Bartles/Gustina. Unanimously.
5. Action Item. **Approval of draft October 2018 Minutes** – Prepared by Honer
 - Motion to approve draft October 2018 minutes – Wolfe/Bartles. Passed Unanimously.
6. Updates. **Public Comment** – Time for public comment may be limited by the Chair
No public comment.
7. Updates. **Announcements by Commissioners** – Discussion may be limited by the Chair
No announcements.

REPORTS & COMMISSION BUSINESS

8. PRTC Financial Report – Paul Beach, PRTC Treasurer

Beach presented the balance sheet. The checking account balance at the end of September was \$83,470.76. Receipts from the lease, permit and accounts interest were \$672.75, and total disbursements were \$2,564.13 for the audit, regional planning and the safe deposit box fee. The balance of the checking account balance was \$81,579.38. The Total Checking and CD balance is \$106,579.38.

Beach presented the bills for consideration, which included Q3 and Q4 for Regional Planning, legal fees, and administrative fees for Harvey Kubly and Paul Beach. Beach also reported a payment from Lafayette and Green County annual fees and Q1 Wisconsin and Southern.

Wolfe commented that it may be worth paying the penalty on withdrawing the CD early and getting a better interest rate.

- *Motion for Beach to cancel and renew the existing CD, if it is the interest of the Commission – Wolfe/Bartles. Approved Unanimously.*
- *Motion to approve treasurers report and payment of the bills – Olson/Sweeney. Approved Unanimously.*

9. WSOR Operation's Report – Ken Lucht, WSOR

Lucht stated that WSOR is currently preparing equipment and pursuing additional grants. WSOR was awarded funding for the second phase of the Waukesha sub, Continuous Welded Rail (CWR) project, between Milton and Whitewater. Lucht expects work to begin in May or June. The next phase, in 2020, will be from Whitewater to Palmyra. WSOR received a grant for the last phase of CWR on the Oshkosh sub., from Ripon to Fisk. Traffic has increased on the Oshkosh sub., which has some of the oldest rail on WSOR's network. On Feb 1st, WSOR will apply for three projects, CWR on the Prairie subdivision – Wauzeka to Blue River, a bridge replacement project of 25 bridges systemwide, and the last phase of CWR the Oshkosh sub.

Lucht recapped maintenance which included replacing four switches in the Janesville yard. Future maintenance includes Murray Road crossing and Park Road crossing (west of Brodhead). WSOR is working on scheduling brush cutting, weed spraying, and rail detector. Close attention is being paid to the Monroe sub., which are good at the moment. The age of the rail and movement of ethanol means that WSOR will keep a close eye on it. Lucht stated that 2018 production totals (maintenance report) are being compiled and will be available at the next meeting. Lucht stated that carloads data will likely also be available for the next meeting.

Lucht stated that the 8400' Belden siding was completed in Belden Illinois. This allows the frequency of trains into Chicago. This will relieve congestion in Horicon, Madison, and Janesville. Metra allowed additional trips into Chicago with the construction of a new siding. The siding will make for a more fluid railroad operation.

Sweeney asked if the Milton to Whitewater CWR project is a WRRTC capital improvement project. Lucht stated that it is not at the moment but WSOR will be presenting a capital improvement project at upcoming WRRTC meeting. Sweeney asked if any of the heavy loads on the Milton to Whitewater track are there due to the closing of the Union Pacific Bridges in Janesville. Lucht stated that he believes this is likely and can do some additional analysis to find out more information. Bartles asked how much of the rail is welded, Lucht stated that approximately 60% of the system is CWR. Bartles asked if concrete ties are being installed on CWR track. Lucht stated that concrete ties are more for passenger trains and do not work well for freight and the weather in Wisconsin does not help. Sweeney asked if there are issues with the cold weather. Lucht stated that it slows work down some, but engines are working fine and there are no service interruptions. Lucht stated that if it is below 10 degrees, the speed is lowered to 25 on track that would otherwise be 40. Wolfe asked about the sand market, Lucht stated that the market will be dipping in the future due to the discovery of other sand reserves that are of lesser quality. Lucht expects in the future there will be a larger demand for higher quality sand from Wisconsin and Iowa.

10. WisDOT Report – Kim Tollers, Teri Beckman, WisDOT

Toller had nothing to report this quarter.

11. Tri-County Trail Commission Report – Wolfe

Wolfe stated that the snowmobile trails are open and in good shape. Wolfe stated southern Wisconsin has the majority of trails open and a large amount of recreation is expected for the upcoming weekend.

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

Honer stated that a group of UW- Platteville students ~~are will be~~ undertaking an inventory and analysis of the trail between Monroe and ~~and~~ Mineral Point. As part of their study, they will be gathering GIS coordinates for bridges, culverts, and other significant

infrastructure. The students will present their findings to the Commission at the April meeting. Honer stated the ~~Commission~~ will have the audit engagement letters for the next meeting.

13. Discussion and Possible action on Town of Wayne Temporary Access Permit and removal of Tuller Lane bridge agreement - Honer, Admin.

Honer stated that Tuller Lane ~~currently~~ is a short road that comes off Hwy 11 and provides access to a single residential house. The road has a bridge over the trail. The bridge is no longer structurally able to support emergency service vehicles, so the Township has made formal proceedings to vacate the road. The town constructed a new private access road for the house that Tuller lane provided access to. Honer stated that he attended the public hearing for the abandonment/vacate of Tuller Lane. At the meeting, he informed the Town that the Commission will want to have an agreement with the owners of the bridge, whoever that may be, that will provide for maintenance and insurance on the bridge. Honer also stated at that meeting that if the owner does not intend to provide an agreement for maintenance or insurance, the bridge should be completely removed and the right-of-way should be amended after the removal. The town stated that they are the owners of the bridge, even after they vacate the road. The Town of Wayne agreed to remove the bridge, if the commission is willing to waive the \$500 fee for the private crossing permit for the new access. Honer stated that the Township also asked if the Commission would be willing to contribute to project costs.

Honer stated the Temporary Access Agreement is to allow the Town of Wayne to access the right-of-way in order to remove the bridge.

Leon stated he is opposed to removing the bridge due to it being a ~~landmark~~ landmark. Leon stated that he does not know if the bridge is a liability if it not being used. Bartles stated that he believes the bridge has reached the end of its life. Bartles believes that the new private crossing is safer access to Hwy 11. Beach suggested that the local communities could move the bridge to the local park at Gratiot.

Lucht asked for a clarification that the ~~town~~ town is looking to change access from public to private. Honer ~~stated~~ concurred that is the case. The private crossing is in a separate location than the bridge. Lucht asked if the ~~town~~ town has provided an inspection report for the bridge to show that emergency services are not able to cross. Honer stated that they have not.

Sweeney asked if the commission has a copy of the removal agreement. Honer stated that the removal agreement was incorporated into the Temporary Access Permit. Sweeney asked if the PRTC has monetary obligations according to the agreement. Honer stated that the agreement does not create monetary obligations for the PRTC outside of administration review and some legal review that has already taken place. The Town of Wayne did ask the Commission to waive the private crossing permit fee for the private crossing that took the place of the bridge.

- *Motion to approve Temporary Access to Wayne Township with no monetary obligations from the Commission, for the removal of the Tuller Lane bridge – Sweeney/Bartles. Approved. Wolfe Opposed.*

14. Discussion and Possible Action on Private Crossing Permit for McKnight Trust in the Town of Wayne – Honer, Admin.

Honer stated that the private crossing being considered is 100 yards to the east on Hwy 11 from where Tuller Lane currently exists. Now that Tuller Lane will be removed a private road will take its place. As part of the agreement to remove the bridge, the Town of Wayne asked the Commission to waive the private crossing application fee. Thomas asked if Honer knew the cost of removing the Tuller Lane Bridge. Honer stated that it sounded as though the township will be doing it, but he is unaware of the costs. Sweeney asked if there are any costs associated with the Private Crossing Agreement. Honer responded that the costs incurred are administrative will be Honer's time, and perhaps some time for legal to assist in drafting the final crossing agreement.

Thomas asked about additional legal fees regarding this crossing, Honer stated that he does not anticipate additional legal fees for the private crossing permit.

- *Motion to approve the private crossing agreement for McKnight Trust and waiving the application fee – Sweeney/Bartles. Passed Unanimously.*

15. Adjournment

- *Motion to adjourn at 1:45 pm – Gustina/Bartles. Passed Unanimously.*