

# 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 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017 • Green Co. Courthouse, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Courtroom, 1016 16<sup>th</sup> Ave • Monroe, WI

1. 1:07 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:**

	<i>Commissioner</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Present</i>		<i>Commissioner</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Present</i>
<i>Green</i>	<i>Harvey W. Kubly</i>	<i>Chair</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Iowa</i>	<i>Charles Anderson</i>	<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Present</i>
	<i>Oscar Olson</i>		<i>Present</i>		<i>William G. Ladewig</i>		<i>Present</i>
	<i>Ron Wolter</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Present</i>		<i>Jeremy Meek</i>		<i>Present</i>
<i>Lafayette</i>	<i>Leon Wolfe</i>		<i>Present</i>	<i>Rock</i>	<i>Wayne Gustina</i>		<i>Present</i>
	<i>Larry Ludlum</i>		<i>Absent</i>		<i>Alan Sweeney</i>	<i>1st Vice Chair</i>	<i>Present</i>
	<i>Ted Weigel</i>		<i>Present</i>		<i>Terry Thomas</i>	<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair</i>	<i>Present</i>
	<i>Gerald Heimann</i>	<i>Alternate</i>					

Commission achieved quorum.

**Other present for all or some of the meeting:**

- Matthew Honer, SWWRPC
- Kim Tollers, WisDOT
- Ken Lucht, WSOR

3. Action Item.            **Certification of Meeting’s Public Notice** – *Noticed by Honer*
  - *Motion to approve certification of public meeting – Ladewig/Gustina, Passed Unanimously*
4. Action Item.            **Approval of Agenda** – *Prepared by Honer*
  - *Motion to approve agenda – Anderson/Wolfe, Passed Unanimously*
5. Action Item.            **Approval of Draft July 2017 Minutes** – *Prepared by Honer*
  - *Motion to approve draft May 2017 minutes – Wiegel/Thomas, Passed Unanimously*
6. Updates.                **Public Comment** – *Time for public comment may be limited by the Chair*
7. Updates.                **Announcements by Commissioners** – *Discussion may be limited by the Chair*

**REPORTS & COMMISSION BUSINESS**

8.            **PRTC Financial Report** – *Ron Wolter, PRTC Treasurer*

Wolter reported total receipts of \$3,023.17 and total disbursements of \$0 from 6-30-2017 to 9-30-2017. Bringing the checking balance to \$93,376.12. The total check and CD amount totaled \$118,376.12. There were no outstanding bills.

Weigel asked if anything should be done about the CD. Kubly stated that Wolter can renew the CD.

- *Motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report – Anderson/Wolfe, Passed Unanimously*

9.            **WSOR Operation’s Report** – *Ken Lucht, WSOR*

Lucht reported that two crossings two crossings were replaced and two culvers have collapsed west of 5 points road, WSOR is working on a plan to replace or remove those culvert, along with routine tie and rail replacement. Some minor bridge maintenance has been done. Looking forward to next year WSOR will be weed spraying and tree trimming on the entire subdivision. The big project that is happening is the bridge across five corners road is completed.

Lucht stated that WSOR is working on continuous welded rail (CWR) on the Fox Lake Subdivision, tie replacement on the Waukesha and Watertown Subdivisions. The Spring Green Bridge will soon be completed. In Sauk County, WSOR is doing engineering and design for the Merrimac Bridge and will begin repairs in 2018. In 2019, there will be a complete reconstruction. In southern Sauk Co. track between Sauk City and Badger Army Ammunition Plant (BAAP). Lucht stated he will present capital expenditure projects and a traffic presentation at the January meeting.

Wolter asked if the speed limit on the Monroe subdivision has changed. Lucht stated that it is 25 mph and with recent repairs, engines can now move at that speed. Wolter asked how fast CWR allows trains to go. Lucht stated 25-40 which is Class 3. Wolfe asked about rails to trails in Sauk County. Ken reported that the first phase has been completed between Sauk City and BAAP. The second phase is between BAAP and Devil's Lake, the third phase is a small segment of rail between Sauk City to Mazomanie. Kubly stated that he is surprised that an industrial park was not built in BAAP. Lucht stated that the land was acquired by DNR, USDA, and the Ho-Chunk Tribe and was largely acquired for recreation and conservation purposes. Anderson asked when the last time the inspection car was on the Monroe subdivision. Lucht stated that it gets on the entire network each year. Ladewig asked how the state budget impacted capital expenditure. Lucht stated that the budget required projects to be extended out. Lucht stated that WSOR received funding for Spring Green, Wauzeka, and Merrimac bridges. The funding will then be used for maintenance to keep the older bridges able to be utilized.

**10. WisDOT Report – Kim Tollers, WisDOT**

Tollers reported that the Monroe Subdivision online map is now publicly available. The 2017 rail conference is on Tuesday October 31<sup>st</sup>, from 8 – 4. Registration is \$40 and includes lunch.

**11. Tri-County Trail Commission Report – Presenters may include Leon Wolfe, Ted Weigel**

Wolfe reported that trail is back in good shape and good running order since the last meeting. There was a lot of damage and the highway commissioner stated that the county will receive some FEMA money from the storms and Tri County Trails is applying for that to be used to make some repairs. It is being heavily used. Olson asked who is maintaining the Green County portion. Weigel stated that Lafayette County graded it but they do not know who is responsible for cutting back the brush on the trail. Ladewig asked how they keep track of the usage. Weigel and Wolfe say they “eye-ball” it currently but they did the study and it appears to have increased since then.

**12. PRTC Administrator’s Report – Honer, PRTC Admin.**

Honer reported that PRTC received certificates of liability insurance from Watco Companies. He reported that he received a notice from Eileen Brownlee that the Village of Belmont is starting the process to vacate two platted but unopened village streets. That there is PRTC corridor in this area. Eileen also clarified that the intent of the sentence in question on the MOU is to make clear that, neither commission is required to agree to provide those funds upon request. Honer reported that he had sent two letter as reminders for the Burbach lease in Darlington. He received payment yesterday and sent out a request that the lessee provide proof of liability insurance.

Anderson asked if the Republican Journal has a lease any longer. Honer stated he will follow up on it and other leases prior to the next meeting.

**13. Presentation and Discussion of administrator’s 2018 work plan – Honer, PRTC Admin.**

Honer presented the Administrator’s Work plan. Wolfe asked what is considered a private crossing. Honer responded that any place where a permanent crossing happens is considered a private crossing, even if it is only used 2 – 3 times a year. It needs to be addressed due to safety concerns and liability. Ladewig asked what is involved in updating the ROW. Honer reported that the GIS needs to be updated to reflect current ownership and actual dimensions of land. Ladewig asked if the commission finds out that a hundred farmers are farming in the ROW, what will the commission do? Ladewig stated his concern is the cost of lawyers in this process. Tollers stated the cost could be much higher with liability.

**14. Discussion and Action on Schedule of 2018 Meetings – Honer, PRTC Admin.**

- *Motion to approve the dates of January 26<sup>th</sup>, May 18<sup>th</sup>, July 27<sup>th</sup>, and October 26<sup>th</sup> for the 2018 schedule of meetings – Wolf/Gustina. Passed Unanimously*

**15. Discussion and Possible Action on Memorandum of Understanding with Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission regarding annual county contribution – Harvey Kubly, PRTC Chair.**

Kubly stated that Green Co is the only county in the commission with rail that does not belong to the Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission. Kubly stated that the purpose of the MOU is that if a County chooses to be part of both the Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission and the Pecatonica Rail Transit Commission, this MOU sets up an agreement that the County is only required to contribute to one commission. Olson asked what is hoping to be gained. Kubly stated the Monroe subdivision is just a subdivision of the larger WRRTC system and if Green County had a seat at the WRRTC table they would be able to have more of a say. Sweeney stated that the agreement codifies current practice. Kubly confirmed that nothing new is coming from it. Sweeney clarified that if Green County chooses to contribute to WRRTC they are not required to also give to the PRTC. Ladewig added that if Green Co. chooses to join they would have a larger say.

Olson asked if any money from Lafayette is going to the railroads. Weigel stated that Lafayette Co. money goes to the administrative and meeting costs. Kubly added that the intent of Green Co. contribution is to go towards Rail. Lucht added that the money from both the PRTC and WRRTC went to undertake rail upgrades and bridge replacements on the Fox Lake Subdivision which allows product from the Monroe Subdivision as well as other subdivisions to get to Chicago.

Anderson asked what happens to the bank account. Kubly stated that nothing will happen with the bank account. Anderson asked if there would still be a PRTC. Kubly stated yes because we still have a corridor.

- *Motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission – Thomas/Anderson. Passed Unanimously.*

**16. Adjournment**

- *Motion to adjourn at 2:08 PM – Gustina/Wolter. Passed Unanimously.*