

Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission

Full Commission Mtg – Friday, 06 Aug 2010 @ 10am • Dane Co. Hwy, 2302 Fish Hatchery Rd, Madison, WI

1. Karl Nilson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.
2. Commissioners present for all or part of the meeting:

Crawford	Tom Cornford	X- Committee	X
	Rocky Rocksvold		
	Vacant		
Dane	Gene Gray	Treasurer	X
	Jim Haefs-Fleming		X
	Forrest Van Schwartz	Advocate	X
Grant	Ivan Farness		
	Margaret Ruf	Secretary	X
	Robert Scallon	2nd Vice Chair	
Iowa	Charles Anderson	X- Committee	
	Gerald Dorscheid	Vice Treasurer	X
	Robert Zinick		X

Rock	Ben Coopman	Alternate	
	Wayne Gustina		
	Alan Sweeney	Vice Chair	
	Terry Thomas		
Sauk	Joel Gaalswijk		X
	Rob Sinklair	Assistant Secretary	X
	Scott Alexander		X
	Marty Krueger	Alternate	
Walworth	Jerry Grant		
	Richard Kuhnke	X- Committee	
	Allan Polyock		
Waukesha	Karl Nilson	Chair	X
	Richard Manke		X
	Fritz Ruf		

Others present for all or part of the meeting:

Amy Seeboth (SWWRPC / WRRTC Administrator); John Oimoen, Roger Larson, & Frank Huntington (WisDOT); Ken Lucht (WSOR); Alan Anderson (Pink Lady RTC)

3. Motion accepting Seeboth's certification of Public Notice. Dorscheid / Cornford- passed unanimously.
4. Motion accepting the Agenda, prepared by Seeboth. Van Schwartz / Sinklair - passed unanimously.
5. Motion approving the draft July Minutes. Van Schwartz / Gray – with the following changes: correct spelling of Marty Krueger's name, make note in Item 16 that the meeting was attended by WRRTC representatives, and the spelling of Wilmot Road should be corrected.
6. Public Comment – Nilson introduced the newest WRRTC Commissioner, Robert Zink, to the Commission. Zink is a County Supervisor for District 2 in Iowa County.
7. Correspondence & Communications – Seeboth shared notice of insurance and of construction with the Commissioners, she also updated the Commission on her communications with the Village of Spring Grove, who has moved ahead on properly removing the asphalt millings from Commission property. Commissioner Van Schwartz reported on an article by Don Phillips in Trains Magazine.

REPORTS & COMMISSION BUSINESS

8. Wisconsin & Southern Railroad's Report on Operations – Ken Lucht, WSOR, reported on the following:
 - Monthly Maintenance Activities – WSOR has completed their weed control program for 2010. All lines on southern division are controlled, they have been considering a second application because some weeds are coming back, but don't have the money at this time so they likely will not do it. They have rail test detector car out, will put it on Prairie and Reedsburg subdivisions this fall. This tester car sends an ultrasonic beam through rail. WSOR is focusing on testing 90 lb or less rail, and, at this time, not on welded rail. Lucht said he will share results of these tests with the Commission once completed.
 - Update on 2009 & 2010 Capital Rehab Projects - 2009 capital projects are underway. WSOR has two welded rail trains and both will be installing welded rail between Milton Junction and Stoughton. Vincent Street in Milton to Collins road, 16 miles. WSOR is very happy with this so far and considering possibly ordering a third train for this subdivision. This project should be completed within three years. A second project underway is the installation

of 40,000 ties between Janesville and Monroe. WSOR has not yet received official notice from WDOT on which 2010 projects may be funded. Lucht said that it looks like they are ranking well on replacing or reconstructing six bridges system-wide and realigning rail in Waukesha. Lucht also said that WSOR is hiring, and they would like to hire up to 10 people. The Class One industry, however, is also hiring at this time and competing for the existing train engineers/conductors. Right now, WSOR has 3-5 day/week service across system. Rail traffic is rebounding on WSOR and nationally, rail traffic is up 10% from one year ago last week. Lucht distributed copies of the Cripple Effect – a DVD recently produced by WSOR. Lucht also said that WSOR is planning an event near Milton and that everyone is welcome to attend to see how the welded rail is installed – he will let Seebth and the Commissioners know the date for that event.

9. WRRTC Financial Report– Jim Matzinger, Dane County CPA / WRRTC Accountant presented the treasurer’s report and bills to the Commission. After some discussion, it was decided that Matzinger would bill Crawford County for \$10,000 to begin payments owed to the Commission, per Cornford’s request. Cornford reported that Crawford County will begin making back payments to the Commission, but they do not have a defined schedule for that at this time.

- **Motion accepting treasurers report for months of July and August, and payment of bills- Sweeney / M. Ruf – passed unanimously**

10. WRRTC Administrator’s Report – Amy Seebth, SWWRPC Transportation Planner, reported that the Sauk County Economic Development Committee would like a representative from WRRTC to attend their meeting and request the annual Commission contribution. Commissioner Sinklair volunteered to do this. Seebth also shared the dates of the next Sauk County Rails-to-Trails meeting (6:30) and it was decided that she would continue to attend on behalf of the Commission for this meeting.

11. WDOT Update – Frank Huntington reported that the WDOT is in process of finalizing evaluation of FRIPP and FRAP loan and grant programs. They have about \$30 million that will be awarded, and have received about \$55-60 million in funding requests. He said that he is not yet able to say which projects are funded, but said that bridges are a priority. WDOT is Also looking at buying tracks, including the CP line from Madison to Windsor, and up through the Madison area.

12. Considerations of resolution in support of track and corridor changes and management of project details needed to complete improvements necessary to implement the proposed passenger rail service between Milwaukee and Madison, Wisconsin. WDOT requested a resolution of this sort at the July Commission meeting. Sweeney asked who was responsible for the rail once completed, Huntington explained that WDOT is responsible for it from end point to end point. Some Commissioners expressed concern over the cost and purpose of the project, Huntington clarified that the resolution would allow use of the corridor for passenger rail, but is not an endorsement of the concept of the project. Huntington further explained that there is already an agreement to this end in place between WSOR, DOT and Amtrack. He said the resolution is non-binding and freight rail will always be a priority on this line, and improvements will be made at no cost to the Commission.

- **Motion to table the resolution** – Manke / Sinklair – Roll Call vote:

Crawford	Tom Cornford	X- Committee	N
	Rocky Rocksvold		
	Vacant		
Dane	Gene Gray	Treasurer	N
	Jim Haefs-Fleming		N
	Forrest Van Schwartz	Advocate	N
Grant	Ivan Farness		
	Margaret Ruf	Secretary	N
	Robert Scallon	2nd Vice Chair	
Iowa	Charles Anderson	X- Committee	
	Gerald Dorscheid	Vice Treasurer	N
	Robert Zinick		Y

Rock	Ben Coopman	Alternate	
	Wayne Gustina		
	Alan Sweeney	Vice Chair	N
	Terry Thomas		
Sauk	Joel Gaalswijk		N
	Rob Sinklair	Assistant Secretary	Y
	Scott Alexander		N
Walworth	Marty Krueger	Alternate	
	Jerry Grant		
	Richard Kuhnke	X- Committee	
Waukesha	Allan Polyock		
	Karl Nilson	Chair	N
	Richard Manke		Y
	Fritz Ruf		

Motion does not pass.

- **Call to question by Manke**, seconded by Van Schwartz-
- **Vote to adopt resolution as is.** Roll Call Vote:

Crawford	Tom Cornford	X- Committee	N
	Rocky Rocksvold		
	<i>Vacant</i>		
Dane	Gene Gray	Treasurer	N
	Jim Haefs-Fleming		N
	Forrest Van Schwartz	Advocate	N
Grant	Ivan Farness		
	Margaret Ruf	Secretary	N
	Robert Scallon	2nd Vice Chair	
Iowa	Charles Anderson	X- Committee	
	Gerald Dorscheid	Vice Treasurer	Y
	Robert Zinick		N

Rock	Ben Coopman	Alternate	
	Wayne Gustina		
	Alan Sweeney	Vice Chair	N
	Terry Thomas		
Sauk	Joel Gaalswijk		Y
	Rob Sinklair	Assistant Secretary	N
	Scott Alexander		N
	Marty Krueger	<i>Alternate</i>	
Walworth	Jerry Grant		
	Richard Kuhnke	X- Committee	
	Allan Polyock		
Waukesha	Karl Nilson	Chair	Y
	Richard Manke		N
	Fritz Ruf		

Motion does not pass.

- **Motion to reconsider the resolution at hand – Sweeney / Alexander.** Three opposed, motion passes.
- **Motion to approve the resolution, with the following change: removal of “and the implementation of passenger rail service” from the last paragraph on page one.** Van Schwartz / Sweeney. Three opposed, motion passes.

The Commission recessed for a ten-minute break at 11:10

- 13. Possible presentation by the Office of the Commissioner on Railroads** – cancelled, the Commissioner was not available, will reschedule for a later date.
- 14. Review and possible concurrence with Mazomanie TE project, rails with trails.** Huntington explained the background on this project: Mazomanie is applying for State TE funds to develop a pedestrian/bike trail through the community that would use railroad property in one place, parallel to the tracks. The Village requested a letter of support from the Commission for their application. Seeboth authored a letter to the Village prior to this meeting (they needed the letter prior to the meeting for the grant deadline). The letter was passed around to Commissioners for review – it stated that the Commission is aware of this project and willing to discuss it with the Village if the project is also supported by WDOT and WSOR. The Commission will return to this topic if the Village is awarded the requested funds.
- 15. Plymouth to Sheboygan freight-rail line rehab status.** Huntington provided background on this topic- In 2006 or 2007, the Union Pacific discontinued their line from Kohler west, so 4-5 shippers no longer had service. The communities who lost service worked with WSOR and submitted application for rehabilitation of the line. Two years ago, WDOT awarded funds for this project to reconstruct the line from Plymouth to Sheboygan falls. The Communities arrangement with WSOR was to essentially make the local match a loan from WSOR to the communities, and WSOR has indicated that they are no longer willing or able to do that. The communities are now instead applying for a TIGER grant, which reduces the need for a local match, should they be successful. They may also reduce the size of the project.
- 16. Motion adjourning the meeting at 11:57 p.m. - Cornford / Sinklair - passed unanimously.**