

WRRTC OCTOBER 2018 MEETING MINUTES – APPROVED

**Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission
Commission Meeting - Friday, October 5, 2018 at 10:00 am
Dane County Highway Garage, Madison, WI**

1. 10:00 AM **Call to Order – Alan Sweeney, Chair**
2. Roll Call. **Establishment of Quorum – Matthew Honer**

Crawford	Carl Orr	X	Jefferson	Mary Roberts	X
	Rocky Rocksvold, <i>2nd Vice Chair</i>	X		John Kannard	X
	Derek Flansburgh	<i>Excused</i>		Augie Tietz, <i>3rd Vice Chair</i>	X
	Tom Cornford, <i>Alternate</i>	X		Terry Thomas	<i>Excused</i>
Dane	Gene Gray, <i>Treasurer</i>	X	Rock	Wayne Gustina	X
	Jim Flemming	<i>Absent</i>		Alan Sweeney, <i>Chair</i>	X
	Chris James, <i>1st Vice Secretary</i>	X			
Grant	Gary Ranum	X	Sauk	Chuck Spencer	X
	Mike Lieurance	<i>Excused</i>		Dave Riek, <i>2nd Vice Treasurer</i>	X
	Robert Scallon, <i>1st Vice Chair</i>	X		Marty Krueger	X
				Tim McCumber, <i>Alternate</i>	X
Green	Harvey Kubly, <i>1st Vice Treasurer</i>	<i>Excused</i>	Walworth	David Bretl	X
	Oscar Olson	X		Richard Kuhnke, <i>2nd Vice Secretary</i>	X
	Paul Beach	X		Allan Polyock	X
Iowa	Charles Anderson, <i>Secretary</i>	X	Waukesha	Dick Mace	X
	Kate Reimann	X		Richard Morris	X
	Mark Storti	X		Karl Nilson, <i>3rd Vice Treasurer</i>	X

Commission met quorum.

Others present for all or some of the meeting:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matt Honer - <i>WRRTC Administrator</i> • Ken Lucht, Roger Schaalma – <i>WSOR</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kim Tollers, Rich Kedzior, Ed Singer - <i>WisDOT</i> • Alan Anderson, Pink Lady RTC
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3. Action Item. **Certification of Meeting’s Public Notice – Noticed by Honer.**
 - *Motion to approve meeting’s public notice – Cornford/Gustina. Passed Unanimously.*
4. Action Item. **Approval of Amended Agenda – Prepared by Honer.**
 - *Motion to approve the amended agenda – Kuhnke/Spencer. Passed Unanimously.*
5. Action Item. **Approval of draft September 2018 Meeting Minutes – Prepared by Honer.**
 - *Motion to approve September 2018 minutes – Anderson/Storti. Passed Unanimously.*
6. Updates. **Public Comment – Time for public comment may be limited by the Chair.**
7. Updates. **Announcements by Commissioners**

James announced that Dane County completed a water management study for the chain-of-lakes in Dane County. In 2008, Dane County had water issues similar to this year, although 2018 presented record setting levels on the lakes. The Study included an analysis of the railroad trestle between upper Mud Lake and Lake Wabesa. Eight or Nine years ago, Dane county talked with WSOR to consider widening the trestle to allow greater water movement. At the time the County did not have the water modeling data completed. Dane County now feels that they have the data to model the impact of modifying the structure. Additionally, the County put an additional \$18 million in the 2019 budget for flood management improvements and would likely be willing to be a partner for modifications for the trestle bridge. James stated that likely next steps are for SW Bridge to evaluate the structure.

Krueger announced that there will be a ribbon cutting for the 2nd segment of the Great Sauk State Trail, on October 26th. The second segment is in the former Badger Army Ammunition Plan, now the Sauk Prairie Recreational Area.

REPORTS & COMMISSION BUSINESS

8. **WRRTC Financial Report** – Gene Gray – Treasurer, Jim Matzinger - Accountant.

- Treasurer’s Report and Payment of Bills

Gray presented the treasurer’s report and the payment of two bills, the 2nd installment for the WisDOT loan and a bill from Dane County Highway. Gray stated that he expects Matzinger to be present for the audit next month.

- *Motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report, income statement, and payment of bills –Anderson/Cornford. Passed Unanimously.*

- Update on Loan Repayment Schedule

Honer reported that the 2nd quarterly payment on the WisDOT loan is due on October 20th. The current balance after 1 payment is \$195,470.90. The amount of the payment on October 20th is \$5,529.10. Honer reminded the Commission that they approved Jim Matzinger to make payments as they are due and that the total loan amount is \$200k and the annual interest rate is 2%. It will be paid quarterly over the next 10 years.

9. **Wisconsin & Southern Railroad’s Report on Operations** – Ken Lucht, Roger Schaalma - WSOR

Schaalma stated that the rail detector will come back to the system next week for work on the Fox Lake and Monroe Subdivision. The surfacing crews are mobilizing to the Watertown Sub. and one is staying to continue work on repairing flood damages on the Prairie and Reedsburg Subs. Schaalma reported that the Wauzeka Bridge contractors (Kraemer NA) have been challenged with the high water on the Wisconsin River. They are back working on the project and it is currently half-complete. Schaalma reported that the contractor is confident that the bridge work will be done this year and there may be some track work needed in the spring. Schaalma stated that the Watertown bridges are going well. The first was completed a few weeks ago, the next is expected to be converted to a box culvert next week, and the final bridge in Waterloo is scheduled for the last week of the month. The last three road crossing reconstructions on the Watertown Sub. are being completed this month by the contractor (Volkman). Stoughton Road Crossing in Madison, is expected to be replaced next week, weather permitting.

Lucht stated that WSOR would like to offer an excursion on the Prairie Sub this fall from Madison to Arena, Ken stated that he was thinking November 2nd or November 5th. Lucht stated that pick up would be in Madison and would go to Arena and come back to the Johnson Street Yard. Mace asked if the Commission could coordinate it with the next meeting. Lucht asked if Mondays or Fridays are better. Friday seemed to be a better date for Commission members. Lucht also stated that WSOR holds a photo contest and is currently accepting photos for their 2019 Calendar.

Nilson asked about the loose planks on the crossing on Hwy 193. Schaalma stated that someone will check it out. Scallon asked about the work being done between Boscobel and Muscoda, it was determined that it was power-line work. Polyock stated that the final product of work done on the Fox Lake Sub., is excellent.

10. **WisDOT Report** – Rich Kedzior, Kim Tollers - WisDOT.

Kedzior stated that WisDOT does not expect to hear anything regarding FRPP Grants for 2019 until Mid-November. Kedzior stated that bonding was approved for Phase 2 rehabilitation of the Merrimac bridge project.

Nilson asked about the Freight Conference. Kedzior stated that WisDOT Freight Rail Conference is on November 13th in Madison, cost for attendance is \$40. Lucht stated that there is a Wisconsin Railroad Association Conference on November 15 in Milwaukee at the Weston Hotel.

11. **WRRTC Correspondence/Communications and Administrator’s Report** – Honer, Admin.

Honer received two approved utility permits on the Waukesha Subdivision from WisDOT and a certificate of liability insurance for Encore Commercial in Middleton. Honer also received assessment notices for 11 parcels in McHenry County, Illinois. The parcels decreased in assessed value by 2.25%

Honer stated that Veit and Company pulled the silt fence in September from the Sauk Bridge project. Honer stated that Sauk County identified a salvage contractor for the track removal in Sauk County, Runick Salvage (Wonewoc, WI), had the best bids \$234/ton for rail material and \$245/ton for Other Track Material (OTM). Sauk County’s Highway Commissioner stated that most material have been removed and disposed of, including the ties. They expect paving of the trail to take place early next week. Honer will make a site visit prior to next month’s meeting to confirm that all material has been removed and that WRRTC will no longer be responsible for any property in the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant, Prairie du Sac, or Sauk City.

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Honer stated that he attended the September meeting of the Iowa County Board. At this meeting, Charles Anderson, Ken Lucht, and Honer addressed the Board about the loan that was taken out as well as the proposed \$2000 increase in county contribution. Honer followed up with the County Administrator and Corp. Counsel to provide the Commission's charter and clarification about some of the County board member's concerns. Honer explained that there was concern about County liability regarding the WisDOT loan. Honer explained that county approval for a loan is required when the loan creates a liability for a single county, or some but not all counties. In the case of the WisDOT loan, the loan is guaranteed by the Commission's property. That is, if the Commission fails to pay back the loan, WisDOT will take a larger interest in the Commission's property. There is no liability to an individual county regarding the WisDOT loan. Honer stated that he plans to attend the October meeting of the Iowa County Board to answer any follow up questions.

Sweeney asked Honer if he has the total tons of salvage material from the 2nd phase of track removal in Sauk County. Honer stated he did not have it with him but stated that he knows that the tons of both rail and OTM are much lower than what was in Sauk City and Prairie du Sac. Krueger stated that the Sauk County Highway Commissioner is estimating the value of rail and OTM salvage to be \$150,000.

Roberts asked when the Commission will hear back regarding the proposed County Contribution increase. Honer stated that he has not heard back from the counties and expects that the counties are likely working through their budgeting process at the moment.

Ranum asked about how the Counties will respond to the Commission regarding the contribution. Sweeney stated that he does not believe there is a rush to a response at this time. Sweeney believes that a verbal response is fine, perhaps at the December meeting. Tietz stated that he discussed this with the Jefferson County Administrator, the Administrator stated that it is in the budget on the condition that all counties stay in the Commission. Morris stated that \$30,000 is in the proposed Waukesha budget. Roberts asked if the issue will come up again next year. Krueger stated that the \$30,000 County Contribution was motioned to be for two years. Nilson stated that at a meeting or two ago, WSOR stated that the Capital improvement forecast is at the top of a bell curve and the Commission should expect capital expenditures to fall in the next decade or two. Roberts stated that an item that was brought up previously was that the lease was not increased. Sweeney stated that it is something that can be looked at in the future.

12. Update on Flood Mitigation Plan by WSOR – Lucht, WSOR.

Lucht and Schaalma presented an update on the repairs and mitigation to the Prairie subdivision due to August flooding. The presentation showed before and after of damages and repairs. Lucht and Schaalma stated that the repairs are 75% - 80% complete. Ranum asked if WSOR has undertaken mitigation efforts so that the same results do not happen with the next large rain event. Lucht and Schaalma stated that is the case. Anderson asked about the extent of washouts due to flooding. Schaalma stated that the system normally has some washouts each year, but he has never seen the number of washouts due to a storm event similar to this event. Storti asked if the Commission has thanked the individual who allowed WSOR to make the repairs. Sweeney stated it may be nice to invite the individual on the excursion. Schaalma stated that he does not know the name of the owner but can find out.

Ranum asked about areas where the berm was reinforced, and if properties upstream are now likely to take on more water in the future. Schaalma stated that he is not aware of any properties such as this. Gray asked if there is damage due to standing water. Schaalma stated that damage is minimal when the water is standing. Nilson stated that work done by the private sector, being unrestrained was impressive. Schaalma stated that it equated to \$1.4 million worth of work and material.

13. Consideration and Possible Action on New Turn-out and Track within Railroad Right-of-Way for New Customer in Delavan, WI – Lucht, WSOR.

Lucht handed out an exhibit of the possible turnout. Lucht stated that a new business is expanding and building a spur. In order to service the building, the spur will need to connect to the main line. The Commission needs to approve any connection. Lucht stated that the improvements include a turnout and 297 ft of new track to connect the spur. WSOR is excited to have the new business and the proposed expansion. Lucht stated that WSOR will have an industry track agreement with the Company. Lucht is looking for approval from WRTC for the construction, maintenance, and ownership of the turnout connecting to the Commission's property as part of the operating agreement.

Rich stated that if the customer is building the track in the ROW then a permit is required by WisDOT, yet if WSOR, or a contractor of WSOR, is building the turnout, no permit is needed.

- *Motion to approve the construction, maintenance, and ownership of the turnout connecting the Commission's property to the industry track – Nilson/Cornford. Passed Unanimously*

14. Adjournment

- *Motion to Adjourn at 11:07 am – Cornford/Gustina. Passed Unanimously.*