

Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission
Commission Meeting - Friday, October 6th, 2017 @ 10am
Dane County Hwy Garage, 2302 Fish Hatchery Rd, Madison, WI

1. 10:02 AM **Call to Order** – *Alan Sweeney, Chair*
2. Roll Call. **Establishment of Quorum** – *Matthew Honer*

Crawford	Tom Cornford, <i>2nd Vice Chair</i>	X	Rock	Terry Thomas	X
	Rocky Rocksford	X		Wayne Gustina	X
	Derek Flansburgh	<i>Excused</i>		Alan Sweeney, <i>Chair</i>	X
Dane	Gene Gray, <i>Treasurer</i>	X	Sauk	Marty Krueger, <i>Alternate</i>	X
	Jim Flemming	<i>Absent</i>		Chuck Spencer	X
	Chris James, <i>Vice Secretary</i>	X		Craig Braunschweig	<i>Excused</i>
		Dave Riek, <i>3rd Vice Treasurer</i>		X	
Grant	Gary Ranum	X	Walworth	Eric Nitschke	X
	Mike Lieurance	X		Richard Kuhnke, <i>2nd Vice Treasurer</i>	X
	Robert Scallon, <i>1st Vice Chair</i>	X		Allan Polyock	<i>Excused</i>
Iowa	Charles Anderson, <i>Secretary</i>	X	Waukesha	Dick Mace	<i>Excused</i>
	William G Ladewig	X		Richard Morris	X
	Jack Demby	X		Karl Nilson, <i>4th Vice Chair</i>	X
Jefferson	Mary Roberts	X			
	Gary Kutz	X			
	Augie Tietz, <i>3rd Vice Chair</i>	<i>Excused</i>			

Commission met quorum.

Others present for all or some of the meeting:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matt Honer - WRRTC Administrator • Ken Lucht - WSOR • Peter Schierloh – SW Bridge • Dana White- Quam, WIDNR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rich Kedzior, Teri Beckman - WisDOT • Alan Anderson – Pink Lady RTC • Jim Matzinger, Dane County Highway
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3. Action Item. **Certification of Meeting’s Public Notice** – *Noticed by Honer,*
 - *Motion to approve meeting’s public notice – Ladewig/Gustina. Passed Unanimously*
4. Action Item. **Approval of Agenda** – *Prepared by Honer*

Sweeney moved ahead WSOR’s report

- *Motion to approve the amended agenda – Cornford/ Nitschke Passed Unanimously*

5. Action Item. **Approval of draft September 2017 Meeting Minutes**– *Prepared by Honer*
 - *Motion to approve September 2017 meeting minutes – Kuhnke/Spencer. Passed Unanimously*

6. Updates. **Public Comment** – *Time for public comment may be limited by the Chair*

7. Updates. **Announcements by Commissioners**

Krueger announced the Great Sauk State Trail will have an opening event on Thursday October 29th behind the Blue Spoon in Prairie du Sac, WI at 2:00 pm. Krueger thanked the commission, WSOR, WIDNR, and WisDOT for their efforts in assisting in building the trail. Krueger explained that the second part of the trail will connect Devil’s Lake with Prairie du Sac and Sauk City through badger army ammunition plant and is expected to be one of the most used trails in the state.

REPORTS & COMMISSION BUSINESS

8. **Wisconsin & Southern Railroad’s Report on Operations – Ken Lucht, WSOR**

Lucht introduced Peter Schierloh, engineer with Southwest Bridge. Schierloh stated that the goal of the project, at this date, is securing the proper permitting. Schierloh stated that the work is being done through a cooperative agreement and that SW Bridge has a long standing relationship with the WIDNR. Schierloh stated that the first concern of removing the bridge is safety to the public and to the contractors. Schierloh stated that the environmental concerns are also a significant aspect of the permitting process. Schierloh has a meeting planned with WIDNR this afternoon to review how to mobilize and tear down with safety and environmental concerns. Schierloh reported there will be an inventory of all items on the bridge in order to address the possibility of debris not being collected. Schierloh added that WIDNR is also concerned with the possibility of a fish kill caused by the possible utilization of explosives. Schierloh explained there are options to mitigate that possibility. Schierloh stated that after the meeting with WIDNR, the WIDNR will outline guidelines and those guidelines will be included in the RFP. The proposal process is expected to take a month. The engineer provided a timeline of two months before work can begin.

James asked if the time of the year makes a difference and if there is a completion date set. Schierloh stated that he believes the best time is during the winter months and a completion date will be included in the contract and is expected to take three months. Pushing timeframes may cause problems with securing contractors. Demby asked if the contractor is responsible for any ties or materials that are not recovered. Schierloh stated that the contract can include penalties for materials not recovered. Ladewig asked if the WIDNR would allow fish restocking to mitigate a possibility of a fish kill and if the Lower Wisconsin State River Way Board (LWSRB) will be part of the conversation. Schierloh stated that he is not sure about restocking and that depending on the methods of removal the LWSRB will be contacted. Rich Kedzior asked if ties could be marked prior to work to encourage the contractor not to “cheat” on recovery. The engineer stated that is problematic and that the ties on the bridge are fairly unique and easily identifiable as coming from that bridge. Riek asked how an inventory will account for the timber pilings. Schierloh stated that the piers will be cut off at the mud line and that there are existing plans and dive records for the bridge that have a record of materials. Sweeney asked about a possible completion date for the RFP that the commission can take action on. Engineer said that it depends on WIDNR statements this afternoon. The engineer stated that it may take 3 – 4 weeks for the RFP. Sweeney stated that the commission would like to meet on the 20th in order to act on the RFP if it is possible. Demby asked if the engineer has an idea of the methods of demolition. The engineer stated that he would allow the contractor to utilize as many tools as possible while following the safety and environmental concerns. James asked if contractors will have access to the west side of the bridge. The engineer stated it would likely require brushing, which would take a lot of time. Nitschke asked if the ad hoc meeting could be done on the 19th to correspond with the Great Sauk Trail Opening if the RFP is available. Krueger stated that he would be able to find a place in Prairie du Sac for the meeting.

Lucht reported that WSOR received their permit from WIDNR for the asphalt pad at the Trans-load facility at Johnson St. yard and will start working on it next week. Lucht stated that the new Trans load facility is likely the most environmentally friendly site in Wisconsin for materials such as salt. The wait was 10 months for the permit and the wait impacted commerce in Dane County. Lucht stated that this type of facility is in line with WisDOT’s goals for improving transportation. If WSOR plans to do these again they will consider federal pre-emption and working with the Surface Transportation Board on permitting to avoid the long delay that was experienced with WIDNR.

Lucht reported that the Prairie du Chien project on the island should be completed by the end of October. The capital plan for 2018 has been approved by the WSOR executive team. Lucht stated that he would like to present the capital plan to the commission in November or December. Lucht stated that the Madison Gas and Electric rail removal project is still open and Lucht will bring an action likely at the November meeting.

Anderson asked about the Spring Green Bridge. Lucht stated that it should be completed in the next month or so. Ranum asked how the 10 mph limit required due the bridge superstructure will affect operations. Lucht stated that as they begin to move forward with continuous welded rail into Iowa and Dane county there will be greater efficiencies and safety and the slow down on the Spring Green Bridge will not make a large difference. Scallon asked about the final costs of the Spring Green Bridge. Lucht reported the original estimate was 8 million, and bids came in at 5-6 million. Kedzior stated that the initial estimate was around 13 million, and the final cost is likely to be around 6 – 6.5 million.

9. WRRTC Financial Report – Gene Gray, Treasurer, Jim Matzinger

Matzinger reported that the 2017 Bridge project is still outstanding and has not been billed yet. It will be there until the project is billed out. Lucht stated that he will check on when the bill will be out. Matzinger reported the commission is under on collected revenue for permits but ahead on interest. Matzinger reported that he has nothing to report on expenditures. Ranum asked about where county contributions are reflected. Matzinger stated that it is listed as deferred revenue and cash under the 2017 project. Gray asked if we normally receive legal service bills later in the year. Matzinger confirmed that we will receive it in 2018. Krueger asked that the commission consider setting up a small reserve that can be built up to address unforeseen expenses. Sweeney stated that it should be a future agenda item. Gray stated this could be part of the conversations with the auditor. Lucht asked about if the balance sheet was adjusted to reflect the 2017 and 2018 revised budgets. Matzinger stated he will review and follow up on it.

Matzinger reported that there is one check for accounting.

- *Motion to approve the balance sheet, treasurer report, and payment of bills – Anderson/Gustina. Passed Unanimously*

10. WisDOT Report – Rich Kedzior WisDOT

Kedzior stated that there was an approval of \$12 million approved for the biannual budget. Kedzior stated that Lisa Stern is the new Chief of Railroads and Harbors at WisDOT. The annual WisDOT rail conference is happening on October 31st. Pete Schierloh of Southwest Bridge will be giving a presentation on the construction of Spring Green Bridge as well as design and future construction of the Merrimac Bridge.

Ladewig asked if the budget money is coming from bonding or another source. Kedzior stated that the money is coming from bonding and it is general obligations bonds. Kedzior stated that the Legislative Fiscal Bureau reported that ad lorem railroad taxes are safely covering the amount budgeted.

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

The commission received a press announcement from WSOR that that Reedsburg Planning and Industrial and Commercial Development Commissions, Finance Committee, and Common Council all approved the construction of \$20 million dollar freezer warehouse that will be rail dependent and will require the construction a new rail spur. I received an email from Mark Cupp, of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board requesting a timeframe and methods for the removal of the Sauk City Railroad Bridge. Mr. Cupp also provided a copy of a letter sent to the Department of Natural Resources from the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board that offered their opinion that explosives should not be used in the demolition of the Sauk City Bridge. The commission received an equalized assessed valuation for 19 parcels in McHenry County, Illinois. The increase in valuation for the 19 parcels was a total of \$856. I received confirmation that the final two road crossings were removed as part of the Sauk Track Removal. The only outstanding items for the track removal project are in regards the track near United Coop. Honer reported that he received correspondence from Blair Dillman regarding the Prairie Sand and Gravel requested changes on the island. Sweeney asked if Cornford had anything to add regarding Prairie Sand and Gravel. Cornford stated that Crawford County and Blair would like to invite the commission to meet in Prairie du Chien and that he will confirm that is being set up. Cornford asked Lucht about WSORs position on Blair’s project. Lucht reported that WSOR is committed to the process and working with Mr. Dillman. Nilson stated that it would be a lot of driving for some of the commissioners. Lucht stated that if the commission meeting happens in Prairie du Chien, WSOR would also like to highlight their work.

12. Review and possible action to amend agreements regarding prevailing wage – Sweeney, Chair.

Sweeney stated that they have come to the conclusion that the commission does not need to amend. Rich stated that is also WisDOT’s position.

13. Review and approval of Bridge 428- B stabilization RFP (if available) – Sweeney, Chair.

Sweeney stated there is no RFP available.

14. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn at 10:57 am– Gustina/Cornford. Passed Unanimously.