

Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission

Full Commission Mtg – Friday, 8 May 2009 @ 10am • Dane Co. Hwy, 2302 Fish Hatchery Rd, Madison, WI

1. Karl Nilson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
2. Commissioners present for all or part of the meeting:

Crawford	Tom	Cornford	x	Rock	Ben	Coopman (alternate)	
	Kersten	Rocksvold	x		Katie	Kuznacic	x
	Vacant				Alan	Sweeney	x
			Terry		Thomas	x	
Dane	Gene	Gray	x	Sauk	Joel	Gaalswijk	x
	Jim	Haefs-Flemming	x		Rob	Sinklair (alternate)	x
	Forrest	Van Schwartz	x		Halsey	Sprecher	
Grant	DuWayne	Carlin	x	Larry	Volz	x	
	Margaret	Ruf	x	Walworth	Jerry	Grant	x
	Robert	Scallon			Richard	Kuhnke	
			Allan		Polyock	x	
Iowa	Charles	Anderson		Waukesha	Karl	Nilson	x
	Gerald	Dorscheid	x		Richard	Manke	x
	Joe	Thomas			Fritz	Ruf	x

Others present for all or part of the meeting:

Amy Seeboth (SWWRPC / WRRTC Administrator); Frank Huntington, Ron Adams and Roger Larson (WisDOT); Ken Lucht (WSOR); Jim Matzinger (Dane County Hwy CPA / WRRTC Accountant); Dick Goddard (Pink Lady RTC); Ken Swanson, Strand Associates.

3. Motion accepting Seeboth’s certification of Public Notice / Dorscheid / Manke / passed unanimously.
4. Motion accepting the Agenda, prepared by Seeboth. Item 5 changed from “March” to “April”. F. Ruf / Volz / passed unanimously.
5. Motion approving the draft April Minutes with following corrections: The April meeting was an Executive Committee meeting (not a Full Commission), and it was Chaired by Larry Volz not Karl Nilson- F. Ruf / Grant / passed unanimously.
6. Public Comment – NA
7. Correspondence & Communications – Van Schwartz provided an update on the Sauk City Bridge, and that Westbrook Engineering decided that it will not need a complete inspection at this time. Thomas shared that the Bridge on Milemarker 167 on Interstate 39/90 will be worked on soon. Seeboth reported that Tammy Baldwin wrote WRRTC to say she will be unable to attend a WRRTC meeting she has been invited to in regards to her bill to “re-regulate” the rail industry.

REPORTS & COMMISSION BUSINESS

8. **Monthly Maintenance Activities** – WSOR continued to replace rail where there are internal defects, especially in Waukesha County. Did not yet test Madison sub, they have a planned project on in the next year or so, will test it once the welded rail is installed. By next meeting, will have final test results and will have maintenance person come and address the commission. **2009 Capital Projects** – WSOR’s commitment this year is the Madison sub. WSOR plans on ordering 14 miles of continuous welded rail. Waiting for budget to be signed before ordering it. By Sept they hope to be laying rail on this sub. In proposed budget is funding to restore rail to 1) in Sheboygan county (Plymouth to Sheboygan falls) (about 11 miles), 2) Monroe to Gratiot, meeting at the end of this month with Lafayette county board of supervisors. Lucht also informed the Commission that WSOR has a new shipper in McFarland and that carloads have been down lately due to the economic downturn. Last month, Bill Gardner accepted the “2009 Regional Railroad of the Year” award honored by Railway Age Magazine front of 300 people, and WSOR’s May newsletter now on WSOR website. **Update on H.R. 233** – Tammy Baldwin’s bill to “re-regulate” the rail industry- No new news.

9. **Consideration / Action on 2010 Capital Projects** – Ken Lucht, WSOR – *Deferred to June Meeting*
10. **WRRTC Financial Report** – Jim Matzinger, Dane County CPA / WRRTC Accountant, distributed copies of the Treasurer’s Report and provided an overview.
- **Motion approving Treasurer’s Report and payment of bills as presented / Van Schwartz / Gaalswijk / passed unanimously.**
 - **April follow-up: Motion approving April Treasurer’s report and 2007 Audit: F. Ruf / Gray / passed unanimously.**
11. **WRRTC Administrator’s Report** – Amy Seeboth, SWWRPC Trans. Planner had no new updates. She circulated copies of the April usage report for the Commission’s website www.wrrtc.org.
12. **WisDOT Update** – Frank Huntington (WISDOT) reported that the line between Plymouth and Sheboygan Falls is reopening and there are currently a few line acquisitions underway in the State.
- **Motion approving Amendments 2, 10, and 4 (Amendment #2 to the Land Use Agreement adds line segments between Madison and Middleton, Madison and Watertown, the Badger Army Ammo plant and between BAAP and the Badger Wye. Amendment # 10 to the Grant Agreement and Amendment #4 to the Operating agreement adds the track through the BAAP and to the Badger Wye.) to the land use agreements between WRRTC, WSOR, and WisDOT- VanSchwartz / Volz / passed unanimously.**

Discussion: Lucht, on behalf of WSOR, requested that number three from Amendment #4 be removed (“Operators further required to use its best efforts to ensure that rail cars are stored outside of the BAAP whenever reasonably practicable”). After discussion it was decided that the item remain, but WSOR wished to point out that rules already govern how long cars may be stored along the line.

The Commission took a break at 11:00 a.m. and returned at 11:15 a.m.

13. **Update on permits for demolition of structures on WRRTC property in Arena, WI** – Dorscheid reported that the contractor selected for this project at the February 2009 WRRTC meeting couldn’t meet the necessary conditions (insurance levels and a flagger) and backed out. Dorscheid got a new quote by another contractor and confirmed that this new contractor could meet the necessary conditions. The new bid is for \$8500 from Spurley Construction. If bid is too high, Dorscheid recommends that we open the bid publicly, or ask WSOR to do the work (Lucht offered that WSOR doesn’t have the time/resources right now). Arena verbally agreed to provide a flagger for 2 days, no formal action.
- **Motion to approved Spurley Construction bid, unless it’s in violation of minimum bid - Polyock / Van Schwartz / passed unanimously.**

FOLLOW-UP: Seeboth will check with WRRTC Legal Council on minimum bid rules and have Council draft a contract and coordinate permits.
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14. **Track removal request, Phillips Boulevard (US 12) in Sauk City** – Ken Swanson, Strand Associates
- **Motion to approve request to remove one section of track to make this project happen at non WRRTC nor WSOR expense- Gaalswijk / Polyock / passed unanimously.**
15. **Motion adjourning the meeting at 11:45 a.m. - Cornford / Van Schwartz / passed unanimously.**