

WRRTC MAY 5, 2023 MEETING MINUTES – Approved June 9, 2023

**Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission
Commission Meeting – Friday, May 5, 2023 at 10:00 am
Hill Farms State Office Building – Madison, WI**

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

Crawford	Carl Orr, <i>2nd Vice Chair</i>	X	Jefferson	Mary Roberts	<i>Excused</i>
	Mark Gilberts	X		John Kannard, <i>Vice Secretary</i>	X
	Tom Cornford	X		Kathy Bahner	X
				Jeff Smith, <i>Alternate</i>	X
Dane	Kevin Potter	X	Rock	Russ Podzilni	X
	Jeff Huttenburg, <i>Treasurer</i>	X		Tom Brien	X
	Jim Bolitho	X		Alan Sweeney, <i>Chair</i>	X
Grant	Gary Ranum	X	Sauk	Brian Peper	X
	Mike Lieurance	X		Gaile Burchill, <i>2nd Vice Treasurer</i>	X
	Robert Scallon, <i>1st Vice Chair</i>	<i>Excused</i>		Marty Krueger	X
				Tim McCumber, <i>Alternate</i>	<i>Excused</i>
Green	Harvey Kubly, <i>1st Vice Treasurer</i>	X	Walworth	Al Stanek	<i>Absent</i>
	Todd Larson	X		Richard Kuhnke, <i>2nd Vice Secretary</i>	<i>Excused</i>
	Kurt Schafer	X		Allan Polyock	<i>Excused</i>
Iowa	Charles Anderson, <i>Secretary</i>	X	Waukesha	Dick Mace, <i>3rd Vice Treasurer</i>	X
	Kate Reimann	X		Richard Morris	<i>Excused</i>
	Kevin Peterson	X		Karl Nilson	<i>Excused</i>

Commission met quorum, 24 commissioners present, 2 absent, and 6 excused.

Others present for all or some of the meeting:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Misty Molzof, <i>SWWRPC</i> • Lisa Stern & Rich Kedzior, <i>WisDOT</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alan Anderson, <i>Pink Lady RTC</i>
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3. Action Item. **Certification of Meeting’s Public Notice – Noticed by Molzof.**
 - *Motion to approve meeting’s public notice – Mace/Cornford. Passed Unanimously.*
4. Action Item. **Approval of Agenda – Prepared by Molzof.**
 - *Motion to approve the agenda. Larson/Reiman. – Passed Unanimously.*
5. Action Item. **Approval of draft April 7 Meeting Minutes – Prepared by Molzof.**
 - *Motion to approve the April 7, 2023 meeting minutes with minor punctuation corrections. Mace/Burchill. Passed Unanimously.*
6. Updates. **Public Comment – Time for public comment may be limited by the Chair.**
None.
7. Updates. **Announcements by Commissioners**
None

REPORTS & COMMISSION BUSINESS

8. WRRTC Financial Report – Huttenburg, Treasurer

Huttenburg distributed a revised revenue/expense statement and the 2024 preliminary budget. March disbursements were \$1,164.00, and receipts were \$16,013.75 leaving the checking account with a balance of \$32,749.86, and local government investment pool received \$4,696.96 in interest and \$30,000 from Dane County, ending balance \$1,221,147.36, total cash available of \$1,253,897.22. There are no bills for approval at this time. Huttenburg presented the 2024 draft budget: 5% increase in SWWRPC management fees, 12% increase in audit services, 5% increase for insurance, and at 296% increase in legal services to cover possible litigation as previously discussed. With interest rates on the rise and increasing cash balances, interest was increased in the amount to balance the budget. The 2024 budget will be brought back in June for discussion, and will be adopted in July.

- *Motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Peper/Anderson. Passed Unanimously.*

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9. **Wisconsin & Southern Railroad's Report on Operations – Lucht, WSOR**

Report submitted via email and copies distributed at meeting. Report included information on flood conditions, weed control, Merrimac Bridge, Prairie Subdivision rail project, private crossings, United Cooperative project in Boscobel, the new Janesville locomotive shop, and a Hi-Rail Trip planned for SWWRPC staff. Lucht also submitted information pertaining to 3rd property damage to Structure B-259, WSOR's Reedsburg Subdivision that occurred on April 9, 2023.

10. **WisDOT Report – Stern - WisDOT.**

Stern provided copies of a site visit report of WSOR Bridge 334 repairs in Merrimac and stated that this project is on track to finish timely (by 5/1/2025), and they are moving at an accelerated rate. Stern also updated Commission on upcoming personnel changes which included Rich Kedzior as the new passenger rail program manager and the real estate position is closed and under review. The operating certificate for the Grant Walking Trail will expire, and WisDOT will be working on a plan to remove the rails and ties.

11. **WRRTC Correspondence/Communications and Administrator's Report – Molzof, Admin.**

None.

12. **Private Rail Crossing Permit Applications**

None.

13. **Applications / Permits to Construct / Operate, and Maintain Utility Facilities, if any.**

None.

14. **Closed Session – Adjourn to closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. sec. 19.85(1)(g), which permits the Commission to convene in closed session for the purpose of conferring with legal counsel in rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved, for the purpose of discussing the unauthorized use of Commission-owned property.**

- *Motion to adjourn to closed session at approximately 10:20 am. Kannard/Reimann. Upon roll call vote, passed unanimously.*

15. Meeting properly convened into closed session at 10:20 am.

16. **Open Session – Meeting returned to open session at approximately 10:29 am.**

17. **Adjournment.**

- *Motion to Adjourn at 10:30 am. Cornford/Gilberts. Passed Unanimously.*