

WRRTC MARCH 8, 2024 MEETING MINUTES – APPROVED APRIL 5, 2024

**Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission
Commission Meeting – Friday, March 8, 2024 at 10:00 am**

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	X
	Mark Gilberts	X		John Kannard, <i>Vice Secretary</i>	X
	Tom Cornford	<i>Excused</i>		VACANT	X
				Jeff Smith, <i>Alternate</i>	X
Dane	Kevin Potter	X	Rock	Russ Podzinski	VACANT
	Jeff Huttenburg, <i>Treasurer</i>	X		Tom Brien	<i>Excused</i>
	Jim Bolitho	X		Alan Sweeney, <i>Chair</i>	X
Grant	Gary Ranum	X	Sauk	Brian Peper	<i>Excused</i>
	Mike Lieurance	<i>Excused</i>		Gaile Burchill, <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	Al Stanek	X
	Todd Larson	X		Richard Kuhnke, <i>2nd Vice Secretary</i>	X
	Kurt Schafer	X		Allan Polyock	X
Iowa	Charles Anderson, <i>Secretary</i>	X	Waukesha	Rick Beutler, <i>3rd Vice Treasurer</i>	X
	Kate Reimann	Virtual		Richard Morris	X
	Kevin Peterson	X		Karl Nilson	<i>Excused</i>

Commission met quorum.

Others present for all or some of the meeting:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Misty Molzof, SWWRPC • Eileen Brownlee & Julia Potter, Attorneys • Lisa Stern & Ben Mohlke, WisDOT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ken Lucht, WSOR • Alan Anderson, Pink Lady RTC • Chris James, Dane County (Virtual)
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3. Action Item. **Certification of Meeting’s Public Notice – Noticed by Molzof.**
 - *Motion to approve meeting’s public notice – Larson/Morris. Passed Unanimously.*
4. Action Item. **Approval of Agenda – Prepared by Molzof.**
 - *Motion to approve the agenda. Krueger/Burchill. – Passed Unanimously.*
5. Action Item. **Approval of draft February 9, 2024 Meeting Minutes – Prepared by Molzof.**
 - *Motion to approve the February 9, 2024 meeting minutes adding “Link” to O. Winston’s name under announcements by Commissioners. Burchill/Kuhnke. Passed Unanimously.*
6. Updates. **Public Comment – Time for public comment may be limited by the Chair.**
None.

7. Updates. **Announcements by Commissioners**

Jeff Smith stated that while assisting with an estate settlement, he has access to a case of 1952 Lionel Train catalogs, and if anyone is interested, please get in touch with him.

REPORTS & COMMISSION BUSINESS

8. **WRRTC Financial Report – Huttenburg, Treasurer**
 - *Motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Morris/Kanard. Passed Unanimously.*
 - *Motion to approve payment of bills: Boardman & Clark \$4,002.00 (2023-\$2,875.00 and 2024-\$1,127) and Johnson & Block \$1,050.00 (2022 Audit done in 2023). Ranum/Orr. Passed Unanimously.*

Huttenburg summarized the financial statements for month ending January 31, 2024.

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

Lucht supplied commission with 2023 production totals including 2023 maintenance and capital expenditures report and 2024 track maintenance plan. 2024 is expected to exceed 2023 in spending with work on the Merrimac Bridge and Baraboo Bridge in progress. The Fox Lake Sub has been

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very busy, and there will be a lot of updating over the next 5 years. Bolitho asked Lucht to send detail on the Fox Lake Sub mile post where work will be occurring in 2024. Crews spray 700 miles of track for weeds, trim brush, and perform geometry testing on every foot of rail every year. Lucht stated that the Reedsburg Sub work is associated with tie projects and there is a state project planned in 2024.

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

Mohlke reported that the Merrimac Bridge project is going well, one large span has been manufactured and Kedzior will send more information; the Janesville Bridge MOU is expected within the next couple of days, once approved and signed by UP and WisDOT, it will need to be reviewed and approved by the WRRTC, the FRA requires encumbered by June 30th, design could take about a year, and work could possibly begin in 2026.

11. **Committee Updates - Trail Committee and/or Litigation Committee**

Krueger stated that the Sauk County agreement has been shared with Dane County, Dane County has agreed to the template with minor changes, it is now in WRRTC attorney hands for review, and will be a future agenda item. The Trail Committee will review the removal contract and make recommendation to full commission. Chris James, Dane County, stated that they are compiling the public comments received and will update the Commission soon, and MSA estimate was about \$5,800 to procure bids.

12. **Attorney Updates - Attorney Brownlee Retirement**

Commission received letter of retirement from Attorney Eileen Brownlee at Boardman & Clark. Commission thanked Brownlee for her 40 years of service and wished her well in retirement. Brownlee will attend April and May meeting with pending retirement date in May, 2024.

13. **Permits / Applications for approval, if any –**

- Temporary Authorization Permit (TAP), Krupp GC, LLC, 131 South Fair Oaks, Madison.
 - *Motion to approve the TAP as presented with changes as directed by Stern, see packet. Kannard/Gilberts. Passed Unanimously.*

14. **Undocumented Private Rail Crossings – WSOR or Attorney**

- *Motion to request WSOR provide a sample of the letter with specifics they intend to send regarding unpermitted crossing for Commission review. Orr/Huttenburg. Passed Unanimously.*

Lucht stated that there are over 200 private undocumented/unpermitted crossings which are a huge liability to the railroad; there needs to be agreements in place; the draft prepared by WRRTC attorney is a good starting point and WSOR looks forward to working together to get these crossings in compliance. Lucht stated that WSOR intends to start on the Waukesha Sub and provide Commission with updates on the process, and continued discussion on farm crossings and the variations needs to occur.

15. **Offer to purchase, McHenry Co., IL, Parcel #04-22-100-006**

Potter stated that this is a standard boiler plate letter, and no follow-up or action is recommended.

16. **Baraboo Installation of Sewer Line on Baraboo Bridge – WSOR & Wis DOT**

Lucht stated that WSOR has been trying for months to work with Baraboo in getting the sanitary sewer removed; there are 66 holes in the bench wall, 11 of which penetrated rebar; Baraboo needs to mitigate the damage that they caused, fortunately we had a mild winter; however, this needs to be resolved before the freeze/thaw really affects the bridge. There have been meetings with Baraboo, WSOR, and WisDOT over the last couple of weeks; the city has a directional bore just north of the line; another meeting is scheduled for March 15th where Baraboo should provide a plan, solution, and timeframe for compliance. Stern stated that the city is claiming to have no money and they are in process of applying for federal and state grants.

17. **Adjournment.**

- *Motion to Adjourn at 11:15 pm. Scallon/Polyock. Passed Unanimously.*