

PINK LADY RAIL TRANSIT COMMISSION

<http://www.co.sauk.wi.us/pinklady/pink-lady-rail-transit-commission>

Meeting - Tuesday April 7, 2015 @ 10:00am
Sauk County Courthouse West Square Rm B24
Baraboo, WI
Draft Minutes

Attendance:

Commissioners Present: Chair Anderson, Vice Chair Kasper, John Geoghegan, Treas. Dick Whitehurst, Elmer Ellis

Not present: Erik Johnson, Sec. Rockett, Tracy Taggart.

Others Present: Ken Lucht-WSOR, Dave Simons and Kimberly Tollers- WisDOT Rails, Dick Goddard-LSRHA, , Ed Geick - City of Baraboo, Dave Considine – 81st Assembly

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am by Chair Anderson. Introduction of visitors and members.

Certification of open meeting law.

Meeting was certified as having met the requirements of the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law.

Approval of Agenda.

Motion by Whitehurst, seconded by Ellis to approve the agenda. Carried.

Approval of Draft Minutes Dec 2, 2014.

Motion by Ellis, seconded by Kasper to approve December minutes. Carried.

Treasurer's Report.

Bal. \$1,816.87

Motion by Geoghegan, seconded by Kasper to approve treasurers' report. Carried.

Chairman's report.

-Attended the last 4 WRRTC meetings.

- Discussion on the condition of the tracks from Madison to Reedsburg. It's in pretty good shape considering. The bridge is still a concern.

-Reiterated on rail improvements and maintaining the States biennium budget. His concern that an erosion in state funding will dangerously delay repair on the Merrimac bridge.

WSOR (WATCO) report. Ken Lucht

-Ken talked about bridge repairs for 2015

- 22 bridges should be worked on with state grant funds

-WSOR spends about \$9-\$10 million on repair above and beyond monies spent with state grant money.

Ken handed out a fact sheet on the miles of track and what weight the rail is. In the case of Madison to Reedsburg a majority of the mileage is 100# rail.

- WSOR has an application in to DOT for 30,000 new ties on the Madison to Reedsburg line.

-Traffic is up on the entire system.

WisDOT

Reported by Dave Simon

-Dave reported on the state Biennial budget status. DOT requested \$60million. The Governor has recommended \$43 million.

-State DOT has set a goal of bringing 95% of the state owned rail to class II status. It is currently at 58%. This will take many years at current funding.

Old Business – None to report

New Business

-Discussion on TIGER grant VII(7) applications.

- Chair will draft a letter of support from the PLRTC.

- No Wisconsin awarded TIGER grants for 2014. Motion made by Kasper seconded by Ellis to support for TIGER grants.

-Discussion on Sate Biennial budget. Chair will draft a letter of support of the original request for \$60 million with an additional request that anything short of the current proposed \$43 million would be disastrous to future much needed rail improvements. Motion made by Kasper seconded by Ellis to support for \$60 million request in the upcoming biennial budget.

Local Reports.

Reedsburg

-No report

Baraboo

-RR Donnelley busy, business is stable. Lots of steel coming into the can plant.

Prairie du Sac

-No updates

Rock Springs

-All wheat inventory gone. Other grain inventory is ok.

Sauk County Development

- No report.

-Outlook good. Some interest in business relocating to Sauk County.

Legislative

-Representative Considine was here to learn and was supportive of the needs to fund rail repairs.

Public Comments.

-New LSRHA building is basically done except for the lawn. .

- Noted on the diversity of freight coming into villages on the WSOR line.

Next meeting

August 4th, 2014 West Square Building, Baraboo. Rm B24

Adjourned

Moved by Ellis, seconded by Anderson to adjourn at 11:10 am. Carried.

Alan Anderson recording for Doug Rockett.