

WRRTC JANUARY 10, 2025 MEETING MINUTES – APPROVED 3/7/2025

**Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission
Commission Meeting – Friday, January 10, 2025 at 10:00 am**

1. 10:00 AM **Call to Order – Marty Krueger, Chair**

2. Roll Call. **Establishment of Quorum – Misty Molzof, Admin**

Crawford	Carl Orr, <i>1st Vice Chair</i>	X	Jefferson	Mary Roberts	X
	Mark Gilberts	X		John Kannard, <i>Vice Secretary</i>	X
	Tom Cornford	Excused		Jeff Smith	X
				Dan Herbst, <i>Alternate</i>	Alternate
Dane	Kevin Potter	X	Rock	Dave Homan, <i>2nd Vice Treasurer</i>	X
	Jeff Huttenburg, <i>Treasurer</i>	X		Tom Brien	X
	Jim Bolitho	X		Kevin Stone	Excused
Grant	David Wiederholt	X	Sauk	Brian Peper	X
	Mike Lieurance	X		Gaile Burchill	X
	Robert Scallon, <i>2nd Vice Chair</i>	X		Marty Krueger, <i>Chair</i>	X
				Tim McCumber, <i>Alternate</i>	Virtual
Green	Harvey Kubly, <i>1st Vice Treasurer</i>	X	Walworth	Al Stanek	Excused
	Larry Kranig	Excused		Richard Kuhnke, <i>2nd Vice Secretary</i>	X
	Mark Gundlach	X		Allan Polyock	Virtual
Iowa	Charles Anderson, <i>Secretary</i>	X	Waukesha	Rick Beutler, <i>3rd Vice Treasurer</i>	X
	Kate Reimann	X		Richard Morris	X
	Craig Hardy	Excused		Karl Nilson	Excused

Commission met quorum.

Others present for all or some of the meeting:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Misty Molzof, SWWRPC • Ben Mohlke & Mike Finkenbinder, WisDOT • Ken Lucht & Brain Baird (Virtual), WSOR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don Vruwink, OCR • Alan Anderson, Pink Lady RTC • Hayden Peper, Visitor • Kevin Dospoy, Deputy Director Forward Analytics
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3. Informational. **Certification of Meeting’s Public Notice – Noticed by Molzof.**

4. Action Item. **Approval of Agenda – Prepared by Molzof.**

- *Motion to approve the agenda as posted. Scallon/Lieurance. – Passed Unanimously.*

5. Action Item. **Approval of draft December 6, 2024 Meeting Minutes – Prepared by Molzof.**

- *Motion to approve the December 6, 2024 meeting minutes with the changes as noted regarding attendance, and grammatical corrections under #10 & #11. Morris/Kannard. Passed Unanimously.*

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

None.

7. Updates. **Announcements by Commissioners**

Homan passed around a calendar for those that want to send a message to Alan Sweeney. Krueger stated that Kevin Dospoy is here due to comments from Iowa County last month and may be in discussions with the executive committee (possible meeting end of January) as they related to future funding and annual membership fees.

REPORTS & COMMISSION BUSINESS

8. **Update, Discussion, and Possible Action on strategy as it relates to the possible litigation regarding City of Baraboo – Baird, Attorney.**

8a. Consideration of and action on possible motion to adjourn to closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. Sec. 19.85(1)(g), which permits the Commission to convene into closed session for the purpose of conferring with legal counsel for the government body as stated under Action Item #8. – Krueger, Chair.

- *Motion to adjourn to closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. Sec. 19.85(1)(g) as noted above allowing WSOR attorneys and representatives to stay. Orr/Morris. Upon Roll Call Vote, Motion Passed Unanimously.*

Meeting adjourned to closed session at approximately 10:13 am.

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Meeting reconvened into open session at approximately 10:23 am.

8d. Possible action on closed session matter, Agenda Item #8. – Krueger, Chair.

- *None.*

9. WRRTC Financial Report – Huttenburg, Treasurer

- *Motion to approve the November, 2024 Treasurer’s Report as presented and pay bills: \$30.00 to Richgels-Schaefer Agency, Inc for annual treasurer bond renewal, and \$97,686.55 to WSOR for 2024 funding request #4 for the Merrimac Bridge out of project funds. Anderson/Kannard. Passed Unanimously.*

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

Lucht stated that maintenance is complete for the season; crews are working on brush cutting; revenue and car loads were down significantly in 2024 due to grain movement; however, WSOR controlled costs by eliminating discretionary spending in 3rd and 4th quarter, 2024; WSOR is working on 2025 grants to Wis DOT that are due by February 1st for continued investment into WRRTC infrastructure; 2025 WSOR new customers include Lycon in Osh Kosh and United Coop in Waupun, along with possible opportunities on the West Bend Sub; and commissioners can help themselves to the annual WSOR calendars.

11. WisDOT Report – Mohlke - WisDOT.

Mohlke reported that the Freight Rail Grant deadline is on February 1, 2025; Merrimac Bridge project is progressing, contractor is pouring concrete and working on piers, and a ribbon cutting may be in the next few months; Janesville bridge preliminary engineering work is in process; and introduced Mike Fickenbinder, Programming Supervisor, Rails and Harbors Section. Fickenbinder stated that he has been with WisDOT 12 years in the highway maintenance section, and then was with the highway manager program, and is now looking forward to working in the Rails and Harbors Section.

12. Permits/Licenses - Administrator

- *Motion to approve the extension of time on existing permit #2023-03 for TDS Telecom, City of Fitchburg, Dane County, WI. Kannard/Burchill. Passed Unanimously.*

13. Approve annual payment amount on offer to use agreement with Popenhagen - Huttenburg

- *Motion to approve increase in the annual lease amount by 3% as allowed in the contract to \$371.30 for 2025. Scallon/Reimann. Passed Unanimously.*

14. Adjournment.

- *Motion to Adjourn at 10:45 am. Kannard/Kubly. Passed Unanimously.*

Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:45 am.