

SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN RAIL TRANSIT COMMISSION

PO Box 262 • 20 S Court Street • Platteville, Wisconsin 53818
 Harvey Kubly, Chair • Commission Office Phone 608.342.1637 • Fax 608.342.1220 MEMBER
 COUNTIES: DANE • GREEN

**Wednesday, May 25, 2022, 2:00 PM,
 Green County Courthouse, Second Floor Courtroom, Monroe WI
 Online and by Phone via ZOOM**

1. **2:00 Call to Order** – *Harvey Kubly, Chair*
2. Roll Call. **Establishment of Quorum** – *Matthew Honer, SCWRTC Administrator*

	Commission members present for all/part of meeting:		Others present for all/part of meeting:
Dane County	Jay Allen	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matthew Honer - Admin. Drew Hanson, Brandon Braithwaite – WIDNR Dan Tyhes – WisDOT. Jim Bolitho Leon Maurer Bill Olson
	Roger Hillebrand, <i>Vice Chair</i>	<i>absent</i>	
Green County	Harvey Kubly, <i>Chair</i>	X	
	Todd Larson	X	
	Kurt Schafer	X	

3. Action Item. **Certification of Meeting’s Public Notice** – *Prepared by Honer*
 - Motion to approve certification of meeting –Allen/Schafer. Passed Unanimously*
4. Action Item. **Approval of Agenda** – *Prepared by Honer*
 - Motion to approve agenda. – Allen/Larson. Passed Unanimously*
5. Action Item. **Approval of draft January 2022 meeting minutes** – *Prepared by Honer.*
 - Motion to approve January 2022 draft minutes – Allen/Schafer. Larson Abstained. Passed.*
6. Updates. **Announcements by Commissioners**

No announcements

7. Updates. **Public Comment**

No public comment.

8. Action Item. **Election of Officers** – *Honer.*

Honer asked for a nomination for Chair.

- Motion to nominate Harvey Kubly for the position of Chair – Schafer/Larson. Motion to close nominations. – Allen/Schafer. Passed Unanimously*
- Motion to nominate Roger Hillebrand for Vice President – Kubly/Schafer. Motion to close nominations. – Kubly/Allen. Passed Unanimously*
- Motion to nominate Kurt Schafer for the position of Secretary/Treasurer – Kubly/Larson. Motion to close nominations. – Allen/Larson. Passed Unanimously.*

REPORTS & COMMISSION BUSINESS

9. **SCWRTC Financial Report** – *Treasurer.*

Honer presented the financial report and one bill, \$1250 for Q1 Management and Accounting from SWWRPC. Kubly provided background to the new commissioners on the legal services and on the

origins of the SCWRTC income.

- *Motion to approve the treasurer’s report and pay the bills. Allen/Schafer. Passed Unanimously.*

10. WisDOT Report – Kedzior.

Dan Tyhes announced he is new at WisDOT Rails and Harbors and will be working on property and GIS projects. The City of Madison is scheduled to send letters this month to adjacent property owners who are encroaching. WisDOT will be joining the City of Madison on an inspection trip.

11. WIDNR Report – Drew Hanson, WIDNR.

Hanson announced that the Parks department is very busy opening up for the summer season at the moment and will have an in depth report at the next meeting.

12. SCWRTC Administrator’s Report – Honer, SCWRTC Admin.

Honer reported he has had additional conversations with Dane County regarding the appointment of a commissioner to fill the vacancy but they have not provided an update on a time of appointment for the individual interested. There has been ongoing discussions regarding private crossings in both the PRTC and WRRTC and the adoption of some sort of policy in those organizations in the coming months is expected. He will share this with the SCWRTC as the existing crossing agreements have issues. Honer will reach out to the new commissioners in the coming months to further introduce them to the Rail Transit Commissions.

Honer reported that the Fish Hatchery location is again open for meetings and the Belleville Library had also invited the Commission back. Honer will reach out to the commissioners individually to get a sense of their preferences.

13. Discussion and Action on Stewart Tunnel Alternatives Analysis – Drew Hanson, WIDNR.

Hanson walked through the alternatives analysis, including through the options that were identified in the engineering report and how they would impact a variety of aspects of the tunnel including historical significance, endangered species, and economic impact.

Allen stated he felt alternative 2 is a short-term solution and felt options 3,4, and 5 were better options. Allen stated he felt alternative 4 was the best option. Kubly asked if WIDNR had an idea about high maintenance costs and if WIDNR had any idea about the costs. Larson stated he would like to see the least invasive and expense approach necessary to preserve access, historical integrity, and bat habitat. Schafer stated he agrees that netting or other ability to preserve the safety of the structure and the bats. He believes that doors and netting would achieve a lot and if netting needed to be redone, it could be redone.

- *Motion that signifies SCWRTC’s opinion that Alternative 2 is the best presented option in the alternative analysis report. Schafer/Larson. Passes.*

Jay stated that he would not support the option because of the cost of maintenance. Larson stated that the netting and doors are a base point to start

		Commission members present for all/part of meeting:	
Dane County	Jay Allen		<i>No</i>
	Roger Hillebrand, <i>Vice Chair</i>		<i>absent</i>
Green County	Harvey Kubly, <i>Chair</i>		Yes
	Todd Larson		Yes
	Kurt Schafer		Yes

Bill Olson, a member of the public, stated SCWRTC’s opinion will hold a lot of sway and would like to see additional time taken after public comment is received. Larson clarified SCWRTC is only offering its opinion based on what has been presented to- date. Jim Bolithoom, a member of the public, asked if timber, Gunite, and Shotcrete were considered as part of the engineering report and

that he believes there are additional options that appear to have not been considered in the report.

14. Discussion and Action on Private Crossing Agreement for driveway access in Monticello, WI. – Honer.

The issues came about due to a property owner seeking to sell their property in Monticello. A survey identified the railroad right-of-way in this location is 200', which would include an existing driveway that three properties use to access their properties. Honer stated that the crossing agreement is modeled after what was used in Illinois and what is used for the PRTC-owned right-of-way. SCWRTC's counsel has reviewed the agreement and approved it. The Commission received payment for the application fee.

Larson stated that he would like to work towards cleaning up the language on the crossing agreement.

- *Motion to approve the private crossing license as presented pending final signatures. Allen/Schafer. Passed Unanimously.*

15. Discussion and Action on Resolution 2022-1, recognizing the contributions of Oscar Olson to SCWRTC - Kubly, WIDNR.

WHEREAS, the South Central Wisconsin Rail Transit Commission (SCWRTC), consisting of the counties of Dane and Green, has as its purpose the preservation and continuance of rail service on the system of rail lines extending between Madison, Wisconsin and Freeport, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Oscar Olson served as a Commissioner of the SCWRTC representing Green County, from 2002 to 2022, and in that capacity, served as the Commissions' Treasurer and Secretary, and made significant contributions during that time; and

WHEREAS, the SCWRTC, its member counties, and the State of Wisconsin have received innumerable benefits from the dedicated service of Oscar Olson over the many years of his service as a commissioner; and

WHEREAS, it is the opinion of the WRTC that this body should testify to and recognize the contributions of Oscar Olson to the goals of the SCWRTC and to the preservation of railroad service in southern Wisconsin.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the SCWRTC, in legal session assembled, does hereby extend our heartiest thanks and our heartfelt gratitude, and our very best wishes to our friend, Oscar Olson; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be set forth upon the minutes of this meeting, and that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to Oscar Olson as testimony to the great esteem and honor in which we hold him.

- *Motion to approve resolution 2022-1, recognizing the contributions of Oscar Olson to the SCWRTC. Allen/Larson. Passed Unanimously.*

16. Action Item – Adjournment

- *Motion to adjourn at 3:46 pm – Schafer/Allen. Passed Unanimously.*