

## MINUTES

Chippewa-St. Croix Passenger Rail Commission  
Monday, April 25, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.

Present: Ann Schell, Eric Anderson, Erik Evenson, Gary Stene, Jeremy Gragert, Jim Dunning, Lowell Prange, Tiffany Weiss, Tracy Carlson, Scott Rogers

Others: Samantha Kraegenbrink, Eric Anderson, Sharon McIlquham, Gretchen Yonko (Menomonie City Council), Mason Baxter (AIPRO)

### Call to Order and confirmation of meeting notice

Chair Dunning called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. and confirmed meeting notice.

### Roll Call and Introductions

The Committee Clerk called the roll and the commission provided self-introductions.

### Public Comment

No members of the public wished to make comment.

### Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion by Gary Stene to approve the March 2, 2022, meeting minutes as presented. No deletions, additions, or corrections. Minutes were approved by voice vote. (Jeremy Gragert abstained.)

### Bringing the commission up to date on current passenger rail developments and activities: Scott Rogers, West Central Wisconsin Rail Coalition

Scott Rogers shared a presentation with an update on current passenger rail developments and activities.

Role of the Commission (see **3. Purpose** in the draft bylaws)

Scott Rogers provided an overview of the purpose of the commission which included:

- Identify the public benefits of passenger rail and other public transportation improvements to connect the Chippewa/St. Croix region to the Twin Cities, as well as Madison, Milwaukee, and Chicago
- Identify, support, and facilitate initiatives to implement passenger rail service, including public-private partnerships, sponsors, operators, Federal and State funding opportunities, relationships among governments and stakeholders, feasibility studies, and the like.
- Pursue opportunities for transit-orientated development, value capture financing, and other community-related benefits at station locations to ensure the fullest possible economic benefits from service implementation.

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- Foster cooperation among Wisconsin and Minnesota governments, agencies, and other entities. Determine the long-term role of the Commission, or other organization that might be created to coordinate public involvement in the service, including any legislative or other action that might be needed. Participate in determining the appropriate project roles for the Commission, state DOTs, counties and municipalities, private partners, real estate developers, and advocacy or educational organizations like the West Central Rail Coalition.
- Determine and coordinate zoning, environmental, safety, and other regulatory-related requirements.
- Participate in current and future planning processes, including the Wisconsin and Minnesota State Rail Plans, Federal Railroad Administration Midwest Corridor Study, and the local MPO.

### **Organizational activities – bylaws, incorporation stakeholders beyond local governments**

The commission briefly reviewed the proposed bylaws. Scott Rogers moves to adopt the bylaws, seconded by Jeremy Gragert to approve. All in favor, bylaws approved.

### **Future Meeting dates/format**

Gary Stene will provide meeting dates/times to meet regularly in-person/virtual meetings that can be hosted at the Dunn County Government Center.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Samantha Kraegenbrink – Assistant to the County Administrator (Eau Claire County)