

MINUTES

Chippewa-St. Croix Passenger Rail Commission

Wednesday, March 2, 2022, at 3:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Present: Ann Schell, Arun Rao, Erik Evenson, Gary Stene, Jim Dunning, Rob Krejci, Scott Rogers, Tiffany Weiss, Tracy Carlson, Lowell Prange

Others: Samantha Kraegenbrink – Committee Clerk, Gregg Baxter, Jeff Abboud, Kathryn Schauf, Mark Quam, Mason Baxter, Ray Chambers, Sharon McIlquham, Tim Sullivan

Public: Jackie Pavelski

Call to Order and confirmation of meeting notice

Chair Dunning called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

Roll Call with municipality

The committee clerk called the roll which is listed above under present.

Public Comment

No members of the public wished to make comment.

Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion by Rob Krejci, seconded by Gary Stene to approve the minutes from July 15, 2021. No deletions, corrections, or additions. Minutes were approved by voice vote.

Bringing the commission up to date on current activities and events

Scott Rogers provided an update from the West Central Wisconsin Rail Coalition.

Update on federal funding and state/national passenger rail development activities

Arun Rao, WisDOT provided an update on federal funding.

- The bill that passed increasing funding for Amtrak, new equipment, etc. Funding requires a minimum of 20% match, with multiple grant opportunities opening over the next five years.
- FRA working to develop a pipeline program and currently has a RFI for input on how to design the program.
- Update on Chicago – Milwaukee – Minneapolis passenger rail.
- WisDOT received operating grant from FRA

Ray Chambers, Association for Innovative Passenger Rail Operators (AIPRO)

- Discussed resources that could be available to this project.
- Ray Chambers will provide comments to this Commission on the FRA request for input.
- Urging competition mandate where possible.
- Creating a register of potential projects across the country.

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- Suggests doing a feasibility study.

Bylaws

All will ensure Corporation Counsel of respective county review bylaws. Scott Rogers suggests the bylaws be written in a way the Commission can set a schedule and choose for the meeting to be in person, hybrid, or virtual. Tim will draft the addition and Eau Claire Administration will provide to the commission. Additionally, add wording about how the commission is funded.

Next Steps

- Agenda items
 - i. Updates
 - ii. Bylaws
 - iii. Potential Station Locations
 - iv. Market Sounding Event follow up
- Future meeting dates
 - i. Samantha will send out a doodle poll for the next meeting (general availability and next meeting (5-6 weeks out))

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Samantha Kraegenbrink
Assistant to the County Administrator