

AGENDA

Chippewa-St. Croix Passenger Rail Commission
Wednesday, December 14, 2022, at 8:30 a.m.

Dunn County Board Room
Room 54 of the
Dunn County Government Center,
3001 US Highway 12 East in Menomonie, Wisconsin

Virtual:

<https://dunncountywi.zoom.us/j/93932291665?pwd=NXIrdWlpakZDKzQvYllyTHQ4TzRXQT09>

Meeting ID: 939 3229 1665

Passcode: 631783

1. Call to Order and confirmation of meeting notice
2. Roll Call
 - Voting Members
 - Ex-officio Members
3. Public Comment
4. Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes – **Discussion/Action**
 - October 26, 2022
5. Market Sounding Update – **Discussion**
6. Commission Budget – **Discussion/Action**
7. Agenda items for future meetings - **Discussion**
8. Future Meeting dates – **Discussion/Action**
9. Adjourn

Prepared by: Samantha Kraegenbrink – Assistant to the County Administrator

Please note: Upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through sign language, interpreters or other auxiliary aids. For additional information or to request the service, contact the County ADA Coordinator at 839-6945 (FAX) 839-1669 or (TDD) 839-4735 or by writing to the ADA Coordinator, Human Resources Department, Eau Claire County Courthouse, 721 Oxford Ave., Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54703.

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Chippewa-St. Croix Passenger Rail Commission
Wednesday, October 26, 2022, at 8:30 a.m.

Present (Members): Jeremy Gragert, Gretchen Yonko, Tracy Carlson, Taylor Greenwell, Erik Evensen, Gary Stene, Robbie Krejci, Jim Dunning, Scott Rogers, Ann Schell

Present (Ex-officio): Eric Anderson, Erik Guenard, Trista MatasCastillo, Bambi Pattermann, Lindsey Douglas, Beth Schommer, Adam Wehling

Others: Ray Chambers (AIPRO), William Anderson (Rail Coalition), Mason Baxter, Ethan Osteen, Peter Schwartz (FRA), Daniel Elder (Washington County), Evelyn Nelson, Gregg Baxter, Kathryn Schauf, Sharon McIlquham, Samantha Kraegenbrink, Katie Jackson (at 8:48 a.m.)

Call to Order and confirmation of meeting notice

Chair Dunning called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and confirmed meeting notice. Samantha Kraegenbrink requested a discussion at a future meeting to determine posting needs for all members of the commission.

Roll Call

Samantha Kraegenbrink called for roll call of voting members and ex-officio members.

Public Comment

No members of the public wished to make comment.

Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 21, 2022

Samantha Kraegenbrink advised that she made small changes to the last bolded item on page 1, adding "Claire" after Eau and removing "Rob Krejci Yonko second" at the end. Motion by Gary Stene to approve minutes as corrected; seconded by Gretchen Yonko. All in favor, minutes approved.

Corridor Identification and Development Program – Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)

Peter Schwartz and Winnie from FRA provided background on the Corridor Identification and Development Program and applicant eligibility.

Update on state rail plan

Scott Rogers provided a brief update on the state rail plan from WisDot including their plan to submit expressions of interest and the potential to run a shuttle from Eau Claire/Menomonie to Tomah for the new rail that is being implemented.

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Chippewa-St. Croix Passenger Rail Commission

Wednesday, October 26, 2022, at 8:30 a.m.

Update on the status of commitments for funding contributions from Commission Members

- St. Croix County Transportation Committee is not prepared to commit to funding at this time as a financial partner.
- Dunn County will be reviewing the request over the next month.
- City of Altoona requests budget be created to further view where other funds beyond the \$12,000 for market sounding may be used for.
- Village of Baldwin are not prepared to commit to funding at this time as a financial partner.

Report on work plan for the market sounding from Ray Chambers, AIPRO

Ray Chambers advised that AIPRO is submitting a development plan to the FRA for inclusion. Will provide a draft of planning details and the approach to the project, including planning meetings.

Update on site requirements

Ann Schell provided background on site requirements. Samantha Kraegenbrink e-mailed a document to members that included a list of resources to see what involved in development of a station.

Agenda items for future meetings

- Commission Budget
- Discussion of Ray Chambers proposals

Future Meeting dates

The next meeting will be December 14, 2022, at 8:30 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Samantha Kraegenbrink – Eau Claire County

Chippewa-St. Croix Rail Commission

A joint Transportation Commission formed under Wisconsin Statutes 66.0301 to advance the public interest by pursuing passenger rail service for the St. Croix and Chippewa Valley regions of Wisconsin

To: Chippewa-St. Croix Rail Commission

From: Scott Rogers, Commissioner (Appointed by the Chair as the Commission's Project Director for the Market Sounding) rogers@eauclairchamber.org; 715-858-0616 office direct; 715-864-6257 cell

Update – Market Sounding process

I'm writing this update in my role as the Project Director (appointed by the Commission Chair per the contract with RBC) on behalf of the Commission for the Market Sounding project.

Commission Chair Jim Dunning and Commissioner Ann Schell and I have been working with Ray Chambers and Mason Baxter from RBC Transportation Solutions LLC on the implementation of the Market Sounding engagement. As discussions have moved forward with the AIPRO member carriers and the host railroad, Union Pacific, a two-stage process has emerged.

1. Host Railroad Meeting: Because of the critical nature of the relationship with Union Pacific regarding prospective terms for the use of its infrastructure, anticipated operational issues, and potential needs for capital improvements, RBC recommended a pre-meeting with UP before the full Market Sounding event. This meeting has been scheduled for Monday, December 12, with key officials at UP's headquarters in Omaha. Scott Rogers will attend in person on behalf of the Commission, along with Ray Chambers and Mason Baxter from RBC, and representatives of the AIPRO member contract operators. Jim Dunning and Ann Schell will attend remotely. Some of the meeting topics will be confidential that involve the potential commercial relationship between the contract operators and UP regarding the service implementation.

2. Full Market Sounding event: The discussions with UP will set the stage for the full Market Sounding event, which is now anticipated to take place in early February. This will include all stakeholders, service and equipment providers, and other interested parties as a prelude to the Commission applying for entry into the FRA corridor program. As FRA representatives indicated at our October 26 Commission meeting, the deadline to apply to enter the program is likely to be mid-March (presuming the program details are published in mid-December as expected).

At our December 14 Commission meeting, we should be able to report on the Union Pacific meeting on Monday and expectations for the Market Sounding. We expect RBC shortly thereafter will get the event scheduled, report on all implantation aspects related to submitting a successful application to FRA, and provide a detailed agenda.

Budget question: As we've previously discussed, the contributions to the Commission from member entities provides some excess funds beyond the contract with RBC to have funds available for other expenses related to the Market Sounding and the Commission's work. Since RBC strongly recommended having the Commission represented in person at the Omaha meeting, I booked a flight and hotel to participate. I would appreciate it if the Commission would consider reimbursing my travel and hotel for the meeting. This would include \$437.50 for the flights, \$104 round trip shuttle to MSP, \$70.31 for lodging in Omaha, plus transportation to and from the Omaha airport. The total will likely be \$630-\$650.