

AGENDA

Chippewa-St. Croix Passenger Rail Commission
Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at 8:30 a.m.

Virtual Meeting

Access:

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

Meeting ID: 927 5844 7322

Passcode: 499502

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**
 - December 14, 2022
5. Market Sounding Update from Ray Chambers– **Information/Discussion**
 - FRA Corridor Identification Program and next steps for the Commission to apply
6. Commission letter to WisDOT regarding the FRA Corridor ID Program – **Discussion/Action**
7. WisDOT Update – **Information/Discussion**
8. West Central Wisconsin Rail Coalition
 - Annual Meeting invitation and details, Thursday, January 26 • 8:30-11:30 a.m. at the CVTC Business Education Center and Online
9. Budget Review/Treasurers Report – **Information/Discussion**
10. Agenda items for future meetings - **Discussion**
11. Future Meeting dates – **Discussion/Action**
12. 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.

MINUTES

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

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

Present (Ex-officio members): Eric Anderson, Lindsey Douglas, Jake Wrasse, Beth Schommer, Adam Wehling, Lisa Stern

Others: Samantha Kraegenbrink, Krista Vind, Matt Manier, Ray Chambers, Evelyn Nelson, Gregg Baxter, Kadi Wright, Kathryn Schauf, Katie Jackson, Kendra Ellner, Mason Baxter, Sharon McIlquham

Call to Order and confirmation of meeting notice

Chair Jim Dunning called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Roll Call

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

Public Comment

No members of the public wished to make comment.

Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 26, 2022

Gary Stene motioned to approve the minutes as amended by Chair Dunning to correct the title of the document from “Agenda” to “Minutes” and an amendment by Scott Rogers to correct the spelling of Winnie to Wynne and to include the last name Davis. With corrections, all members were in favor. Minutes approved.

Market Sounding Update

Scott Rogers provided a brief update followed by Ray Chambers. There have been 90 expressions of interests submitted, including two from this commission. Grants will be coming available with 0% interest. The key is for the commission is to complete an application that the FRA will want to accept for the commission to receive a \$500,000 grant. Timing: FRA will release a solicitation (expected December 15), the application deadline will be 90 days, if accepted, the commission will receive \$500,000. Scott Rogers discussed the possibility of this area being a pilot project.

Commission Budget

Current Commitments:

- Eau Claire County
- City of Menomonie
- Dunn County

MINUTES

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

- Rail Coalition
- City of Eau Claire
- CVTC (\$1,000.00)

The commission reviewed the request from Scott Rogers for reimbursement for a market sounding meeting in Omaha:

\$437.20 Delta Round Trip MSP-OMA (Dec 11-12)
\$104.00 Groome Shuttle Round Trip Eau Claire-MSP
\$ 15.92 Lyft Omaha Airport to Hotel
\$ 70.31 Lodging Hilton Garden Inn (Friends & Family Rate)
\$627.43 Total

Motion by Gary Stene, seconded by Gretchen Yonko. On roll call vote, all in favor and reimbursement is approved.

Agenda items for future meetings

- WisDot State Rail Plan Update
- Station Development (February/March)

Future Meeting dates

- Third Wednesday of each month.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Samantha Kraegenbrink – Eau Claire County

Attest:

Jeremy Gragert – Commission Secretary

For 01/01/22 - 12/31/22

Balance Sheet Detail Report

FJBAD02B

Periods 00 - 13

BALANCE SHEET DETAIL

BAX155

Account No/Description		Debit	Credit

22-100-00-53580-000-005-000-000-000 PASSENGER RAIL			
	* Beginning Balance	.00	.00
* Payments			
<u>DATE</u>	<u>CHECK/CLAIM PO NO.</u>	<u>INVOICE NO.</u>	<u>BATCH VENDOR</u>
12/09/22	0200789972 00046329	22-30	22001936 162762 RBC &
			Total:
		4,000.00	4,000.00
			.00
*Encumbrances			
<u>DATE</u>	<u>PO NO.</u>	<u>CHECK NO.</u>	<u>BATCH VENDOR</u>
11/30/22	00046329		22001921 162762 RBC & ASSOCIATES LLC
12/09/22	00046329		22001936 162762 RBC & ASSOCIATES LLC
			Total:
		12,000.00	12,000.00
		.00	4,000.00
			Total:
		12,000.00	4,000.00
			* Ending Balance
		12,000.00	.00

22-100-05-53580-000-005-000-000-000 PASSENGER RAIL			
	* Beginning Balance	.00	.00
* Journal Entries			
<u>DATE</u>	<u>REFERENCE</u>	<u>BATCH</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
10/31/22	JP10008	22001834	Record ECC Rail Commision Cont
			Total:
		3,000.00	3,000.00
			.00
			Total:
		3,000.00	3,000.00
			* Ending Balance
		3,000.00	.00
TOTAL 100	General Fund	15,000.00	.00
TOTAL 22	YEAR 2022	15,000.00	.00
Grand Totals:			
	Cash Disbursements	4,000.00	.00
	Cash Receipts	.00	.00
	Journal Entries	3,000.00	.00
	Total	7,000.00	.00

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*

Members

- Dunn County
- Eau Claire County
- St. Croix County
- City of Altoona
- Village of Baldwin
- City of Eau Claire
- City of Hudson
- City of Menomonie
- City of New Richmond
- West Central Wisconsin
Rail Coalition

Ex Officio Members

- West Central Wis Regional
Planning Commission
- Wisconsin DOT
- Minnesota DOT
- Union Pacific Railroad
- Ramsey County (MN)
Regional Railroad Authority
- Washington County (MN)
Regional Railroad Authority
- Chippewa Valley Technical
College
- Northwood Technical College
- University of Wisconsin
- Eau Claire
- University of Wisconsin
- River Falls
- University of Wisconsin
- Stout

Chair

Jim Dunning, Eau Claire County

Vice Chair

Gary Stene, Dunn County

Secretary

Jeremy Gragert, City of Eau
Claire

Administrative/Fiscal Agent

Eau Claire County, WI
c/o County Administrator
721 Oxford Ave.
Eau Claire, WI 54703
715-839-5106
admin@eauclairecounty.gov

January 18, 2023

Craig Thompson, Secretary
Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Madison, WI

Dear Secretary Thompson:

The Chippewa-St. Croix Rail Commission respectfully requests the Wisconsin Department of Transportation take the following steps to respond to the December 20, 2022, solicitation of the Federal Railroad Administration for the designation of passenger rail routes for its Corridor Identification and Development Program:

1. Submit, as the primary applicant, the route between Chicago, Milwaukee, Eau Claire, and the Twin Cities. This is a corridor in Wisconsin's State Rail plan, which utilizes the current Amtrak route, and/or a route via Madison, to Camp Douglas, then the Union Pacific Railroad to the Twin Cities.
2. Support and provide technical assistance to the Chippewa-St. Croix Rail Commission for its anticipated application to FRA for a multi-frequency Regional Corridor between Eau Claire and the Twin Cities on the Union Pacific via Menomonie, Baldwin, and Hudson/River Falls.

The Commission submitted each of these routes to FRA as Expressions of Interest on September 21, 2022. Since the through route would represent an extension of and be complementary to the state's current Amtrak-operated passenger rail program, it is most appropriate for WisDOT to take the lead in its planning and implementation. In the case of the Eau Claire-Twin Cities Regional Corridor, the Commission is pursuing an alternate implementation concept, working with potential independent contract operators and the host railroad. It would be important for both of these initiatives to be closely coordinated. WisDOT has the experience, institutional capacity, and key role serving the state's transportation interests that make it appropriate for it undertake both roles that we suggest here.

The Commission, representing Wisconsin counties, municipalities, and stakeholders on the corridor, commits to be closely involved with WisDOT throughout this process, coordinating the involvement of local jurisdictions and committing local staff and resources as feasible. It also will consult closely with WisDOT for its expertise and advice as its Regional Corridor application is completed.

The FRA Corridor Program represents a truly unprecedented opportunity to improve transportation options for Wisconsin citizens. We hope we can look forward to working with WisDOT to make it a reality.

Sincerely,

James Dunning, Chair
Chippewa-St. Croix Rail Commission