

MINUTES

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

Present (voting members): Scott Rogers, Jim Dunning, Gary Stene, Jeremy Gragert, Taylor Greenwell, Gretchen Yonko, Ann Schell

Present (ex-officio): Eric Anderson, Ethan Osten (Ramsey County), Julie Neuhaus (CVTC), Lindsey Douglas, Beth Schommer, Bambi Pattermann, Lisa Stern,

Others: Samantha Kraegenbrink – Committee Clerk, Ray Chambers, Gregg Baxter, Mason Baxter, Kristin Korpela, Kendra Ellner (City of River Falls), Lowell Prange, Daniel Elder (Washington County)

Call to Order and confirmation of meeting notice

Chair Dunning called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and confirmed meeting notice.

Roll Call

The clerk called the roll which is noted above under present.

Public Comment

No members of the public wished to make comment.

Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 14, 2022

Motion by Gary Stene to approve the minutes from December 14, 2022. Scott Rogers requested the following changes:

Under market sounding after “Ray Chambers” add “a summary of the meeting with Union Pacific on December 12.” On the third line after 0%, change “interest” to “match.”

Market Sounding Update from Ray Chambers

Ray Chambers provided supplemental information which was disbursed to the membership to review prior to the meeting. Currently working on application which is step one into the FRA Corridor Identification Program. Deadline for the FRA project submission is March 20, 2023. If application is accepted, the commission will receive \$500,000 grant to allow for further studies.

- 6-week timeline
 - Market Sounding (RBC)
 - 4 planning sessions
 - Application Drafting (short timeline)
 - Invitation Market Sounding general session (planning for Minneapolis)
 - Meeting in Washington DC with FRA staff to review application prior to submission

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Commission letter to WisDOT regarding the FRA Corridor ID Program

Motion by Scott Rogers to approve sending of the letter, seconded by Jeremy Gragert. Purpose is to show to WisDOT our region approves moving forward and working with WisDOT will be critical in the Commission having a successful application. On a roll call vote, 7 yes, 0 no; motion passed.

WisDOT Update

Lisa Stern advised that a draft plan will be published for public comment very soon. TCMC update: designer is working on plans and should be ready to review by the end of February with a virtual update early spring (March.)

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

Budget Review/Treasurers Report

\$12627.43 has been committed with 4627.43 being paid out leaving \$3,372.57. Potential of incidentals for the Market Sounding and travel expenses.

Agenda items for future meetings

- Station Development
- State Rail Plan (submitting comments as a commission)

Future Meeting dates

Third Wednesday of each month. Next meeting is February 15, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30am.

Respectfully submitted by,

Samantha Kraegenbrink – Eau Claire County Assistant to the County Administrator

ATTEST:



Jeremy Gragert, Commission Secretary