



**SEDA-COG JOINT RAIL AUTHORITY MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2008  
SEDA-COG  
LEWISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA  
12:30 P.M.**

**PRESERVING  
RAIL FREIGHT  
SERVICE**

*-serving the counties of*

- Centre
- Clinton
- Columbia
- Lycoming
- Mifflin
- Montour
- Northumberland
- Union

**AUTHORITY MEMBERS PRESENT**

- Scott Harvey, Lycoming County
- Mike Hawbaker, Centre County (via conference call)
- Bud Henry, Columbia County
- Tom Herman, Montour County
- Dave Hoopengardner, Northumberland County
- Don Kramer, Clinton County
- Mike Redin, Centre County
- Dennis Reitz, Northumberland County
- Dennis Shaffer, Union County
- Jim Spendiff, Mifflin County
- Jerry Walls, Lycoming County

**GUESTS PRESENT**

- Allen Bubb, NRHS
- John Conrad, Bridge Engineer
- Daniel DeBlander, Larson Design Group
- Philip Hoffman, Larson Design Group
- Steve Hurvitz, Esq., McQuaide Blasko
- Mark Murawski, Lycoming County Planning
- Jeff Pontius, Railroad Operating Companies
- Richard Robey, Railroad Operating Companies
- Gary Shields, Railroad Operating Companies
- Robert Yannacone, M.D., West Shore Railroad

**STAFF PRESENT**

- George Fury
- Steve Kusheloff
- Jamie Shrawder
- Jeff Stover

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

**Call to Order**

Mr. Walls called the meeting to order at 12:28 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Walls led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Walls and Mr. Stover recognized Tim Bergerstock for his 10 years of service to the JRA Board.

**SEDA-COG JOINT  
RAIL AUTHORITY**

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### Treasurer's Report

Mr. Reitz reviewed the Treasurer's Report for the month of March 2008.

*Mr. Henry made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of March 2008; Mr. Kramer seconded the motion; motion carried.*

### Approval of the March 12, 2008 Meeting Minutes of the SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority

*Mr. Herman made a motion to approve the March 12, 2008 meeting minutes of the SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority; Mr. Henry seconded the motion; motion carried.*

### Legal Issues

Attorney Hurvitz stated the terms of the confidentiality agreement regarding the tax credit sale and the ownership change should be worked out soon with Attorney Wilson. The Board will have the chance to review and approve the agreement prior to Mr. Walls signing it.

### Events Calendar/Project Map/Staff Report

Mr. Stover presented the events calendar for April and May, the projects map, and the staff report. Mr. Fury distributed the inventory of wayside structures. The Board decided to keep a few signals to see if local museums want them. Mr. Stover asked for approval for Mr. Fury to attend training in Chicago.

*Mr. Spendiff made a motion to authorize Mr. Fury to attend training; Mr. Hoopengardner seconded the motion; motion carried.*

### Operator's Status Report

Mr. Robey referred to the Operator's Report included in the packet.

## PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

### Wire rope Land Sale

Mr. Stover reported Wire rope counter offered, via a letter, \$2.00/sq. ft. for a total of \$60,000 with no differential clause in the deed.

*Mr. Redin made a motion to accept Wire rope's counteroffer and approve the sale of land for \$2.00/sq. ft.; Mr. Henry seconded the motion; motion carried.*

### LVRR Floor

Mr. Fury stated the Hillmann Group will prepare a document to bring us into compliance with OSHA standards. The JRA will pay for the first cleaning and maintenance of the floor, and then the operator will take care of it as a maintenance expense.

## OLD BUSINESS

### Go21

Mr. Redin distributed articles from various trade magazines regarding congressional issues.

Mr. Stover referred to Attorney O'Brien's opinion of the H.R. 2125 and H.R. 2116 legislation. The board discussed what position to take on these issues.

Mr. Shaffer explained that the group researching this feels this is a very important issue, and they want to get more information to get a better handle on all the facts before making a presentation to the board. Mr. Walls asked Mr. Stover for a more in-depth review of the bills; this will be carried over to next month's meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Proposed Revision to Rails-with-Trails Standards**

Mr. Walls explained he is under contract with Lycoming County to work on various trail and Greenway projects. Therefore he will ask Mr. Herman to preside over this matter. Mr. Walls introduced Mark Murawski, Dave DeBlander, and Phil Hoffman.

Mr. Redin recommended the board hear the presentation from the county and take the information back to the PMC in May with no action to be taken today.

Mr. Murawski presented the County's plan for a trail system between Jersey Shore and Williamsport and Montoursville to Muncy. The County would like to purchase right-of-way fee simple and assume all liability for this land for the trail. They would erect a barrier of our choice along the trail and help improve drainage along the tracks. They are asking the JRA to reduce the JRA rails-with-trails standards to 20 feet from centerline and locate the trail along the tracks as much as possible.

The PMC will consider their request at the May meeting.

### **Whiterock Hopper Bid Award**

Mr. Stover reviewed the bids submitted for the hopper fabrication and assembly for the Whiterock Quarry. Echo Fabrication was the low bidder at \$103,900.

***Mr. Herman made a motion to award the hopper bid to Echo Fabrication for \$103,900; Mr. Reitz seconded the motion; motion carried. Mr. Hawbaker abstained from the vote.***

### **Bridge Inspection Report**

Mr. Conrad reviewed the FRA's safety advisory on railroad bridge inspections and the bridge inspection work done on our structures to date. Our bridge inspection program meets all five guidelines: 1.) The JRA does have an inventory list of the 208 bridge structures. Any structure that carries six lineal feet of rail or more is defined as a bridge. 2.) All structures will be inspected by the end of the third quarter of 2009. 3.) The FRA recommends having a record of capacity for all bridges. We have no record of capacity for most structures unless it was provided by the design engineer. 4.) The FRA advisory defines the qualifications for the bridge inspector, provides the key elements the inspector should be looking for during the inspection, and recommends record keeping. Mr. Conrad recommends the JRA adopt this as a policy and has purchased a software program for record keeping. 5.) The operator has a designated person to inspect a bridge after an event prior to allowing another car to cross.

At this time Mr. Conrad will be submitting the NBER reports to Mr. Stover by the end of the month. The LVRR is next to be inspected. He is looking for railroad bridge drawings because his scope of work does not include recreating drawings to calculate the rating. If he finds a defect that warrants a rating and cannot find the drawings, he will recommend doing the drawing and calculating the rating. Mr. Walls asked that the drawings be stored in a fire-proof cabinet. Mr. Redin asked if steel bridges should be painted. Mr. Conrad replied that the benefit is not worth the cost of painting the bridge. Mr. Walls asked about who is watching for debris around the bridges. Mr. Conrad replied the operator has men on the ground regularly inspecting the structures.

**Request from Mayor Campana**

Williamsport Mayor Campana sent a letter to the JRA requesting a donation in lieu of taxes for security cameras in the City. Mr. Stover drafted a response stating the JRA is already investing a great deal in Newberry and cannot make a contribution at this time.

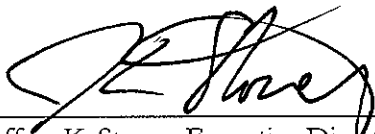
*Mr. Reitz made a motion to authorize Mr. Stover to respond to Mayor Campana; Mr. Henry seconded the motion; motion carried.*

**Public Forum**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Walls adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffery K. Stover, Executive Director

I hereby certify these minutes were approved by the SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority Board of Directors on May 14, 2008.



Secretary/Assistant Secretary