



**SEDA-COG JOINT RAIL AUTHORITY MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2014**  
**SEDA-COG, LEWISBURG, PA**  
**12:30 P.M.**

**PRESERVING  
RAIL FREIGHT  
SERVICE**

*serving the counties of*

Centre  
Clinton  
Columbia  
Lycoming  
Mifflin  
Montour  
Northumberland  
Union

**AUTHORITY MEMBERS**

Stephen Bridy, Northumberland County  
Russ Graham, Centre County  
John Gummo, Clinton County  
Scott Harvey, Lycoming County  
Tom Herman, Montour County  
Brent Jones, Clinton County  
Michael Krentzman, Mifflin County  
Dave Park, Columbia County  
Rob Postal, Mifflin County  
Don Purcell, Northumberland County  
John Showers, Union County  
John Spsychalski, Centre County  
Jerry Walls, Lycoming County  
Eric Winslow, Union County

**JRA OPERATOR**

Gary Shields  
Jeb Stotter  
Diana Williams

**GUESTS**

Allen Bubb, NRHS  
Mark Murawski, Lycoming County Planning Commission  
Dennis Shaffer, Reading & Northern Railroad

**LEGAL COUNSEL**

Tom Schrack, Esq., McQuaide Blasko Law Offices

**JRA CONSULTING PROFESSIONALS**

John Conrad, P.E., Bridge Engineer

**JRA STAFF**

Kay Aikey, Program Assistant  
George Fury, Property & Maintenance of Way Manager  
Jeff Stover, Executive Director

**CALL TO ORDER**

**Call to Order**

Chairman Walls called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

**SEDA-COG JOINT  
RAIL AUTHORITY**

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Affiliated with  
SEDA Council of Governments

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Walls led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Chairman Walls welcomed two new Board members, County Commission Stephen Bridy and Don Purcell as Northumberland County representatives, and called for self-introductions by Board members, staff, and guests.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

#### **Nominating Committee Report and Recommendations**

Nominating Committee Chairman Winslow stated that the Nominating Committee, comprised of Frank Dombroski, Rick Jenkins, and Rob Postal, have conferred and have a slate of officers for 2014 to recommend to the full Board. Mr. Winslow presented the slate of officers for 2014:

Chairman – Jerry Walls  
Vice Chairman – John Showers  
Secretary – Michael Krentzman  
Treasurer – Scott Harvey  
Assistant Secretary – Dave Park  
Assistant Treasurer – John Gummo

*Dr. Spychalski made a motion for the Board to close the nominations for the 2014 officers; Mr. Herman seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.*

*Mr. Winslow made a motion for the Board to accept the slate of officers for 2014 as presented; Mr. Bridy seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously. The individuals on the slate presented by the Nominating Committee are elected to serve in their respective officer positions for 2014 as set forth on the Nominating Committee's slate.*

#### **Appointment of 2014 Committees**

Chairman Walls distributed and reviewed the list of committee appointments for 2014. All board members agreed to their respective appointments.

#### **Public Forum**

Mr. Bubb circulated a photo of the Conrail engine facilities at Bellefonte and an 1874 map of the Bellefonte area.

#### **Approval of the December 11, 2013 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Stover stated that a correction has been made to the minutes as Mr. Krentzman's name was listed as being in attendance as he was not present at the December meeting. Mr. Winslow added that he was not present at the meeting and his name should be deleted from the minutes as well.

*Dr. Spsychalski made a motion to approve the December 11, 2013 meeting minutes with corrections as noted above; Mr. Park seconded the motion; motion carried with Messrs. Bridy, Purcell, Krentzman and Winslow abstaining due to not being present at the meeting.*

### Treasurer's Report

Mr. Harvey presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of December 2013 as well as the JRA's loan summary. Several parts of the Report were discussed.

*Mr. Herman made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of December 2013 and file for audit; Mr. Gummo seconded the motion; motion carried.*

### Proposal to Prepare 2013 JRA Audit

Mr. Stover stated that the firm of Herring, Roll & Solomon submitted a proposal to complete the JRA's 2013 annual audit.

*Dr. Spsychalski made a motion for the Board to approve the audit proposal from Herring, Roll & Solomon to complete the JRA's 2013 audit in the amount of \$8,000; Mr. Park seconded the motion; motion carried with Mr. Bridy abstaining due to his affiliation with the firm.*

### Events Calendar/Staff Report

Mr. Stover presented the events calendar for January/February and Staff Report.

Mr. Stover discussed the meeting on January 9<sup>th</sup> with Lycoming County Commissioners regarding the NuWeld rail construction project. Staff assisted NuWeld in putting together a Rail Transportation Assistance Program (RTAP) application as well as working with Bill Kelly and Mark Murawski from Lycoming County. Lycoming County applied on behalf of NuWeld for the application as the county is the grantee under the capital budget line item. Lycoming County Commissioners have asked the JRA staff to assist them in the administration of the grant.

Mr. Murawski explained that the county is the eligible recipient for the state capital assistance funds of \$350,000 from PennDOT. The county has never administered a RTAP or RFAP funded rail project. The county will receive the funds and draw up a pass-through agreement to transfer the funds to the Authority and the Authority will develop the project.

*Dr. Spsychalski made a motion for the Board to authorize the JRA staff and solicitor to prepare an agreement with Lycoming County as proposed by Mr. Murawski subject to any negotiated changes with the County acceptable to the JRA solicitor, and authorize the Chairman to execute the agreement; Mr. Herman seconded the motion; motion carried.*

### Operator's Status Report and Business Forecast

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

Ms. Williams stated that traffic carloads for November 2013 year-to-date have increased 1,578 over November 2012 year-to-date. The operator will be meeting with Mr. Mazur the beginning of February to review the operator's 2013 numbers and projected budgeted numbers for 2014.

Mr. Stotter noted a correction to the Trackage Rights Billing of the Operations report. It should read – "There were 42 NS coal and hopper trains with a total billing of \$115,242."

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **TIGER II Status and Action Items**

Mr. Stover reviewed the status of the various TIGER II projects that were listed on the agenda grid as well as the updated TIGER II budget that was distributed at the meeting.

### **Bridge Engineer's Report**

Board members were provided with the Bridge Engineer's Report. Mr. Conrad was in attendance at the meeting and updated Board members on projects he is working on. No action on change orders was required at this time.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Passenger Excursions Committee**

Committee Chair Spsychalski referred to the preliminary 2013 Passenger Excursions Accounting Report and stated that the final report on passenger excursion results for 2013 will be available at the February JRA meeting. Final data relating to each excursion run and the required financial report from the freight operator and the financial report from Penn Valley Railroad, LLC will be available at the February JRA meeting.

### **Operating Agreement Committee**

Committee Chair Krentzman stated that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 23rd at 9 a.m. at SEDA-COG. The committee will be working through the RFP outline and process. Chairman Walls noted that all JRA Board members are welcome to attend.

## **LEGAL**

### **Legal Issues**

Attorney Schrack updated the Board and provided background for the new Board members on the following pending legal issues:

- Munro Eminent Domain: The Authority is currently involved in an eminent domain proceeding with the owners of the property the JRA has referred to as the South Avis Access Road. The property owners had contested the Authority's offer for just compensation payment and filed a petition for a Board of View. The Board of View was

held in early fall. The Authority is awaiting the report from the Board of View on the final determination of just compensation. It is hoped that a determination will be made by the February meeting.

- North Branch Canal Trail: The agreement with Columbia and Montour counties and the Montour Area Recreation Commission (MARC) has been signed by all parties. As background, the Authority had approved the conveyance of property to Columbia and Montour Counties for a trail which will be operated by MARC. At present, the property is being leased from the Authority by MARC, until the subdivision process is completed. Once the property is subdivided for the conveyance to the counties, the Authority will then sign and deliver a deed to each county for the relevant portion of the subdivided property.
- JVRR Burnham Property: This is a 19.5 acre piece of ground in Burnham that the JRA is attempting to buy. At present the property is in tax claim and had gone to a private sale. The Mifflin County Commissioners have accepted the Authority's offer of \$66,000.
- Status of Operating Agreement amendment to add additional tracks: The Board had previously authorized the execution of an addendum to the Operating Agreement to add the new White Deer track, which would also result in the addition of the UCIR to the Operating Agreement. This addendum is in the process of being executed. Attorney Wilson also filed a notice of exemption with the STB concerning the White Deer Track.

Attorney Schrack stated there is another item regarding a possible real estate acquisition which is appropriate for discussion in an executive session.


Chairman Walls called for an executive session at 2:33 p.m.

Chairman Walls reconvened the regular meeting at 2:52 p.m.

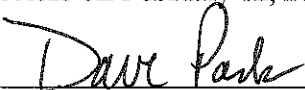
Attorney Schrack stated that the purpose of the executive session was to discuss the very early stages of a potential real estate transaction involving the Authority. No action was taken by the Authority during the executive session.

Chairman Walls adjourned the meeting at 2:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Jeffery K. Stover, Executive Director

I hereby certify these minutes were approved by the SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority Board of Directors on February 12, 2014.

  
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Secretary/Assistant Secretary