



SEDA-COG JOINT RAIL AUTHORITY MEETING
Wednesday, April 12, 2023
Union County Government Center, Lewisburg, PA
12:30 p.m.

AUTHORITY MEMBERS

Russ Graham, Centre County
John Gummo, Clinton County
Scott Harvey, Lycoming County
Lisa Hoover, Northumberland County (via teleconference)
Bob Hormell, Northumberland County (via teleconference)
Rick Jenkins, Columbia County (via teleconference)
Brent Jones, Clinton County
Michael Krentzman, Mifflin County
Dave Park, Snyder County
Rob Postal, Mifflin County
David Schultz, Lycoming County
John Spsychalski, Centre County
Jennifer Wakeman, Montour County
Matt Weigle, Columbia County (via teleconference)
Eric Winslow, Union County (via teleconference)

JRA OPERATOR

Jeb Stotter, President & CEO
Diana Williams, Treasurer/Controller
Jeff Pontius, Penn Valley Railroad

GUESTS

Mark Rosner, Carload Express
Erik Bergenthal, Carload Express Legal Counsel (via teleconference)
Sam Simon, Esq., Houston Harbaugh (for Carload Express) (via teleconference)
Charlie Crow, Plant Manager, AITX Rail Car Services
Paul Jannotti, Jannotti Rail Consulting, Inc.
Sam Jannotti, Jannotti Rail Consulting, Inc.

JRA LEGAL COUNSEL

John Bee, Esq., McQuaide Blasko (via teleconference)
Tom Schrack, Esq. McQuaide Blasko (via teleconference)

JRA CONSULTING PROFESSIONALS

Dan Mazur, Operating Agreement Consultant
Jason Shura, P.E., Stiffler McGraw (via teleconference)
Jeff Stover, Consultant (via teleconference)

JRA STAFF

Michelle Ballou, Program Assistant

Steven Beattie, Executive Director

Kyle Postupack, Property & Maintenance of Way Manager

CALL TO ORDER

Call to Order

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 12:38 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Chairman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Welcome – Chairman’s Statements

The Chairman stated that the use of audio or video recording devices at the public meeting is permitted. The Authority does not require pre-registration for recording purposes; however, any individual intending to record all or any part of the meeting must notify the Chairman or the Executive Director in advance of such recording. If the Authority recesses to Executive Session, no recording of that session shall be permitted.

Public Forum

The Chairman asked if there is any public comment to come before the Board. There were no public comments.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Approval of the March 8, 2023, JRA Meeting Minutes

Dr. Spychalski made a motion for the Board to approve the March 8, 2023, JRA Meeting Minutes; Mr. Park seconded the motion; motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report

Mr. Harvey presented the Treasurer’s Report for the month of March 2023, as well as the JRA’s Loan Summary, Money Market Account Financial Statement, the PIB Loan Financial Statement, and the JRA’s detailed accounting associated with the operating fees paid by the Operator.

Ms. Wakeman made a motion for the Board to accept the Treasurer’s Report for the month of March 2023; Mr. Schultz seconded the motion; motion carried.

Staff Report and Events Calendar

- Mr. Beattie summarized the status of various construction projects and calendar highlights.
- JRA Staff are working on the 2022 Audit with Baker Tilly. On Site Audit filed work occurred on April 11th.
- Mr. Beattie and Mr. Postupack high-railed the JVRR in late March to have staff become acquainted with the ROW, recent maintenance work, upcoming bridge work and engine house facilities.
- Mr. Beattie visited the Bulkmatic Site in Newberry Yard to view the facility, see on-going improvements and discuss long-term plans. There will likely be a ribbon cutting in May.
- Mr. Beattie and Ms. Wheeler met regarding revisions to the SEDA-COG JRA staff service agreement. The revisions will be presented to the Executive Committee on April 14, 2023.
- Mr. Beattie and Mr. Postupack attended a marketing meeting with NSHR staff. The meetings will continue monthly.
- Mr. Beattie will be attending Rail Day on the hill, sponsored by KSRRA on May 2, 2023.
- Mr. Beattie & Mr. Postupack recently attended the ASLRRA conference. It was a great educational and networking opportunity.
- Mr. Beattie had written a letter to the Williamsport Sanitary Authority on March 16, 2023, regarding declining to pay outstanding stormwater fees. No response received to date.

Operator Status Report

A copy of the Operator's Report was provided to Board members via email and copies were provided to Board members at the meeting. Mr. Stotter stated tie replacements are taking place today at the Selinsgrove Industrial Branch and Shamokin Valley Railroad.

OLD BUSINESS

Bridge Engineer's Report

- Mr. Shura reviewed the Bridge Engineer's Report provided in the meeting packet.
- Bridge safety inspections for 2023 have commenced for the Nittany Bald Eagle Railroad. As of April 5, 2023, all fifty-two structures have been inspected. The reports have been written and are in the final review process. Expecting to submit the final report to the JRA before the next meeting in May.
- The final monitoring report from Marine Solutions regarding underwater bridge inspections has been received. The report has been filed and submitted to JRA Staff.
- We received approval of bid docs for RTAP 2021 bridge rehab project on the Lycoming Valley Railroad. Bid documents have been advertised with a Pre-bid meeting on April 20th and bids due May 4th. He is expecting to make a recommendation for the Board to award the project to the lowest responsible bidder, at the May 10th meeting.
- North Shore Railroad Bridge 191.52 Contract Documents will be submitted to the Bureau of Rail Freight for approval pending review of SVRR Corridor Divisions 1 specifications by JRA Staff, with a bid opening prior to June 14th meeting.
- There has been no action taken on the Nittany & JV Contracts.

- The Shamokin Valley Section 130 Corridor Project drawings and specs have been completed and submitted to JRA Staff, Shamokin Valley Railroad, PennDOT District 3 for review. Proposed bid opening date of June 8th.
- The Bulkmatic Site in Newberry Yard is moving forward. Construction is 50% complete. Track work was completed. Final item to be completed is paving which is scheduled for end of April or early of May.
- Bud Williams Easement (LVRR Antlers I.T. Bridge 179.44 Replacement) The Easement/Agreement documents were submitted by email on July 28th, 2022. We have continued to follow up with Bud & Patty Williams with little update.

NEW BUSINESS

Jannotti Rail Consulting, Inc.

Mr. Paul Jannotti announced his son Sam Jannotti will be taking over as President of Jannotti Rail Consulting, Inc, effective January 1, 2024.

Mr. Paul Jannotti reviewed the 2022 Track Inspection Report with the Board and indicated his approval of the Operator's 2023 Maintenance of Way Plan.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc License Agreement (LVRR-Muncy)

Committee Chair Jenkins stated that Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc. has requested a license agreement to use 570' of the Muncy Industrial Park Track to load/unload cars and rail car storage. This track is not part of their private siding. The license agreement is for 10 years, and ADS will be assessed \$6,840 annually and a \$880 license preparation fee. The annual rent will be subject to CPI increases. The track will be licensed on a non-exclusive use basis.

Recommendation: Recommend the PMC approve this license agreement for consideration by the full Board.

Mr. Jenkins made the motion to approve Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc. license agreement and authorize the execution by JRA officers; Mr. Winslow seconded the motion; motion carried.

Bridgewell Resources, LLC. Second Amendment to Land Lease

Mr. Jenkins stated that Bridgewell Resources, LLC leases 3.85 acres in the Newberry Yard, where they store utility poles. They have requested to lease an additional 1.35 acres on the east end of the pole yard. The lease term ends December 31, 2026, per the original lease agreement. Bridgewell Resources will be assessed an annual rent of \$4,300 for the 1.35-acre site. In total, their rent for the 5.2-acre pole yard will be \$16,384.00 for 2023.

Mr. Jenkins made the motion to approve the second amendment to the lease agreement second by Mr. Postal, Motion carried.

PASSENGER EXCURSION COMMITTEE

Dr. Spychalski stated that the JRA staff and other related persons have reviewed and completed the initial request from Bellefonte Historical Railroad Society for Future Operation of Passenger Excursion Service on Nittany and Bald Eagle Railroad. The agreement is a work in progress and is pending presentation at the May 10th board meeting.

LEGAL

BHRS Speeder Run Event in Bellefonte

Mr. Beattie stated that BHRS sponsored the speeder event for April 8, 2023, which was overlooked in the March 8th Agenda. Mr. Beattie sought a motion to ratify the speeder event that took place on April 8th, 2023.

Mr. Krentzman made the motion to approve ratification of the BHRS Speeder Run Event in Bellefonte on March 8th; Mr. Gummo seconded the motion; motion carried.

Resolution 2023-02; JRA File Retention

Mr. Beattie stated that a resolution to set forth schedules and procedures for the disposition of Authority Records; 40 years of records currently exist in JRA files and storage. The listing of records to be retained and for how long generally follows the PA's Municipal Records Act as a guideline. The Act applies to municipal authorities formed by other types of municipalities, but not those formed by counties. The proposed Resolution 23-02 has been reviewed and recommended by the JRA Solicitor.

Mr. Krentzman made the motion to approve Resolution 2023-02; JRA File Retention; Mr. Clark seconded the motion; motion carried.

Attorney Schrack stated he has nothing further to discuss in public session and recommended that the Board recess into executive session.

Chairman Graham recessed the regular meeting at 1:33 p.m. to convene into executive session at 1:45 p.m.

Chairman Graham reconvened the regular meeting at 2:24 p.m.

Attorney Schrack stated that the JRA Board and The Executive Director held privileged and confidential discussion with its legal counsel regarding the RFP litigation. No action was taken in the executive session, nor was any action recommended at that time.

With there being no further business to come before the JRA Board, Chairman Graham adjourned the meeting at 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven M. Beattie, Executive Director

I hereby certify these minutes were approved by the SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority Board of Directors on May 10, 2023.

Secretary/Assistant Secretary