



SEDA-COG JOINT RAIL AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, July 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
Bob Hormell, Northumberland County
Rick Jenkins, Columbia County (via teleconference)
Frank Dombroski, Montour County (via teleconference)
Brent Jones, Clinton County
Michael Krentzman, Mifflin County (via teleconference)
Rick Maloyed, Snyder County
Dave Park, Snyder County
Rob Postal, Mifflin County
David Schultz, Lycoming County
John Showers, Union County
John Spsychalski, Centre County
Jennifer Wakeman, Montour County
Eric Winslow, Union County

JRA OPERATOR

Jeb Stotter, President & CEO
Diana Williams, Treasurer/Controller

GUESTS

Mark Rosner, Carload Express
Sam Simon, Esq., Houston Harbaugh (for Carload Express) (via teleconference)

JRA LEGAL COUNSEL

John Bee, Esq., McQuaide Blasko
Tom Schrack, Esq. McQuaide Blasko

JRA CONSULTING PROFESSIONALS

Dan Mazur, Operating Agreement Consultant
Jason Shura, P.E., Stiffler McGraw (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 12:36 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 June 14, 2023, JRA Meeting Minutes

Dr. Spychalski made a motion for the Board to approve the June 14, 2023, Joint Rail Authority Meeting Minutes; Mr. Schultz seconded the motion; motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report

Mr. Harvey presented the Treasurer’s Report for the month of June 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.

Mr. Park made a motion for the Board to accept the Treasurer’s Report for the month of June 2023; Mr. Gummo seconded the motion; motion carried.

Staff Report and Events Calendar

- Mr. Beattie summarized the status of various construction projects and calendar highlights.
- Senator Dush provided a Senate acknowledgement related to the JRA 40th Anniversary.
- JRA Staff and Engineering Consultants met with NSHR Staff for the monthly marketing meeting.

- RTAP 21 – Engineering has been completed for the NSHR permanent repair of Culvert at mile post 207.66. Bidding to begin on July 14th.
- The Shamokin Valley Railroad Section 130 Corridor Project - The pre-bid meeting was on July 6th.
- QT2 Budget Update – There are minor variations between the budget and actual cost.
- Milesburg Water and Sewer Authority - Mr. Beattie is working with JRA Solicitor, Milesburg Water and Sewer Authority and their Solicitor to obtain necessary right-of-way and temporary construction easements. The right-of-way will be in the Borough's name and will be taking the lead. The bidding is anticipated in November/December of this year.
- SIT Embankment Erosion - The DEP Growing Greener Grant was submitted on June 23rd. Grant award anticipated in late 2023/early 2024.
- MS4 is currently at a standstill pending the outcome of Court proceedings.
- Dr. Spychalski was celebrated for 42 years of service on the CATA Board, to which he retired at the end of 2022.

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 provided the Operator's activities and rail traffic overview.

OLD BUSINESS

Bridge Engineer's Report

- Mr. Shura reviewed the Bridge Engineer's Report provided in the meeting packet.
- Bridge Safety Inspections – The 2023 bridge safety inspections on Nittany Bald Eagle Railroad (NBER), Lycoming Valley Railroad (LVRR), Juniata Valley Railroad (JVRR) and North Shore Railroad (NSHR) are complete, and the report will be submitted prior to the August meeting. Inspection of the Shamokin Valley Railroad (SVRR) bridges began on June 7th and should be completed in July. There were no bridge safety inspections in the month of June and no plan review since the last meeting, the Shamokin Valley Bridge inspections to be completed in July and the submittal of final report in August. The 2023 bridge safety inspections to be completed by the end of August.
- North Shore Railroad Permanent Repair to Pipe Culvert at Mile Post 207.66 - Approval was received from the Bureau of Rail Freight to advertise this project. Prebid meeting will take place on July 28th with bids due on August 8th. Anticipating announcement recommendation at August meeting.
- Shamokin Valley Railroad Section 130 Corridor – The project has been advertised for bidding. The pre-bid meeting was held July 6, 2023, and bids are due on August 3, 2023. Anticipating recommendation to award at August meeting.

- Bud Williams Easement (LVRR Antlers I.T. Bridge 179.44 Replacement) - Vasallo is currently preparing the subdivision plan. An update is anticipated to be presented at the August 9th meeting.
- Nittany Bald Eagle Milesburg Bridges – Continuing to advance final design. The culvert plans are approximately 75% complete. General Permit 11 will be submitted shortly. The easement plats have been submitted to the Joint Rail Authority so the process of obtaining the easements can take place. The utility coordination is nearly complete. Mr. Shura plans on submitting plans, specifications, and estimate package to JRA, and PennDOT no later than September 8th. Structure plans and design will be submitted to PennDOT for structural adequacy in August. The project is currently on schedule for a December 7, 2023, let date.
- Lycoming Railroad contract-bids have been received and will be discussed later in the meeting.
- North Shore Railroad Bridge 191.52 - The plans, specifications and estimates package will be submitted to the Joint Rail Authority staff and Bureau of Rail Freight. The bid date is expected to be in October.
- Nittany Bald Eagle Section 130 potential corridor project in Blair County. The field survey of the 14th Street crossing will take place in July. A cost estimate will be provided to JRA staff.

NEW BUSINESS

Amendment to Agenda

Mr. Beattie stated that there was a late change to the agenda to include the BHRS speeder event brought to the Authority's attention within the past 24 hours.

Mr. Showers made a motion to approve the amended agenda to include the BHRA Speeder Event; Dr. Spychalski seconded the motion; motion carried.

Approval of Bids and Notice of Award; LVRR Bridges 174.48 and 189.66

Mr. Beattie stated bid opening occurred on June 29th. This was a Re-Bid. Bid results have been included in today's packet. A total of three bids were received. Mr. Shura and staff have reviewed the received bids and pricing is reasonable and the lowest responsible bid is 47% lower than the initial May 2023 low bid. Bid amount received is lower than the budget. Project will only move forward upon receipt of Authorization to Enter agreements in place with adjacent property owners.

Dr. Spychalski made a motion for the Board to approve to award the rebid of JRA Contract 23-01, LVRR Bridges 174.48 and 189.66 to the lowest responsible bidder, Lycoming Supply, LLC at a bid of \$186,826.00 contingent on receiving acceptable insurance, bonding, and Authorization to Enter Agreements; Mr. Schultz seconded the motion; motion carried.

Bellefonte Historical Railroad Society (BHRS) Speeder Event

In cooperation with Bellefonte Arts Festival, plan on a speeder event August 5, 2023. The Operator agrees with the event and proper insurance is in place.

Ms. Wakeman made a motion for the Board to approve The Bellefonte Historical Railroad Society Speeder Event on August 5, 2023; Mr. Park seconded motion; motion carried.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

PASSENGER EXCURSIONS COMMITTEE

2a. Proposed 2023 Time Table Revisions addition of Shamokin Area Businesses for Economic Revitalization on the SVRR – Mr. Beattie stated after communication from all parties involved, there is a better understanding of the October 7, 2023, all-day event, pricing, etc. This would be subject to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) being fully executed. The final draft of agreement to be presented at the August 9, 2023 meeting.

Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the excursion event on October 7, 2023, involving Shamokin Area Business for Economic Revitalization (SABER) in cooperation with National Museum of Industrial History, Subject to the execution of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU); Mr. Jones made motion, Dr. Sychalski 2nd the motion, motion carried.

LEGAL

Solicitor 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 1:08p.m. to convene into executive session at 1:45 p.m.

Chairman Graham reconvened the regular meeting at 3:05 p.m.

Solicitor Schrack stated that the JRA Board held an executive session with solicitors, and JRA staff concerning a brief discussion involving litigation in Clinton and Columbia County, and a longer discussion addressing confidential personnel matters and potential real estate acquisitions. No action was taken in executive session and no action is recommended to be taken.

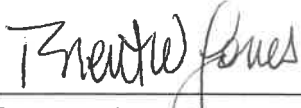
With there being no further business to come before the JRA Board, Chairman Graham adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

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 August 9, 2023.



Secretary/Assistant Secretary