



SEDA-COG JOINT RAIL AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, June 12, 2024
Union County Government Center, Lewisburg, PA
12:30 p.m.

AUTHORITY MEMBERS PRESENT

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

JRA OPERATOR

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

GUESTS

Baron Emery, Carload Express
John Ashbridge, Carload Express
Erik Bergenthal, Carload Express Legal Counsel (via teleconference)

JRA LEGAL COUNSEL

John Bee, Esq., McQuaide Blasko

JRA CONSULTING PROFESSIONALS

Stephen Lendway, Operating Agreement Consultant (via teleconference)
Jason Shura, P.E., Stiffler McGraw (via teleconference)

JRA STAFF

Steven Beattie, Executive Director
Kyle Postupack, Property & Maintenance of Way Manager
Tina Heintzelman, Program Assistant

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.

Lauren Bryson of Focus Central PA spoke about the ongoing efforts of the group to promote economic development in the region. She thanked the JRA for its continuing support.

Mr. Beattie mentioned that he and Todd Hunter of NSHR were interviewed to discuss rail capacity on a site in Lycoming County. It is a Fortune 500 company that will bring 500 jobs to the region if it comes.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Approval of the June 12, 2024, JRA Meeting Minutes

Dr. Spsychalski made a motion for the Board to approve the May 8, 2024, SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority Meeting Minutes; Ms. Perez seconded the motion; motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report

Ms. Wakeman presented the Treasurer’s Report for May, 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.

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Mr. Beattie said that a RTAP reimbursement from a project in 2018 was never received; neither was a 10% retainage. As a result, the JRA should receive a deposit of \$176,000 in the coming months related to that RTAP. Mr. Beattie is working with Mr. Postupack to identify property maintenance needs that could be addressed with some of the money.

Mr. Beattie stated \$400,000 has been moved from the sweep account into the money market account.

Mr. Park made a motion for the Board to accept the Treasurer's Report for the month of May 2024; Mr. Jones 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 2023 Audit with Baker Tilly. On-site audit occurred March 28; Adam Hartzel anticipates having the final draft ready within the next two weeks. A formal presentation will be given to the Board if one is wanted after reviewing the report.
- Mr. Beattie attended the NS Shortline Conference in Atlanta receiving updates from NS concerning service, economic development and had opportunities to socialize with partners and colleagues.
- Mr. Beattie and Mr. Park attended Rail Day on the Hill in Harrisburg and met with Rep. Benninghoff, Centre County; Rep. Schmitt, Blair County; Sen. DiSanto, Dauphin County; Sen. Culver and Rep. Rowe.
- Mr. Beattie and Mr. Postupack attended a monthly marketing meeting with NSHR staff to discuss the freight rail grant cycle in August and how best to help JRA's customers.
- BHRS train excursions will be held on July 7, 2024, from Bellefonte to Curtin Village. BHRS is working with Mr. Beattie and the operator on a schedule of upcoming excursions.
- Operator has replaced most, if not all, of the 640 ties on the Engine House Runner Track and Track B at the ShaleRail site to improve track conditions and maintain rail gauge on the heavily used tracks.
- Diamondback has begun its work with the installation of new signals at Short Road and Mill Street for the SVRR Section 130 Corridor Grade Crossing upgrades. CTW plans to begin work the last week of June at Fourth Street in Sunbury and will work its way up the line toward Shamokin. All nine crossings will each be closed for a single weekend. Crossing work is scheduled to be completed by the end of August, weather permitting.

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 reported on the LVRR engine unveiling on May 17 in Williamsport.

OLD BUSINESS

Bridge Engineer's Report

Mr. Shura reviewed the Bridge Engineer's Report provided in the meeting packet:

- Final comments on the revised plan for Franklin Street Gravity Sewer Replacement in Danville were provided on May 8, 2024. Approval is pending.
- Revised Old Dominion Freight Line plans were received on June 10, 2024, and are under review.
- Bridge safety inspections began on the NBER on Feb. 29. Inspection report was submitted to the JRA. Field inspections on the LVRR and JVRR are complete with report preparation in progress. SIT field inspection started week of June 3, 2024, with anticipated completion of the SIT and NSHR in June and SVRR in July.
- Construction administration on the Shamokin Valley Railroad Section 130 Project is ongoing with an anticipated start date within two weeks.
- Preliminary plans for the SIT Section 130 Corridor Project have been submitted to JRA with a field meeting scheduled for June 13, 2024.

NEW BUSINESS

PADEP Grant Application for Slope Stabilization Repair (S.I.T.)

Mr. Beattie said the JRA is applying for 2024 Growing Greener Plus grant funding to repair the embankment on the Selingrove IT after not receiving any funding in 2023. He discussed the changes in the plan to reduce the cost of the project. The JRA plans to increase its match to \$200,000 from \$176,000, which reduces the fund request to \$146,007 versus \$335,461 in 2023.

Mr. Krentzman made a motion for the Board to approve Growing Greener Plus Grant application submission, including JRA match of \$200,000; Mr. Park seconded the motion; motion carried.

Bid Opening and Notice of Award; NBER RTAP 21 Bridges Contract 2024-02

Mr. Beattie stated that two bids were received for the rebid of NBER RTAP 21 Bridges Contract 2024-02. The project includes the removal of one bridge at MP 26.01 and replace it with a 24-inch diameter HDPE Culvert. The apparent low bidder was Gregori Construction Inc. at \$139,000, which was 73.8% over original 2021 estimate and 44.6% over the original bid amount in February.

Dr. Spsychalski made a motion to award JRA Contract 2024-02, NBER RTAP Bridge Rehabilitation Project, to the lowest responsible bidder, Gregori Construction Inc., with a bid of \$139,000 contingent on receiving approval from PennDOT and receipt of acceptable insurance/bonding; Mr. Winslow seconded the motion; motion carried.

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LEGAL

Assistant Solicitor Bee stated he has nothing further to discuss in public session and recommended the Board recess into executive session.

Chairman Graham recessed the regular meeting at 1:11 p.m. to convene into executive session at 1:20 p.m.

Chairman Graham reconvened the regular meeting at 1:43 p.m.

Assistant Solicitor Bee stated that the JRA Board held an executive session with Solicitor and JRA staff concerning ongoing litigations and property matters. No action was taken in executive session and no action is recommended to be taken at this time.

With there being no further business to come before the JRA Board, Chairman Graham adjourned the meeting at 1:44 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 July 10, 2024.



Secretary/Assistant Secretary