



SEDA-COG JOINT RAIL AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2025
Union County Government Center, Lewisburg, PA
12:30 p.m.

AUTHORITY MEMBERS PRESENT

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

JRA OPERATOR

Jeb Stotter, President & CEO
Diana Williams, Treasurer/Controller
Loni Briner, Public Relations & Media Manager

GUESTS

John Ashbridge, Carload Express
Allen Bubb, West Shore Railroad
Lauren Bryson, Focus Central PA
Jim Cerulli, Reading & Northern Railroad
Jim Raffa, Reading & Northern Railroad
Sam Simon, Esq., Carload Express Legal Counsel (via teleconference)

JRA LEGAL COUNSEL

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

SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority Meeting
February 12, 2025

JRA CONSULTING PROFESSIONALS

Stephen Lendway, Operating Agreement Consultant (via teleconference)
Jason Shura, PE, Stiffler McGraw (via teleconference)

JRA STAFF

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

Call to Order

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 12:32 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.

Jim Raffa from Reading & Northern Railroad made the following statement during the public comment period:

We are just here from Reading & Northern Railroad to express our interest that if at some time the Shamokin Valley becomes available for sale, it is contiguous to our line, Reading & Northern would be interested in that line.

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.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Approval of the January 12, 2025, JRA Meeting Minutes

Mr. Wunz made a motion for the Board to approve the January 12, 2025, SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority Meeting Minutes; Mr. Graham seconded the motion; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Wakeman presented the Treasurer's Report for January, 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. Dombroski made a motion for the Board to accept the Treasurer's Report for the month of January 2024; Mr. Schultz seconded the motion; motion carried.

Payment of the Bills; December 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024

Mr. Beattie said this is a revised payment of bills due to mileage reimbursements not being in the report that was approved by the Board at the January meeting.

Ms. Wakeman made a motion for the Board to ratify the expenses approved in January with the additional corrections; Mr. Park seconded the motion; motion carried.

Payment of the Bills; January 1, 2025, to January 31, 2025

Mr. Beattie said the January payments totaled \$303,704.73.

Ms. Wakeman made a motion for the Board to approve the Payment of Bills for January 2025; Mr. Krentzman seconded the motion; motion carried.

Mr. Beattie said he just realized the months were incorrect. The first Payment of the Bills should be for the month of January and the second for February.

Mr. Krentzman made a curative motion for the Board to approve the correction of the months from December and January to January and February for the Payment of Bills; Mr. Park seconded the motion; motion carried.

FNB Letter of Credit Third Amendment for FNB PIB Loan

Mr. Beattie said FNB backstops the PIB loan by providing an irrevocable letter of credit to the state. The outstanding balance on the PIB loan is \$768,000. Every year, the JRA pays an annual 1% letter of credit fee to FNB. In order for FNB to lower the 1%, the Board must approve the amendment annually.

Ms. Wakeman made a motion for the Board to approve the FNB Letter of Credit Amendment Agreement as presented and authorize the Executive Director to execute the agreement; Mr. Schultz seconded the motion; motion carried.

Staff Report and Events Calendar

Mr. Beattie summarized the status of various construction projects and calendar highlights.

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.

OLD BUSINESS

Bridge Engineer's Report

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

- There was one plan review for the waterline crossing at Anthracite Industries.
- Consultation with Lycoming Supply is ongoing regarding submission reviews and scheduling a progress meeting for the NBER Bridge 30.94 Replacement Project. Field work is tentatively scheduled for the first week of March, with completion in mid to late May.
- Working with Lycoming Supply to get submissions for the Selinsgrove Industrial Track grade-crossing replacement project. Work is tentatively scheduled for the summer, most likely in June. A pre-construction meeting was held at the end of January.
- The 2024 RTAP Bridge kicked off in January. Project manual and contract drawings have been submitted for approval to advertise the JVRR Bridge Preservation group project.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of JVRR Section 130 Railroad Safety Program Reimbursement Agreement

Mr. Beattie stated this is a typical agreement between the JRA and PennDOT. The project includes warning devices on four crossings and a surface project on Kish Pike. The total available reimbursement amount for this project is \$1,436,301. There is a small budget issue of

**SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority Meeting
February 12, 2025**

+/- \$50,000. The JRA is working with PennDOT seeking additional funding and will review further following bidding of the new surface at Kish Pike.

Mr. Postal made a motion to approve the JVRR Section 130 Railroad Safety Program Reimbursement Agreement; Mr. Schultz seconded the motion; motion carried.

Approval of Contract 2025-01 for Public Bid; JVRR Bridge Package

This project is the first contract of three on the JVRR for three bridges on the Maitland Branch: MP 0.46 over the Juniata River, MP 1.51 over Kish Creek, MP 4.53 over Jack's Creek and one bridge on the Burnham Branch MP 3.25 over Kish Creek. The probable construction cost is opinioned at \$1,558,371.76. The JRA did receive a Letter of Non-Prejudice allowing bidding to occur prior to execution of a grant agreement between the JRA and PennDOT.

Mr. Postal made a motion to approve the public bidding for Contract 2025-01, JVRR RTAP 24 Bridge Rehabilitation Project subject to receipt of temporary access easement agreements; Mr. Graham seconded the motion; motion carried.

Approval of Contract 2025-02 for Public Bid; JVRR Section 130 Safety Project

This project is for the public bid letting for the rehabilitation of the Kish Pike at-grade crossing surface on the JVRR in Mifflin County. The probable construction cost of the new surface is opinioned at \$423,300. This does not include the costs of the signal upgrades.

Mr. Harvey asked if the JRA would be OK from a cash-flow standpoint since this project, the previous project and the JVRR Section 130 project amount to about \$3.5 million in total and we authorized \$1.3 million from the account. Mr. Beattie stated typically the Section 130 funding is received monthly and Diamondback Signals does not receive payment until the JRA is paid. If it appears it is a problem, one of the projects can be slowed down or the revolving loan can be used. Mr. Beattie also said by the time these projects are under construction, JRA should have received the 10% funding from the RTAP 21 and the 10% funding from the RTAP 22 from PennDOT, in addition to other reimbursements that are in the queue.

Mr. Hormell made a motion to approve the public bidding for Contract 2025-02, JVRR Section 130 Safety Upgrades Project; Mr. Dombroski seconded the motion; motion carried.

Confirmation of Assignment Approval for SIT Bank Stabilization Engineering

The JRA was awarded a \$90,000 Growing Greener grant from PA DEP. There is an approximate budget gap of \$56,000. This Confirmation of Assignment is a little more limited than the typical scope of work, to save about \$35,000. Mr. Beattie will take over the preparation of the project manual, bidding administration and contract administration. As the project is designed, ways to lower the budget gap will be considered. The hope is that the project can be done when school is out and finished by the end of the year.

Mr. Park made a motion to approve Stiffler McGraw Confirmation of Assignment in the amount of \$41,000 for SIT Bank Stabilization Project Engineering; Mr. Schultz seconded the motion; motion carried.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Passenger Excursion Committee

1a. Approval of Limited Passenger Excursion Service Agreement with BHRS

Mr. Graham said the committee met and approved a new agreement with the Bellefonte Historical Railroad Society. The agreement is an extension of the current agreement that goes through December 2030. It also removes any references to PVRR throughout.

Mr. Beattie said the original agreement was reached in August 2023, with the purpose of giving them a year and a half to get their feet under them and making sure they can provide good service. After working with them for the past 18 months, they are fully capable and are proposing an expansion of excursions for 2025 and beyond.

Mr. Graham made a motion for the Board to approve the Limited Rail Passenger Excursion Service Agreement with BHRS; Ms. Perez seconded the motion; motion carried.

Mr. Graham said an excursions agreement with SURC and Memorandum of Understanding agreements with the Nonprofits were discussed. Those agreements should be ready for presentation to the full Board for final approval at the March meeting.

Mr. Harvey mentioned that Mr. Gummo wants to reduce his obligations to the JRA and was stepping down as Vice Chairman of the Passenger Excursion Committee. He said that Mr. Jones is joining the committee and will be filling the Vice-Chair role.

Property Management Committee

2a. Service Electric Cablevision Inc. – License Agreement (NSHR – Point Twp.)

SECV contacted JRA staff about constructing a new 48-ct fiber line no less than 28'-0" from top of rail with sag over the NSHR at milepost 209.26 in Point Twp., Northumberland County. SECV will be assessed an annual fee of \$2,530, subject to annual CPI adjustments, and a one-time \$1,000 license preparation fee. All plans have been reviewed and approved.

Mr. Park made a motion for the Board to approve the license agreement with Service Electric Cablevision Inc.; Mr. Jones seconded the motion; motion carried.

2b. PPL Electric Utilities Corp. – License Agreement (NSHR – Danville – Wall Street)

PPL contacted JRA staff about raising an overhead secondary wire to no less than 38'-7" from top of rail with sag over the NSHR at the Wall Street Grade Crossing, Danville Borough, Montour County. PPL will be assessed a one-time fee of \$500 for this wire, which is within the public right of way per the JRA Fee Schedule. All plans have been reviewed and approved.

Mr. Park made a motion for the Board to approve the license agreement with PPL Electric Utilities Corp.; Mr. Maloyed seconded the motion; motion carried.

2c. PPL Utilities Corp. – License Agreement (NSHR – Danville – Ferry Street)

PPL contacted JRA staff about raising an overhead secondary wire to no less than 31'-3" from top of rail with sag over the NSHR at the Ferry Street Grade Crossing, Danville Borough, Montour County. PPL will be assessed a one-time fee of \$500 for this wire, which is within the public right of way per the JRA Fee Schedule. All plans have been reviewed and approved.

Mr. Park made a motion for the Board to approve the license agreement with PPL Electric Utilities Corp.; Ms. Wakeman seconded the motion; motion carried.

2d. *PPL Electric Utilities Corp. – License Agreement (SVRR – Coal Twp.)

PPL contacted JRA staff about raising an overhead secondary wire to no less than 51'-9" from top of rail with sag over the SVRR at the SR-901 overhead rail crossing, Coal Twp., Northumberland County. PPL will be assessed a one-time fee of \$500 for this wire, which is within the public right of way per the JRA Fee Schedule. All plans have been reviewed and approved.

Mr. Park made a motion for the Board to approve the license agreement with PPL Electric Utilities Corp.; Mr. Graham seconded the motion; motion carried.

2e. *FastBridge Fiber – License Agreement (NSHR – Danville – Wall Street)

FastBridge contacted JRA staff about constructing an overhead 1.25" innerduct with 10M strand and fiber optic cable no less than 35'-5" from top of rail with sag over the NSHR at the Wall Street Grade Crossing, Danville Borough, Montour County. FastBridge will be assessed a one-time fee of \$500 for this wire, which is within the public right of way per the JRA Fee Schedule. All plans have been reviewed and approved.

Mr. Park made a motion for the Board to approve the license agreement with FastBridge Fiber; Mr. Jones seconded the motion; motion carried.

2f. *UGI – Easement Agreement (NSHR – Danville Borough)

UGI contacted JRA staff about replacing a gas line that runs under the NSHR railroad and serves the Danville Middle School. Upon review of the original 1957 agreement between the DL&W Railroad and the Scranton Spring Brook Water Service Co., the pipe does not match what is there. UGI or another company had changed the pipe without amending the agreement. To clean this situation up, JRA staff proposed drafting a new agreement with the current JRA template for the new gas pipe. UGI agreed to enter into a new agreement for a one-time fee of \$1,000, which covers JRA staff, Solicitor Schrack, and Engineer Shura's time on this agreement. The new agreement requires UGI to carry updated insurance limits and updated language to indemnify and protect the JRA. All plans have been reviewed and approved.

Mr. Park made a motion for the Board to approve the easement agreement with UGI; Mr. Winslow seconded the motion; motion carried.

2g. *Joe Krentzman & Son Inc. – Sales Agreement (JVRR – Burnham – North Yards)

In 2022, the JRA agreed to sell Joe Krentzman & Son Inc. the North Yards in Burnham. There was a 120-day closing from the original agreement date, which was March 9, 2022. However, they could not meet that date due to pursuing an Act 2 designation for the site through the PA DEP. In December 2023, the JRA Board approved a new sales agreement with a closing date of no later than December 31, 2024. The purchase price was also increased to \$130,000. This sales agreement needs to be renewed again, and the sales agreement lists the closing and settlement date as December 31, 2026.

Mr. Park made a motion for the JRA Board to approve the renewal of the sales agreement with Joe Krentzman & Son Inc.; Mr. Postal seconded the motion; motion carried, with Mr. Krentzman abstaining.

SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority Meeting
February 12, 2025

2h. *Approval to Advertise for Bids of Woodward Twp. Parcel (LVRR – Woodward Twp.)

JRA staff was contacted in early 2024 by an attorney representing Gough Enterprises LLC, interested in purchasing a two-acre parcel of the former PRR track bed in Woodward Twp., Lycoming County, from JRA. Gough Enterprises LLC offered \$1 for the two-acre parcel. The parcel was part of the wye that came off the river bridge onto what is now the LVRR – Avis Branch. The track was realigned (for the construction of Route 220), and the old track bed was left vacant. The PMC approved JRA staff having the parcel appraised, which the Girio Agency completed. The appraisal came in at \$3,000 per acre or \$6,000 total. Staff would like to advertise it and accept closed bids, with the floor being set at \$6,000.

Mr. Park made a motion for the Board to approve the public bidding for sale of the Woodward Twp. Parcel; Mr. Hormell seconded the motion; motion carried.

2i. Approval to Advertise for Bids of Hepburn Twp. Parcel

This agenda item was tabled during the Property Management Committee meeting.

Mr. Park made a motion for the Board to table the public bidding for the Hepburn Twp. Parcel; Ms. Wakeman seconded the motion; motion carried.

LEGAL

Solicitor Schrack stated he had nothing further to discuss in public session and recommended the Board recess into executive session.

Chairman Harvey recessed the regular meeting at 1:31 p.m. to convene into executive session at 1:40 p.m.

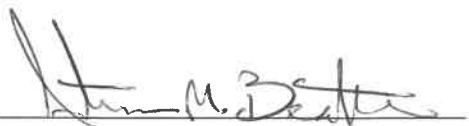
Chairman Harvey reconvened the regular meeting at 2:22 p.m.

Solicitor Schrack stated that the JRA Board held an executive session to discuss litigation. 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 Harvey adjourned the meeting at 2:23 p.m.

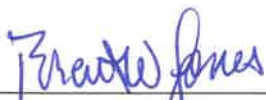
SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority Meeting
February 12, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven M. Beattie", written over a horizontal line.

Steven M. Beattie, Executive Director

I hereby certify these minutes were approved by the SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority Board of Directors on March 12, 2025.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bradley Jones", written over a horizontal line.

Secretary/Assistant Secretary