



**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
SEPTEMBER 14, 2021**

The Washington County Regional Railroad Authority (RRA) met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. in the Washington County Government Center, County Board Room. Present were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Kriesel, Johnson, and Weik. RRA Chair Wayne Johnson presided. Also present were Kevin Corbid, County Administrator; Susan Tice, County Attorney Civil Division Chief; Stephanie Kammerud, Administrative Assistant; and county staff.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of RRA Minutes from August 10, 2021

Commissioner Karwoski moved to approve the RRA meeting minutes from August 10, 2021. Commissioner Miron seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

Resolution Authorizing Withdrawal from the Great River Rail Commission

Public Works Planner Sara Allen presented a resolution authorizing the Washington County Regional Railroad Authority to withdraw from the Third Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) of the Great River Rail Commission.

The Great River Rail Commission was founded in 2009 and advocates for the development of the Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago Second Train Project, a daily round trip passenger train between the Twin Cities and Chicago. In 2021, the Commission achieved a huge milestone with their advocacy for the Amtrak Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago Second Train, acquiring matching funds from the Minnesota State Legislature for a Federal Railroad Administration grant to be used for final design and construction and service planned to begin in 2024.

The Commission's bylaws specify a 90-day written notice and resolution from the Board, and the resolution will be to withdraw Washington County Regional Railroad Authority from the Commission beginning in 2022.

Commissioner Miron moved to adopt **Resolution No. RRA-2021-001** as follows:

**RESOLUTION TO WITHDRAW FROM THE THIRD AMENDED
AND RESTATED JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT OF
THE GREAT RIVER RAIL COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, the Minnesota High Speed Rail Commission (Commission) was established in 2009 as a joint powers board under the provisions of Minnesota Statutes Section 471.59 and Chapter 398A; and

WHEREAS, the Commission is established by a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) by and between Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority, Goodhue County Regional Railroad Authority, Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority, Wabasha County Regional Railroad Authority, Winona County Regional Railroad Authority, La Crosse Area Planning Committee, City of Cottage Grove, City of Goodview, City of Hastings, City of Lake City, City of Red Wing, City of Saint Charles, City of Saint Paul, City of Saint Paul Park, City of Utica, City of Wabasha, City of Winona; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the High Speed Rail Commission was re-established as the Great River Rail Commission (the Commission) with the authority approving the JPA by Resolution No. RRA-2019-002; and

WHEREAS, the Commission is working to establish the Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago (TCMC) second daily round-trip passenger train along the current Amtrak Empire Builder route (TCMC Corridor), serving the current station stops; and

WHEREAS, the Commission advocates for faster and more frequent passenger rail service between Chicago and Saint Paul along the TCMC Corridor; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has recently achieved its primary objective of securing support and funding for the implementation of the Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago (TCMC) Second Train project, which is scheduled to begin service in 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Commission JPA Bylaws stipulate withdrawal from the Commission requires 90-day written notice and resolution from the Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Regional Railroad Authority hereby notifies the Great River Rail Commission that it wishes to withdraw from the Third Amended and Restated Great River Rail Commission Joint Powers Agreement, consistent with Agreement terms.

Commissioner Kriesel seconded the motion and it was adopted 5-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Weik, Kriesel, Miron, Karwoski, and Johnson. Nays, none.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the RRA, Commissioner Miron moved to adjourn. Commissioner Karwoski seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously. The RRA meeting adjourned at 9:11 a.m.



Attest:

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Kevin Corbid
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Kevin Corbid
County Administrator

DocuSigned by:
Wayne Johnson
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Wayne Johnson, Chair
Washington County Regional Railroad Authority