



SEDA-COG JOINT RAIL AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, May 13, 2026
Union County Government Center, Lewisburg, PA
12:30 p.m.

AUTHORITY MEMBERS PRESENT

Terry Brown, Montour County
Russ Graham, Centre County
Scott Harvey, Lycoming County
Bob Hormell, Northumberland County
Lisa Hoover, Northumberland County
Rick Jenkins, Columbia County (via teleconference)
Brent Jones, Clinton County
Keri Kenepp, Centre County (via teleconference)
Michael Krentzman, Mifflin County
Dave Park, Snyder County
Patty Perez, Columbia County
Rob Postal, Mifflin County (via teleconference)
David Schultz, Lycoming County
Jeff Sheaffer, Snyder County
Jeff Snyder, Clinton County
Jennifer Wakeman, Montour County
Eric Winslow, Union County

JRA OPERATOR

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

GUESTS

John Ashbridge, Carload Express
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

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

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Call to Order

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 12:34 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 none.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Approval of the April 8, 2026, JRA Meeting Minutes

Mr. Snyder made a motion for the Board to approve the April 8, 2026, SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority Meeting Minutes; Mr. Schultz seconded the motion; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Wakeman presented the Treasurer's Report for April, including the Balance Sheet, Profit & Loss statement, the LOA Capital Contribution Liabilities and the purported Stormwater Charges imposed in Williamsport.

Mr. Graham made a motion for the Board to accept the Treasurer's Report for the month of April 2026; Mr. Brown seconded the motion; motion carried.

Payment of the Bills; April 1 to April 30, 2026

Ms. Wakeman said the April Payment of Bills report for the May check run is on page 23 of the packet.

Ms. Wakeman made a motion for the Board to approve the May check run for the April 2026 Payment of Bills; Mr. Krentzman 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. Mr. Stotter said they are fully prepared for the first passenger excursion of the 2026 season, scheduled for May 23 in Shamokin. He also mentioned the tie replacement projects for this year have begun.

Chairman Harvey congratulated the Operator on its two recent awards at the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association annual conference. UCIR received the Railway Age Short Line Railroad of the Year award and NSHR received the ASLRRA Veterans Engagement Award.

OLD BUSINESS

Bridge Engineer's Report

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

- Comments on the Northumberland County Bridge 73 project have been submitted to the applicant.
- Preliminary plans for the Niagara Bottling Company waterline replacement were submitted on April 27. Review comments are pending.
- Bridge Safety Inspections on the NBER are complete. Reports will be submitted to JRA staff after final review. Fieldwork on the LVRR is about 50% complete.
- NBER Bridge 33.65 replacement is complete with substantial completion noted on April 7.
- Working with Jay Fulkroad & Sons, Lycoming Supply and Miller Soil Solutions to schedule the work on all three RTAP projects.
- Attended Constructability Review and PUC meetings for the Continental Boulevard grade-crossing replacement project.

NEW BUSINESS

SMA Confirmation of Assignment; RTAP 2025

This engineering COA is for final design, bidding and award, construction administration and RPR services for the rehabilitation of five bridges on the NBER as part of the RTAP 2025 Bridge Preservation Project. This project has an opinion of probable cost of \$3.5 million.

Mr. Graham made a motion to approve Stiffler McGraw RTAP 2025 Bridge Preservation Project Confirmation of Assignment with a lump sum fee of \$353,500 and not to exceed fee of

\$85,000 for Resident Project Representative Services; Mr. Snyder seconded the motion; motion carried.

SIT Section 130 Grade Crossing Agreement Second Amendment

This Section 130 project included installation of new signals, surface replacements and crossing closures in Selinsgrove, Penn Township and Middle Creek Township on the SIT. This amendment amends PennDOT's reimbursement obligation by increasing the estimated cost from \$3,515,488.64 to \$3,560,488.64 to allow for additional costs associated with engineering and design by Diamondback Signals during the project. The amendment was signed by Chairman Harvey on April 25.

Mr. Park made a motion to ratify the Letter of Amendment to the SIT Section 130 Grade Crossing Agreement; Ms. Perez seconded the motion; motion carried.

Purchase of new JRA vehicle

The Board approved the solicitation of bids for a new JRA vehicle at the January 2026 meeting. JRA staff contacted several Ford dealers who are COSTARS members to submit bids; One bid was received from Lake Ford, Lewistown, with a price of \$53,091 for a 2026 Ford Explorer Platinum 4WD. Since this is through the COSTARS system, only one bid is necessary. An additional bid from Sunbury Motors was received after the deadline with a price of \$51,260; however, the vehicle would not be available until early July. The 2026 JRA Budget included the purchase of a new vehicle for \$55,000.

Mr. Krentzman made a motion to approve the purchase of a new 2026 Ford Explorer from Lake Ford, Lewistown, at a price of \$53,091 and authorize the executive director to execute all sale documentation; Mr. Graham seconded the motion; motion carried.

Revised NBER Struble Road Section 130 Grade Crossing Agreement; Third Amendment

This Section 130 project includes installation of new devices and a traffic signal at Struble Road on the NBER. This amendment amending PennDOT's reimbursement obligation by increasing the estimated cost from \$1,098,612 to \$1,111,292 was approved and executed in November 2025. PennDOT's comptroller asked that exhibit B (audit clause) and the cost estimate be updated and a new Letter of Amendment signed before they would program the additional funds.

Mr. Snyder made a motion to approve the revised Letter of Amendment to the NBER Struble Road Section 130 Agreement; Mr. Winslow seconded the motion; motion carried.

Commitment Letter to partner with Danville Borough for Church Street Grade Crossing Replacement Project (NSHR – Danville Borough)

Danville Borough has been planning and implementing a multi-phase reconstruction of Church Street in the borough. The JRA has agreed to partner with the borough to replace the grade

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crossing surface at Church Street as part of the next phase. The borough will apply for a DCED Multimodal Grant to fund the project. The JRA will provide a 30% financial match toward construction costs and will fund 100% of the engineering costs associated with the railroad-specific improvements. The 30% financial commitment to the borough for construction cost associated with this project is estimated at \$119,748.

Mr. Brown made a motion to approve the Commitment Letter to partner with Danville Borough on the Church Street Grade Crossing Replacement Project; Ms. Wakeman seconded the motion; motion carried.

Approval of Insurance Consultant

Based on numerous requests from third parties seeking to lower our standard minimum insurance rates, the Property Management Committee recommended that the JRA seek out an insurance consultant to review our current requirements. JRA staff reached out to three consultants and responses are included in the board packet. Generally, the costs for service are as follows:

- Railroad Risk Management, Inc. (RRMI): \$195.00/hour
- Aon Global Risk Consultants, Inc. (Aon): \$300.00/hour
- Commercial Insurance Associates: \$50,000 lump sum

The intention is for the consultant to lead a review process of current practice and procedures and make recommendations, accordingly. The consultant will ensure all JRA partners are fully engaged in this process including JRA staff and Board, Operator, JRA insurance providers, JRA Engineer and the Solicitor.

Mr. Krentzman made a motion to approve Railroad Risk Management Inc., in accordance with the fee schedule, not to exceed \$25,000 without additional approval by the Board and authorize the Solicitor to prepare and Executive Director to execute a consultant agreement with RRMI; Mr. Park seconded the motion; motion carried.

Approval of Resolution 26-02

This resolution is to establish a new Joint Rail Authority name and re-incorporation for an additional 50-year period, per the requirements of the MAA. As a reminder, during the process to exit the Staff Services agreement with SEDA-COG at the end of last year, SEDA-COG requested the JRA remove "SEDA-COG" from its name. Suggestions for a new name were solicited from Board members with four names being offered for consideration: Central Pennsylvania Joint Rail Authority, Joint Rail Authority of Pennsylvania, Keystone Joint Rail Authority or The Joint Rail Authority.

Mr. Park made a motion to approve Resolution 26-02, including the name of The Joint Rail Authority and for the re-incorporation for an additional 50 years; Mr. Hormell seconded the motion; motion carried.

Solicitor Schrack gave a summary of the name change and reincorporation process.

CRISI Grant Application Submission; NSHR

JRA staff, with the assistance of JRA Engineer Jason Shura, will be submitting a 2026 CRISI grant application. Applications are due to the FRA on June 22, 2026. This is a federal grant program with \$2 billion programmed and a large rural set aside that Northumberland, Montour and Columbia counties qualify for. The project includes 4 miles of rail replacement, many storm culvert replacements, 1 rail crossing surface replacement, fencing at Berwick yard, and multiple turnout replacements along a 35-mile corridor of NSHR. JRA staff are currently engaging our partners and seeking support letters; those partners include local municipalities, counties, federal and state elected officials, and railroad customers. The projected project cost is expected to be approximately \$13.11M. The grant request will be \$9.18M (70%). The JRA's contribution toward the project is expected to be \$1,967,000 (15%) over three years. The JRA will also apply for a RTAP 2026 grant to fund the remaining \$1,967,000 (15%) of the total project cost.

Ms. Perez made a motion to approve the CRISI grant application submission with a total estimated investment of \$13.11 million, including a 15% JRA match estimated at \$1,950,000 with the understanding that project estimate will be further refined prior to grant submission; Ms. Wakeman seconded the motion; motion carried.

PennDOT RTAP 2025 Rail Freight Grant Agreement

PennDOT has awarded the JRA with a \$2,100,000 RTAP grant for the rehabilitation of four bridges on the NBER Nittany Main and one bridge on the NBER Bellefonte Branch. The total opinioned construction cost for all five structures is approximately \$3,535,000. Project construction is proposed to occur over the 2027 construction season. The Grant agreement is identical to previous PennDOT RTAP agreements; PennDOT will reimburse the JRA for 70% of construction costs and \$100,000 for project engineering and management. The Operator has agreed to contribute \$321,000 in accordance with our Letter of Agreement process. The JRA will contribute \$1,114,000, the remainder of construction cost, design/permitting costs and any cost overruns.

Mr. Snyder made a motion to approve the PennDOT RTAP 2025 Rail Freight Grant Agreement; Mr. Schultz seconded the motion; motion carried.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Property Management Committee

1a. Energy Solutions (US) LLC License Agreement #03-222.0 (NBER – Castanea Branch)

Energy Solutions (US) LLC (SNF) contacted JRA staff about licensing 300 feet of track and 6,000 square feet of JRA property at the end of the NBER – Castanea Branch. The term of the license agreement is 10 years. SNF will be assessed an annual license fee of \$14,000, which will be subject to annual CPI adjustments, in addition to a one-time \$1,100 license preparation fee.

Mr. Park made a motion to approve this license agreement with Energy Solutions (US) LLC; Mr. Jones seconded the motion; motion carried.

1b. Beech Resources LLC License Agreement #15-019.0 (Lycoming Twp. – Lycoming County)

Beech Resources contacted JRA staff about constructing a 12" HDPE water line under the Lycoming Creek Bikeway, for which Lycoming Twp. has an easement, but the JRA still owns the property. The bike path is on the former Elmira Branch, and there is no railroad track on the path. The water line would be 15' below the bike path. Beech Resources will be assessed an easement fee of \$1,320 annually, subject to annual CPI increases, in addition to a one-time easement preparation fee of \$1,100. At the April 8, 2026, PMC Meeting, it was brought before the committee that Beech Resources had requested that the commercial general liability insurance requirements be reduced from \$5 million single limit per occurrence to \$1 million and from \$10 million general aggregate to \$2 million, which was rejected by the PMC. Since the April PMC Meeting, JRA staff have worked with Beech Resources, and they have met the necessary insurance requirements. All plans have been reviewed and approved, in addition to meeting the necessary insurance requirements.

Mr. Park made a motion to approve this license agreement with Beech Resources LLC; Mr. Jones seconded the motion; motion carried.

LEGAL

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

Chairman Harvey recessed the regular meeting at 1:52 p.m. to convene into executive session at 2 p.m.

Chairman Harvey convened the regular meeting at 2:57 p.m.

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Solicitor Schrack stated that the JRA Board and JRA staff held an executive session which included the Operator to discuss the Operator's Report. The operator then left and the Solicitor, JRA Board and staff had an executive session to discuss potential and existing litigation matters. 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 Harvey adjourned the meeting at 2:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue 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 July 8, 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Trent Jones", written over a horizontal line.
~~Secretary~~/Assistant Secretary