Board Meeting Minutes – APPROVED

Date: March 23, 2026
Time: 3:00 PM
Location: Virtual (Zoom)

Authority Board Attendees

- Marian Moskowitz (Chair)
- Tom DiBello (Vice Chair)
- Christian Leinbach
- Eddie Moran
- Stephanie Henrick
- Peter Urscheler
- Scott France
- Pamela Menet

Authority Board Absentees

- Matthew Edmond

Other Attendees

- Thomas Frawley (Executive Director)
- Dan Becker (Solicitor)

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:02 by Chair Marian Moskowitz. Technical adjustments were made to ensure all members were properly connected via Zoom.

2. Adoption of Minutes: The February 23, 2026 Board Meeting minutes were presented for approval. With no opposition, the minutes were approved unanimously by acclamation.

3. Board Member Comments: No board member comments were offered.

4. Public Comment on Agenda Items: No public comments were received.

5. Committee Reports

Finance Committee: Mayor Urscheler reported four routine monthly auto-paid bills totaling $208.41 and two routine monthly invoices totaling $15,442.93. The current account balance was reported as $504,546.06, with a projected balance of $489,103.13 upon payment of the outstanding invoices. Updates were also provided regarding LSA grant funding and other new grant funding opportunities. Mayor Urscheler made a motion, seconded by Mayor Eddie Moran, to approve the prepaid and outstanding bills. The motion carried unanimously. Mayor Urscheler also reported that requests to the constituent counties for their 2026 contributions were sent on March 24 and contributions have begun to be received.

Personnel Committee: No activity to report.

6. CIDP Update and Current Outlook

Mr. Frawley reported that SRPRA continues to await advancement into FRA CIDP Step 2, and shared encouragement received from FRA that the SRPRA project would be in the next batch to be advanced into Step 2 and that this should occur by sometime in April or May. Mr. Frawley reported on FRA's proposed changes to the CIDP processes that should increase efficiency and expedite project schedules. He also noted that in-house efforts were well underway to advance preliminary versions of selected Step 2 deliverables including the Project Management Plan, Statement of Purpose & Need, Methodology Memoranda, and the Route Options Analysis for the segment between Bridgeport and Philadelphia. Mr. Frawley also reported that he met virtually on February 26 with Joe Clemmons of SEPTA to exchange project updates and request cost data to support the Route Options work.

Commissioner Moskowitz asked if Amtrak is involved in the Route Options Analysis. Mr Frawley responded that SRPRA has requested similar data from Amtrak and that Amtrak was working on the MOU that will govern their participation in Step 2, specifically to perform ridership forecasting and O&M cost estimating using Amtrak's in-house models.

7. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Frawley reported that activity remained on-hold regarding the Union Pacific – Norfolk southern merger case pending Union Pacific's refiling of its application on or about April 30. Mr. Frawley committed to obtaining an update from PA DCED regarding the pending request to amend the term end date of the SRPRA $250k LSA grant. He also reported on the current round of PA DCED Multimodal Transportation Grants being available, the waiver of the typical 30% match requirement in the current cycle, and his intent to explore possible projects of mutual benefit with the station communities on the line. Lastly, he again requested advocacy outreach by all in attendance to our federal elected officials regarding reauthorization of the Surface Transportation Bill, including passenger rail funding at its current levels.

8. Marketing Team Report

Ms. Menet reported the focus of the Marketing Team on outreach to the business community regarding advocacy for reauthorization of the Surface Transportation Bill., including working with the Greater Reading Chamber Alliance and building upon the momentum of Customers Bank CEO Jay Sidhu's recent letter to the editor. She added that recent social media posts included proactive responses to routinely received questions, such as "What makes this effort different from previous ones?", and vintage passenger rail videos.

9. Planning Team Report

Mr. France provided updates on county planning staff working on the Route Options Analysis, and DVRPC having reached approximately 80% completion of its station area planning study for Pottstown. He also noted that Commissioners DiBello and Leinbach, as well as Mr. Frawley, would be attending the Construction Alliance of Pennsylvania conference on Thursday, March 26 to share an update regarding the SRPRA project and the potential for construction industry opportunities to be generated by the project.

10. Other Business

Ms. Menet reported on the April 27 Authority Board meeting to be held in-person in Reading, at the Commissioners Meeting Room on the 13th Floor of the County Services Building, inviting everyone to come early to enjoy fellowship and refreshments prior to the meeting start at 3:00. She also noted that the City of Reading Director of Community and Economic Development and the President of the Berks County Visitors Bureau would be sharing presentations at the meeting.

11. General Public Comment

One public comment was received, consisting of a question from Andrew Greene of Congresswoman Madeleine Dean's staff, regarding whether federal funding was a cause of the delay in the advancement of SRPRA into CIDP Step 2. In response, Mr. Frawley provided some background regarding FRA's rapid expansion to implement the Corridor Program created by the Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Law, the Administration's efforts to improve government efficiency having an effect on recently hired staff, and the scale of the workload to manage 69 passenger rail projects including the SRPRA project, across the country. Commissioner Leinbach added that the delay was not related to the current budget/shutdown situation in Washington, DC.

12. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Leinbach and seconded by Mayor Urscheler. The motion was approved unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2026 at 3:00 PM (hybrid / in-person and virtual).

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Morris
Recording Secretary