

**Minutes of the
East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium
Meeting of November 11, 2009**

East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium Meeting was called to order by Chairman Jerry Holub on November 11, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at La Sure's Banquet Hall, 3125 S. Washburn Street, Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

Certification Of Public Notice: John F. Corey certified that the notice of this meeting complies with all applicable requirements of Wisconsin's open meetings law.

Roll call was taken.

Present: Kenneth Hutler, Columbia County; Edwin J. Qualmann, Dodge County; Joseph Koch and Robert Fox, Fond du Lac County; Eugene Henke and Alma Hedberg, Green Lake County; Robert Walerstein, Ozaukee County; Jerald Holub and Duffy Reimer, Sheboygan County; Daniel Goetz and Rick Gundrum, Washington County; and Stan Kline, Winnebago County.

Excused: Vern Gove, Columbia County; Russell Kottke, Dodge County; Rose Hass Leider, Ozaukee County, and Jef Hall, Winnebago County.

Others Present: Don Pohlman, Mayor for the City of Plymouth; John Rogers, Business Development Director of the Sheboygan County Chamber of Commerce; Joseph J. Klein, Concerned Citizen; Ken Hypki; Paul Lohmiller, Graef Engineers; Jeff Frances, TerraTec Engineering, LLC; Ben Meighan, WSOR; Frank Huntington, WisDOT Bureau of Railroads and Harbors; John F. Corey, Dodge County Corporation Counsel; and Kelly L. Lepple, Recording Secretary.

Dan Goetz introduced Rick Gundrum, Supervisor, Washington County Board of Supervisors. Dan Goetz reported that Brian Bausch will no longer serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the EWCRC and that Rick Gundrum will replace Brian Bausch as a member of the Board of Directors of the EWCRC.

Welcome to Winnebago County: Stan Kline welcomed everyone to Winnebago County.

Approval of Minutes of September 9, 2009: Motion by Kline/Walerstein to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2009, meeting, as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Financial Report: Kelly Lepple reported the following: The balance in the checkbook as of August 30, 2009, was \$1,000.00. Deposits were \$43,760.00. There were no expenditures. Transfers to the AIM Investment Account were \$25,000.00. As of October 30, 2009, the balance in the checkbook was \$19,760.00. Total EWCRC Money on Deposit in the AIM investment account as of October 30, 2009, is \$282,206.78. Motion by Koch/Fox to approve the financial report. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Consider, Discuss, and Take Action on the Level of Funding by Member Counties for 2010:

Chairman Holub asked that each member county of the EWCRC report its level of funding for 2010. Each member county of the EWCRC reported as follows: Columbia County – \$25,000; Dodge County – \$25,000; Fond du Lac County – \$25,000; Green Lake County – \$25,000; Ozaukee County – \$25,000; Sheboygan County – \$25,000; Washington County – \$25,000; and, Winnebago County – \$25,000. Chairman Holub stated that Milwaukee County will have to be contacted to find out its level of funding for 2010. Motion by Kline/Walerstein to authorize and direct John Corey to send invoices in the amount of \$25,000, in January, 2010, to each member county of the EWCRC for its member county contribution for 2010. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Consider, Discuss, and Take Action on Rehabilitation Projects for 2009 to be Funded in Part by EWCRC:

There was consideration of and discussion about the rehabilitation projects for 2009 to be funded in part by the EWCRC. Ben Meighan reported that the rehabilitation project to be funded in part by the EWCRC in 2009 will be a Phase I project between North Milwaukee and Slinger. This project will consist of reconstruction of several public at-grade railroad crossings and the installation of numerous switches. This rehabilitation project will be funded at a level of \$1 million because of a lack of additional available funding. WSOR and the EWCRC will jointly contribute a total of 20% of the cost and WisDOT will contribute 80% of the cost.

Consider, Discuss, and Take Action on Rehabilitation Projects for 2010 to be Funded in Part by EWCRC:

There was consideration of and discussion about the rehabilitation projects for 2010 to be funded in part by the EWCRC. Ben Meighan reported that the rehabilitation project to be funded in part by the EWCRC in 2010 will be on the Milwaukee to Slinger Subdivision and will be to complete the rehabilitation of at-grade railroad crossings and the installation of switches, and to install continuous welded rail.

Consider, Discuss, and Take Action on Rehabilitation of the Plymouth to Sheboygan Falls Rail Line:

There was consideration of and discussion about the rehabilitation of the Plymouth to Sheboygan Falls rail line. John Rogers reported the following: The Sheboygan County Chamber of Commerce hosted a meeting this past Friday for members of the Chamber of Commerce. Members were informed about the importance of the Plymouth to Sheboygan Falls rail line project to the economy of Sheboygan County. Chairman Holub, Mayor Don Pohlman, Jerry Thompson and John Rogers gave a presentation to 70-80 members of the Chamber of Commerce. Don Pohlman distributed to members of the Board of Directors of the EWCRC a handout which summarized the content of the presentation. Several new businesses are seriously considering locating in Sheboygan County because the new rail line will be rebuilt. The rebuild will include 115-pound rail the entire 11 miles. Mayor Don Pohlman reported the following: On November 5, 2009, the Plan Commission of the City of Plymouth started the 60-day process of amending the TIF 4 district with project amendments. The total project cost is \$15 million. The Governor of the State of Wisconsin allocated an award of \$12 million on September 24, 2009. A local match of \$3 million will be required. \$1 million of the local match will come from the TIF 4 district project amendment process. The public hearing for the project amendment process will be held on December 3, 2009, at 7:00 p.m., in the City Hall Council Chambers. At the November meeting of the Plymouth City Council, the Council authorized financial consultants

to complete a feasibility study and an evaluation of infrastructure. On December 8, 2009, the TIF 4 project amendment will be presented to the Council for its approval. The last step in the process will be the joint review board. Contracts for the clearing of the right-of-way will be awarded in December. The goal is to have the track completed by October 10, 2010.

Consider, Discuss, and Take Action on Report of WSOR: Ben Meighan reported the following: Grain shipments are starting to pick up. Shipments of commodities, such as lumber and sand, are still down. WSOR has added another sand customer in Ripon. This customer bought real property in Green County near Markesan, on which to build a new sand-loading facility. The customer intends to build the new facility next year. Over the past year WSOR has added 17 new customers. Many of these new customers are 2-10 car customers and several new customers are 100-125 car customers. In Granville, Wisconsin, WSOR constructed a new track for shipping scrap metal. The new track is now being used to ship 4-5 cars of scrap metal per week. WSOR has added a new customer at Good Hope Road that is shipping oil inbound and transloading it. Car loadings of steel scrap have been down for a long time. They have picked up within the last month. Lumber shipments are still flat. WSOR does not believe that lumber shipments will increase until perhaps 1-1/2 to 2 years from now when the housing market will pick up again. WSOR has bottomed out on its loss of traffic, and is now beginning to slowly rebuild. WSOR has been working with a reduced force this year. Some WSOR employees are still laid off. WSOR is hopeful that in the near-term future it will bring these laid-off employees back to work. The normal maintenance season is starting to wind down. This past year WSOR installed over 300 car loads of ballast and completed a large amount of surfacing work. WSOR normally replaces between 40,000 and 50,000 ties each year. This past year WSOR installed 26,000 ties. WSOR changed out over 4 miles of broken rails this past year and has acted aggressively in brush cutting and getting ready for the coming winter. WSOR has placed a hold on rail inspection tours, due to their high cost. WSOR is concentrating on its freight business at the present time. WSOR will again sponsor rail inspection tours after business picks up. WSOR recognizes that rail inspection tours are important for it and the EWCRC.

Time, date, and place of next meeting (January 20, 2010): The next regular EWCRC meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 20, 2010, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. Columbia County will host the meeting.

Motion by Qualmann/Hutler to adjourn. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jef Hall, Secretary

Disclaimer: The above minutes may be approved, amended or corrected at the next committee meeting.