

**Minutes of the
East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium
Meeting of September 12, 2012**

East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium Meeting was called to order by Chairman Rick Gundrum on September 12, 2012, at 10:00 a.m., at the Fond du Lac County Fairgrounds, Expo Building, 601 Martin Avenue, Fond du Lac, 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 and James E. Foley, Columbia County; Russell Kottke and Harold J. Johnson, Dodge County; Eugene Henke and Donald L. Peters, Green Lake County; Richard Bemis, Sheboygan County; Rick Gundrum, Washington County; and Joel Rasmussen, Winnebago County.

Excused: Mark Borkowski and Theodore Lipscomb, Milwaukee County, Thomas E. Winker and Donald Dohrwardt, Ozaukee County; Mark Winkel, Sheboygan County; and Dan Goetz, Washington County.

Others Present: Allen Buechel, Fond du Lac County Executive; Thomas Janke, Fond du Lac County Highway Commissioner; John E. Muentner, Sr., Fond du Lac County Supervisor; John G. Zorn, Fond du lac County Supervisor; Jimmy C. Landru, Jr., Northwoods Rail Transit Commission; Dennis Roehrborn, Glacier Transit and Storage; Don Pohlman, Mayor for the City of Plymouth; Jerry Thompson, Railroad Services Coordinator for the City of Plymouth; Bill Gardner and Ken Lucht, WSOR; Frank Huntington and Marty Morin, WisDOT Bureau of Railroads and Harbors; John F. Corey, Dodge County Corporation Counsel; and Kelly L. Lepple, Recording Secretary.

Fond du Lac County Executive Allen Buechel and Fond du Lac County Highway Commissioner Thomas Janke welcomed everyone to Fond du Lac County.

Public Comment: None.

Approval of Minutes of July 11, 2012: Motion by Kline/Hutler to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2012 meeting, as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Financial Report: Russell Kottke reported the following: The balance in the checkbook as of June 30, 2012 was \$62,738.98. There were no deposits. Expenditures were \$10,186.84. Transfers were \$51,552.14. As of August 31, 2012 the balance in the checkbook was \$1,000.00. Total EWCR money on deposit in the Investment Account as of August 31, 2012 is \$687,303.04. Motion by Koch/Henke to approve the Financial Report. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Consider, Discuss and Take Action to send invoice to Milwaukee County for 2010 and 2012 member county contributions: There was consideration of and discussion about Milwaukee County not making its member county contributions for 2010 and for 2012. John Corey reported that he spoke to the Principal Assistant to the Milwaukee County Executive to attempt to arrange a

meeting with the Milwaukee County Executive to discuss freight railroad service in Milwaukee County and Milwaukee County member county contributions. Mr. Corey reported that the Principal Assistant stated that she would talk to the Milwaukee County Executive and contact Mr. Corey at a later date to schedule a meeting to meet with the Milwaukee County Executive. John Corey also reported that he received a telephone call from Supervisor Mark Borkowski and Supervisor Theodore Lipscomb from Milwaukee County. Mr. Corey further stated that he missed the telephone call, but recorded the voicemail message that Supervisor Borkowski and Supervisor Lipscomb had left. It was the consensus of the Board of Directors of the EWCRC to direct John Corey to continue to communicate with representatives of the office of the Milwaukee County Executive to attempt to schedule a meeting to meet with the Milwaukee County Executive. It was the consensus of the Board of Directors of the EWCRC to consider and discuss this matter at the November 14, 2012 meeting of the EWCRC.

Update on the Plymouth to Sheboygan Falls Rail Line Rebuild Project: Jerry Thompson reported that tree and brush cutting started about 4 or 5 weeks ago, that a two-track spur line is being installed, that the installation of the spur line will allow rail cars to be taken off the main line and moved onto the spur line to be transloaded there, the excavation of two service roads has begun, the service roads will parallel the two-track spur line and will allow semi trucks to park next to the tracks for transloading. Ken Lucht reported that the \$15.5 million Grant Agreement between WSOR and WisDOT has not yet been signed, and Ken Lucht anticipates that it will be signed in the next week or so. Ken Lucht further reported that Sheboygan County is working with WisDOT to make arrangements to execute a T Grant Agreement for the \$1 million T Grant award, and that WSOR is in negotiations with a local industry to execute an industrial track agreement.

Save the Date Wisconsin Freight Rail Day 2012, scheduled for Friday, October 26, 2012: Wisconsin Freight Rail Day 2012 will be held on Friday, October 26, 2012, at the Plaza Hotel & Suites, 1202 W. Clairemont Avenue, in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Class I railroads and regional railroads will host this event. The freight rail industry will present, at this event, its messages to members of the public and to industry representatives regarding safety practices and procedures and proposed and pending state and federal legislation that will affect the freight rail industry.

WisDOT Annual Freight Rail Conference, scheduled for Wednesday, November 14, 2012. WisDOT Annual Freight Rail Conference will be held on Wednesday, November 14, 2012, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 4402 E. Washington Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin. This is a joint conference of WisDOT, the Office of the Commissioner of Railroads and Wisconsin's railroads.

Consider, Discuss, and Take Action on Report of WisDOT, Bureau of Railroads and Harbors: Frank Huntington reported the following: The Surface Transportation Board has approved the acquisition of the Gibson Line by WisDOT, Frank Huntington brought to the meeting duplicate original agreements for execution by the EWCRC and WSOR, WisDOT is in the process of selecting specific rehabilitation projects for approval for funding, the City of Sheboygan Falls had made plans to construct a recreational trail and has requested the permission of WisDOT and WSOR to encroach onto the rail corridor, WisDOT and WSOR have reviewed the request and are willing to grant a permit to the City of Sheboygan Falls to allow the City of Sheboygan Falls to encroach onto the rail corridor, WisDOT requests the EWCRC to take formal action to state on the record that the EWCRC approves, supports, and is in favor of the action of WisDOT and WSOR in granting a permit to the City of Sheboygan Falls to encroach onto the rail corridor in connection with the construction and operation of a recreational trail. A motion was made by Bemis/Foley to state on the record that the

EWCRRC approves, supports, and is in favor of the action of WisDOT and WSOR in granting a permit to the City of Sheboygan Falls to encroach onto the rail corridor in connection with the construction and operation of a recreational trail. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Consider, Discuss, and Take Action on Report of WSOR's proposed budget recommendation for 2013-2015 State Biennial Budget: Ken Lucht made an oral presentation to the EWCRRC regarding Wisconsin's publicly-owned freight rail system, including history, current physical condition, its important role in economic development, and the need to make capital improvements to it. Mr. Lucht also made an oral report about the capital improvement needs of WSOR. Mr. Lucht further reported that WSOR is engaged in discussions with WisDOT regarding the funding level for the Freight Railroad Preservation Program (FRPP) for the 2013-2015 biennial State Budget. The State Budget for the FRPP for the 2009-2011 biennium was \$60 million (\$30 million per year). The State Budget for the FRPP for the 2011-2013 biennium was reduced to \$30 million (\$15 million per year). This reduction in FRPP funding has presented extreme challenges for WSOR. There are many rehabilitation projects that are necessary and which WSOR wants to undertake, but WSOR cannot undertake them because of the lack of available funds. WSOR will propose to WisDOT that the State of Wisconsin appropriate \$90 million for the FRPP for the 2013-2015 biennium, and that \$30 million of those funds be used to acquire the Reedsburg rail line, and the remainder of those funds be used to rehabilitate existing railroad infrastructure. WSOR requests that the EWCRRC take formal action to send a letter to Mark Gottlieb, Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, and to members of the Joint Committee on Finance, Governor Scott Walker, and the Wisconsin Legislative Delegation requesting that the funding level for the FRPP for the 2013-2015 State Biennial Budget be increased to \$90 million. Motion by Johnson/Hutler to direct the Office of Dodge County Corporation Counsel to work with WSOR to draft a letter for the approval and signature of Chairman Gundrum and to send the letter to Mark Gottlieb, Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, the members of the Joint Committee on Finance, Governor Scott Walker, and the Wisconsin Legislative Delegation, to request that the funding level for the FRPP for the 2013-2015 State Biennial Budget be increased to \$90 million. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

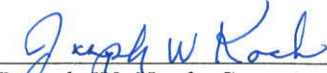
Consider, Discuss, and Take Action on Report of WSOR: Ken Lucht reported the following: WSOR has completed approximately 100 miles of brush spraying in the Northern Division, WSOR is currently rebuilding a bridge in Mayville, WSOR will soon use a geometry car to check the tracks on the entire WSOR system, the geometry car travels on the rails and detects elevation discrepancies and gauge discrepancies in the rail, WSOR will aggressively resolve any type of discrepancies detected by the geometry car, the findings and results of the operation of the geometry car will be provided at the November 14, 2012 meeting of the EWCRRC, there are a number of capital improvement projects in process in the Northern Division and in the Southern Division, WSOR is currently working in the Granville area, and will continue to do so for approximately 4 weeks, on the Slinger to Milwaukee Phase II continuous welded rail project, WSOR is installing approximately 4,000 feet of continuous welded rail per day on that project, WSOR is installing continuous welded rail between Madison and Milton, and that project is almost complete, WSOR contracted for bridge construction work to complete the replacement of 10 bridges between Madison and Milton, that project will be finished by the end of 2012, and WSOR is rebuilding 10 public crossings between Janesville and Monroe.

Date, time, and place of next meeting (November 14, 2012): The next regular EWCRC meeting will be held on November 14, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. Columbia County will host the meeting.

Motion by Bemis/Foley to adjourn. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph W. Koch, Secretary

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