

**Minutes of the
East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium
Meeting of September 14, 2022**

East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium Meeting was called to order by Chairman Thomas Winker on September 14, 2022, at approximately 10:00 a.m., at the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office, 4311 Jackson Street, Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

Certification of Public Notice: Kimberly A. Nass certified that the notice of this meeting complies with all applicable requirements of Wisconsin's Open Meetings Law.

Present: Char Holtan, Columbia County; Jeffrey Caine, Dodge County; Karen Madigan, Fond du Lac County; Dennis Mulder, Green Lake County; Thomas E. Winker, Ozaukee County; Roger TeStroete and Al Bosman, Sheboygan County; Jeff Schleif and Robert Hartwig, Washington County; and, Donald Nussbaum and Howard Miller, Winnebago County.

Excused: Henry St. Maurice, Columbia County; Dave Frohling, Dodge County; John Zorn, Fond du Lac County; Charlie Wielgosh, Green Lake County; Milwaukee County; and Marty Wolf, Ozaukee County.

Others Present: Dale Drachenberg and Matt Belling, Didion, Inc., Kimberly A. Nass, Dodge County Corporation Counsel; and Kelly Lepple, Dodge County Corporation Counsel Office.

Public Comment: Tom Winker welcomed Al Bosman, from Sheboygan County, and asked him to introduce himself. Tom Winker welcomed Matthew Belling and Dale Drachenberg from Didion, Inc., and asked them to introduce themselves.

Approval of Draft Minutes of July 13, 2022: Motion by Schleif/Mulder to approve the draft minutes of July 13, 2022. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Financial Report: Jeff Caine reported for the period ending August 31, 2022. The balance in the checkbook as of June 30, 2022, was \$1,000.04. Deposits – \$30,021.21, Expenditures – None, and Transfers – \$30,021.21. Total EWCRC money on deposit in the Local Government Investment Pool as of August 31, 2022, is \$739,082.88. There was a typo noted in the deposit and transfer amounts. Motion by Holton/Hartwig to approve the Financial Report with corrections. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Consider, discuss and take action on Glendale Yard – Beeline scale, fence and right-of-way: Kim Nass reported that she sent a letter to Beeline giving them a deadline to move the fence. Kim further reported that Mike Lindholm of Beeline has retained counsel and is now represented by Attorney Christopher Schmidt. On September 13, 2022, a telephone conference with Attorney Schmidt was held to determine a timeline for Beeline to acquire estimates on moving the fence. There is progress on getting estimates on moving the fence and there was a request to have Ken Lucht on site when the fence will be moved to make sure it is moved in the right location. Kim will contact Attorney Schmidt again to get a timeline on the fence removal and report back to the EWCRC at its next meeting on November 9, 2022.

Consider, discuss and take action on Leann Schultz acquiring adjacent corridor lands at 126 Wisconsin Street, Beaver Dam, Wisconsin: Tom Winker reported that Leann Schultz met with him before the meeting to inquire if the EWCRC would be acting on her request to purchase surplus land from WisDOT. Tom stated that he has not heard back from WisDOT with answers to a couple of questions that WSOR had. Tom further stated that he will contact WisDOT and get those answers and report back to the EWCRC at its next meeting on November 9, 2022.

Report of WisDOT Railroads and Harbors: Kelly Lepple read the written report provided by Lisa Stern of WisDOT. WisDOT has four staffing vacancies. WisDOT has hired Quandel to complete the environmental documentation for the Janesville Bridge Project, WisDOT and Quandel had a preliminary meeting with the City of Janesville.

WisDOT awarded two Freight Railroad Infrastructure Improvement Program (FRIIP) loans to EWCRC counties. The Freight Railroad Preservation Program (FRPP) grant was awarded to WSOR in Crawford County.

In Brown County, McDonald Companies was awarded \$492,791 from the FRIIP loan fund to reconstruct 521 feet of industry track that would serve their Building 1 warehouse in the North Quincy Street corridor in Green Bay. Reinstallation of this industry track will allow McDonald's tenant Quincy Recycled Paper to transport recycled fiber by rail to Green Bay Packaging's new paper mill on North Quincy Street and other Wisconsin mills.

In Milwaukee County, the DeLong Company was awarded \$1,500,000 from the FRIIP loan fund for installation of conveyance equipment at its new rail-served grain terminal at the Port Milwaukee. DeLong intends to bring in grains by rail from Iowa and Minnesota, resulting in a substantial transportation cost savings.

In Crawford County, WSOR was awarded a FRPP Grant of \$1,437,800 and a FRIIP Loan of \$179,725 supporting \$1,797,250 in total cost. This project includes replacement of one timber trestle structure on the WSOR Prairie Subdivision with a new steel and concrete trestle in a project estimated to cost \$1,797,250. The new structure in Boscobel will replace a timber trestle that has extensive decay and provide trail accommodations for local pedestrian and bicycle connectivity, enabling the closure of a local road so that an industry siding can be lengthened.

Tom Winker stated that on September 15, 2022, he and Ken Lucht will travel to Madison to WisDOT where WSOR will provide its annual carload report.

Tom Winker further stated that he will be attending a Zoom meeting after the EWCRC meeting to talk about the Sunny Knoll Crossing. Karen Madigan stated that the Office of the Commissioner of Railroads is investigating the adequacy of warning devices at the grade crossing of WSOR tracks at Sunny Knoll Road and are now evaluating the potential closure of Sunny Knoll Road. The elimination of this crossing would cause delays for emergency response vehicles from responding to possible life threatening situations and farmers will be forced to travel extra distances to get their crops off the fields. The Town of Metomen is opposed to the potential closure of the rail crossing at Sunny Knoll Road. Ken Lucht stated that there are some tremendous safety issues at the Sunny Knoll Crossing and explained the safety issues.

Report of WSOR: Ken Lucht reported the following: Oshkosh is a big hub for WSOR located near Highway 91 and Clairville Road. There are a number of businesses located there. The Oshkosh terminal is growing. WSOR has a public/private partnership with the City of Oshkosh. The City owns the land and track at the Oshkosh terminal and WSOR has an operating agreement with them to use the track. WSOR also markets the Oshkosh terminal. WSOR is loading military vehicles for Oshkosh Defense and loading roofing granules that come from the Fox Valley. United Cooperative has begun their improvement project they are extending their siding and installing two new switches off our main. This fall WSOR will be improving two crossings on the Plymouth Subdivision. Next year WSOR will start a complete reconstruction project of the Highway 49 crossing in Waupun, Wisconsin. WSOR is conducting its fall weed spraying and brush cutting over the entire network as part of its routine maintenance. There is an impending rail strike as Class 1 rail workers express concern over their existing labor contract. The Class 1 carriers are already taking steps anticipating a strike possibly beginning Friday of this week. The Wisconsin Railroad Association Freight Rail Day 2022 will be held on October 6, 2022, located in Superior, Wisconsin. This event is presented by BNSF Railway, CN, WSOR, and CP. Everyone is invited to attend. The cars and equipment needed for the rail tour are not ready and it is very likely that we will have to hold off until spring for a rail tour.

Date, time, and place of next meeting (November 9, 2022): The next regular EWCRC meeting will be held on November 9, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. Dodge County will host the meeting to be held at the Dodge County Administration Building, located in Juneau, Wisconsin.

Motion by Hartwig/Mulder to adjourn. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Meeting adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Zorn, Secretary

Disclaimer: These are draft minutes. These draft minutes may be approved, amended, or corrected at the next meeting of the East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium.