

**Minutes of the  
East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium  
Meeting of March 13, 2019**

**East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium Meeting** was called to order by Chairman Thomas Winker on March 13, 2019, at 10:00 a.m., at the Plymouth City Fire Station, located at 111 E. Main Street, Plymouth, 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.

Roll call was taken.

**Present:** James E. Foley, Columbia County; Russell Kottke and Jeffery Caine, Dodge County; Joseph Koch and Karen Madigan, Fond du Lac County; Thomas E. Winker and Donald Dohrwardt, Ozaukee County; Richard Bemis and Jim Glavan, Sheboygan County; and Larry Smith and Joel Rasmussen, Winnebago County.

**Excused:** Vicki Bernhagen and Dennis Mulder, Green Lake County; Milwaukee County, Jeff Schleif, Washington County.

**Others Present:** Ken Lucht, WSOR; Rich Kedzior and Edward Singer, WisDOT; Aaron Hertzberg, Milwaukee County; Don Pohlman, Mayor of the City of Plymouth; Kimberly A. Nass, Dodge County Corporation Counsel; and, Kelly L. Lepple, Recording Secretary.

**Public Comment:** Don Pohlman, Mayor of the City of Plymouth, thanked everyone on the EWCRC for its interest in the railroad and freight rail.

**Approval of Minutes of November 14, 2018:** Motion by Dohrwardt/Koch to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2018 meeting, as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Financial Report:** Russell Kottke reported the following: The balance in the checkbook as of October 31, 2018, was \$1,000. Deposits were \$230,205.07. Expenditures were \$225,000. Transfers were \$5,201.21. Total EWCRC money on deposit in the Local Government Investment Pool as of February 28, 2019, is \$448,967.82. Motion by Bemis/Caine to approve the Financial Report. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Consider, discuss, approve, and authorize payment of invoice of Dodge County for services provided by the Dodge County Finance Department in 2018:** There was consideration of and discussion about the statement for services that was presented for payment from Dodge County, in the amount of \$957.94 for services provided by the Dodge County Finance Director and staff, in recordkeeping, accounting assistance, and in preparing the EWCRC Annual Financial Report. Motion by Madigan/Smith to approve payment of this invoice and to authorize and direct the Office of Dodge County Corporation Counsel to send payment to Dodge County, in the amount of \$957.94, for services provided by the Dodge County Finance Director and staff, in recordkeeping, accounting assistance, and in preparing the EWCRC Annual Financial Report. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Consider, discuss, approve, and authorize payment of invoice of Dodge County for services provided by the Dodge County Corporation Counsel Office in 2018:** There was consideration of and discussion about the statement for services that was presented for payment from Dodge County, in the amount of \$3,565.79, for services provided by the Dodge County Corporation Counsel and staff in 2018. Motion by Hertzberg/Foley to approve payment of this invoice and to authorize and direct the Office of Dodge County Corporation Counsel to send payment to Dodge County, in the amount of \$3,565.79, for services provided by the Dodge County Corporation Counsel and staff in 2018. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Consider, discuss, and take action on Report of WisDOT, Railroads and Harbors:** Rich Kedzior reported the following:

Rich Kedzior introduced Ed Singer to the members of the EWCRC. Mr. Singer is the Real Estate Specialist for the WisDOT Railroads and Harbors Section. Mr. Singer stated that he addresses encroachments on state owned railroad corridors and works on acquiring lands for highway projects where highways and railroads intersect.

Rich provided to all Consortium members an updated 2019 Wisconsin Railroads and Harbors map. The map outlines all of the railroad lines in the State of Wisconsin.

The Governor's budget includes \$30 million in bonding for the Freight Railroad Preservation Project (FRPP) for the upcoming new biennium.

There have been some property management issues in the City of Milwaukee and the City of Beaver Dam. WisDOT has received fines due to lack of improper vegetation control on railroad property which WSOR is responsible for. Rich provided copies of the delinquent fines to the Consortium members. WisDOT has been in communication with the WSOR about taking care of these fines and making sure that vegetation control is being taken care of. Rich would like WSOR, WisDOT and the EWCRC to work together to get these property management issues under control before a lien is placed on state railroad property.

**Consider, discuss, and take action on the track expansion project in Adell, Wisconsin:** Ken Lucht passed out two handouts to the EWCRC members. WSOR is working on a proposal with Great Lakes Agri-Service and Adell Cooperative to rebuild and extend the existing rail siding that exists within the railroad right of way in Adell, Wisconsin. WSOR proposes to relocate the existing mainline switch north and extending and rehabilitating the existing siding. Great Lakes Agri-Service would like to install an unloading pit at the same time that the track would be reconstructed, while Adell Cooperative plans to rebuild their track. WSOR proposes to enter into an Industry Track Agreement with Great Lakes Agri-Service and Adell Cooperative. This proposal requires written approval by WisDOT and the EWCRC in accordance with Agreement No. 0490-40-50(F-1), Section 8.4, New Improved Property. The private landowner to the south of WSOR's mainline would need to enter into a private crossing agreement and fund and maintain the construction of a new private crossing and likely a short portion of a driveway within the railroad right of way. Motion by Bemis/Glavan to give written approval to WSOR on the Great Lakes Agri-Service and Adell Cooperative Track Expansion Project. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Consider, discuss, and take action on WSOR's 2018 and 2019 Capital Plan for EWCRC – Phase II of Oshkosh Subdivision CWR Project:** Ken Lucht provided handouts to each of the members of the EWCRC which provided an overview of WSOR's 2018-2019 Capital Plan. Ken Lucht gave an oral report regarding an overview of WSOR's public/private partnership with the East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium. Ken Lucht summarized WSOR's capital expenditures in the Northern Division, described the many rehabilitation projects that are included in WSOR's capital expenditures, and stated the sources of funding for each project. WSOR is requesting that the EWCRC contribute its 2018 and 2019 member county contributions to the Phase 2 continuous welded rail replacement between Ripon and Fisk on the Oshkosh Subdivision. Motion by Kottke/Bemis to accept WSOR's 2018-2019 Capital Plan and to contribute EWCRC's 2018 and 2019 member county contributions, in an amount not to exceed \$450,000, to the Phase 2 continuous welded rail replacement project between Ripon and Fisk on the Oshkosh Subdivision. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Consider, discuss, and take action on report of WSOR:** Ken Lucht reported the following:

The Phase 1 rehabilitation project on the Oshkosh Subdivision is complete. WSOR has some surfacing to complete and is gearing up for the Phase 2 continuous welded rail rehabilitation projects on the Oshkosh Subdivision. The continuous welded rail has been ordered and WSOR is working on bids for the crossings and the turnouts.

WSOR is constructing a new 5,000 foot siding between James Street and Clareville Road in Winnebago County. This is to relocate capacity from the Waukesha Subdivision to the Oshkosh Subdivision. This will allow WSOR to switch its customers more efficiently, effectively, and provide better customer service while not occupying the main track on the Oshkosh Subdivision.

In Cambria, as part of WSOR's maintenance plan, WSOR is going to be installing approximately 13,000 maintenance ties and rebuilding the Columbus Street at-grade crossing. WSOR will be servicing the Cambria Subdivision in 2019.

WSOR checks its rail lines for defects by means of a rail defect detector test car and a geometry test car. The rail defect detector test car transmits an ultrasonic sound wave through the rail and it thereby detects cavities and other internal defects in the rail and the geometry of the track.

WSOR has scheduled for 2019, its weed spraying, brush cutting, and annual bridge inspections as part of its annual maintenance. A truck travels on the railroad tracks and sprays the weeds and brush on the sides of the track. This is important because the weeds and brush retain moisture, and the retained moisture deteriorates railroad ties.

Ken Lucht provided a handout on the Spring Grove Derailment which occurred on February 26, 2019, due to defective and aged rail. The rail line returned to service approximately 20 hours later with minimal customer service interruptions.

Tom Winker stated that he would like to send out a copy of the EWCRC Bylaws to all members for their review and consideration of possible amendments and changes at the next EWCRC meeting.

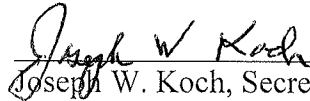
WSOR handed out its annual calendar to all members of the EWCRC.

**Date, time, and place of next meeting (May 8, 2019):** The next regular EWCRC meeting will be held on May 8, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. Ozaukee County will host the meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph W. Koch, 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.**