

**Minutes of the
East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium
Meeting of May 11, 2016**

East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium Meeting was called to order by Chairman Rick Gundrum on May 11, 2016, at 10:00 a.m., at the Ozaukee County Administration Center Auditorium, 121 W. Main Street, Port Washington, Wisconsin.

Certification Of Public Notice: Kelly L. Lepple 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, Dodge County; Joseph Koch and Karen Madigan, Fond du Lac County; Thomas E. Winker and Donald Dohrwardt, Ozaukee County; Richard Bemis, Mark Winkel, and Jim Glavan, Sheboygan County; Rick Gundrum and Jeff Schleif, Washington County; and Joel Rasmussen, Winnebago County.

Excused: Harold Johnson, Dodge County; Vicki Bernhagen and Rich Slate, Green Lake County; Steve F. Taylor and Khalif Rainey, Milwaukee County; Daniel Goetz, Washington County; and Ron Hardy, Winnebago County.

Others Present: Tom Meaux, Ozaukee County Administrator; Don Pohlman, Mayor for the City of Plymouth; Ken Lucht, WSOR; Rich Kedzior, WisDOT; Charles Beck, Spectator; and, Kelly L. Lepple, Recording Secretary.

Public Comment: Ozaukee County Administrator Tom Meaux, welcomed everyone to Ozaukee County. Don Pohlman, Mayor for the City of Plymouth, thanked the EWCRC for its support of freight rail service and for its efforts to improve and expand freight rail service in Wisconsin.

Approval of Minutes of November 11, 2015: Motion by Winker/Schleif to approve the minutes of the November 11, 2015 meeting, as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Financial Report: Russell Kottke reported the following: The balance in the checkbook as of October 31, 2015, was \$1,000. Deposits were \$200,000. Expenditures were \$200,000. There were no transfers. As of April 30, 2016, the balance in the checkbook was \$1,000. Total EWCRC money on deposit in the Local Government Investment Pool as of April 30, 2016, is \$369,033.17. Motion by Madigan/Koch to approve the Financial Report. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Consider, discuss, and take action on EWCRC annual Financial Statement for 2014 prepared by the Dodge County Finance Department: There was consideration of and discussion about the EWCRC annual Financial Statement for 2014 prepared by the Dodge County Finance Department. Motion by Rasmussen/Dohrwardt to approve the 2014 EWCRC Annual Financial Statement as presented in written form. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Consider, discuss, and take action on EWCRC annual Financial Statement for 2015 prepared by the Dodge County Finance Department: There was consideration of and discussion about the EWCRC annual Financial Statement for 2015 prepared by the Dodge County Finance Department. Motion by Winker/Schleif to approve the 2015 EWCRC annual Financial Statement as presented in written form. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Consider, discuss, and take action to authorize and direct the Dodge County Finance Department to make an oral presentation of the EWCRC Annual Financial Statements for 2014 and 2015: There was consideration of and discussion about authorizing and directing the Dodge County Finance Department to make an oral presentation of the EWCRC Annual Financial Statements for 2014 and 2015. It was the consensus of the Board of Directors of the EWCRC to not authorize and direct the Dodge County Finance Department to make an oral presentation of the EWCRC Annual Financial Statements for 2014 and 2015.

Consider, discuss, approve, and authorize payment of invoice of Dodge County for services provided by the Dodge County Finance Department in 2015: There was consideration of and discussion about the statement for services that was presented for payment from Dodge County, in the amount of \$1,350, for services provided by the Dodge County Finance Director and staff, in recordkeeping, accounting assistance, and in preparing the EWCRC Annual Financial Report for 2014, and in preparing the EWCRC Annual Financial Report for 2015. Motion by Dohrwardt/Rasmussen 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 \$1,350, for services provided by the Dodge County Finance Director and staff, in recordkeeping, accounting assistance, and in preparing the EWCRC Annual Financial Report for 2014, and in preparing the EWCRC Annual Financial Report for 2015. 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 2015: There was consideration of and discussion about the statement for services that was presented for payment from Dodge County, in the amount of \$3,212.66, for services provided by the Dodge County Corporation Counsel and staff in 2015. Motion by Bemis/Koch 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 \$3,212.66, for services provided by the Dodge County Corporation Counsel and staff in 2015. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Consider, discuss, and take action to authorize and direct the Dodge County Corporation Counsel to apply Winnebago County's 2014 member county contribution to EWCRC's second invoice for the Fairwater to Markesan continuous welded rail rehabilitation project: There was consideration of and discussion about authorizing and directing the Dodge County Corporation Counsel to apply Winnebago County's 2014 member county contribution to EWCRC's second invoice for the Fairwater to Markesan continuous welded rail rehabilitation project. Motion by Winker/Schleif to authorize and direct the Office of Dodge County Corporation Counsel to apply Winnebago County's 2014 member county contribution to EWCRC's second invoice for the Fairwater to Markesan continuous welded rail rehabilitation. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Consider and discuss election of officers to be held at the July 13, 2016 EWCRC meeting: Rick Gundrum reported that election of officers will take place at the July 13, 2016 EWCRC meeting. A copy of the Bylaws of the EWCRC will be included in the July 13, 2016, meeting packet.

Consider, discuss, and take action on Report of WisDOT, Bureau of Railroads and Harbors: Rich Kedzior made the following oral report: The Markesan Subdivision rehabilitation project is going well. Track engineers have inspected the progress of the installation of the continuous welded rail, and the track engineers are pleased with the work done by Northshore Track. Installation of the continuous welded rail should be complete in the next few weeks and surfacing work will begin in another month or so after that.

WisDOT has had ongoing coordination with the City of Oshkosh to construct a new loading station in the City of Oshkosh with the help of a T grant. This construction project is still in the design phase, and the City of Oshkosh is still deciding on a site. The primary user of this new loading station will be Oshkosh Corporation to transport military vehicle parts.

Rich gave an oral report regarding the Great Lakes Basin Railroad Proposal. The principal purpose of the proposed rail line is to provide Class I railroads and regional railroads utilizing the Chicago metropolitan terminal area with more efficient options to route trains around the city. WisDOT is working on a formal response to the Environmental Impact Statement. The Great Lakes Basin Railroad Proposal is currently in the scoping phase and the Surface Transportation Board is accepting comments on the proposal for the scoping phase through June 15, 2016. Communities and railroad organizations are encouraged to provide comment to the Surface Transportation Board if the proposal would have any impact on its communities.

Consider, discuss, and take action on report of WSOR: Ken Lucht reported the following: The Markesan Subdivision continuous welded rail rehabilitation project is expected to be completed by this summer or early fall of 2016.

The 2015 Capital Rehabilitation Plan, which the EWCRC approved in November of 2015, included reconstruction of 8 bridges and the rehabilitation of two at-grade crossings. Jay Road and Sunset Bay at-grade crossings are completed. The reconstruction of four bridges on the Oshkosh Subdivision have been completed. WSOR has four bridges yet to be completed and work will start in June of 2016, with hope to be completed by August of 2016. WSOR expects to send to the EWCRC its first invoice for this rehabilitation project within the next 30 to 60 days. This rehabilitation project will be broken up into two billings with the final billing to come in August or September of 2016.

A high wide tractor trailer collided with the bridge over State Highway 33 located in Iron Ridge, and moved the superstructure three inches, causing a total damage valued at \$300,000. The motor carrier was insured, but the cargo was not insured. The tractor trailer was cut in half. The cargo being carried was equipment used for logging. The debris from this incident impacted another tractor trailer and flattened all of its tires. WisDOT is working with fleet management to see if the high wide tractor trailer had proper permits. The bridge will be out of service for a few days.

Ken Lucht distributed to all members of the EWCRC a photo of an Oshkosh transload site. February 10, 2016, was the grand opening of the Oshkosh transload site. Roofing granules and animal fat are currently being transloaded at this site.

The Sheboygan Falls Subdivision is in service. November 23, 2015, was the ribbon cutting and presentation of the Sheboygan Falls Subdivision. Mostly fertilizer and plastic are being transported. 100 acres is being designated for future industrial development.

Railroads were under attack through legislative proposal that would allow trespassing anywhere at any time on railroad property. 2015 Assembly Bill 876 was supported by outdoor recreationalists in western Wisconsin. This bill passed in the Assembly. 2015 Assembly Bill 876 did not get a hearing in the Senate so it did not pass in this session. The Governor is not in support of this Bill. This Bill would allow anyone to walk along railroad tracks at any time and it would be legal. People should cross at designated locations, and at at-grade crossings.

The Federal government has implemented that all commuting commuter railroad agencies and companies implement Positive Train Control (PTC) technology on infrastructure, wayside of railroad right-of-ways, and inside of locomotive engines to address safety issues regarding two trains colliding with each other. PTC is

digital technology that will sense a collision coming up and will shut the engine down and takes controls out of the hands of the engineer. This is a \$12-\$16 billion dollar project that is unfunded. The deadline is extended to 2020. This is a new type of technology and it is untested. Everything has to be developed from scratch, including software. All railroad company software has to connect with other railroad company's software. This is to protect citizens.

On February 1, 2016, WSOR submitted applications for the following projects through the Freight Railroad Preservation Program (FRPP): 1) Match funding for a federal tiger grant, for an approximately \$12.7 million grant, with a total project cost of approximately \$26 million, for infrastructure upgrades from Madison to Spring Green to replace approximately 800 ties per mile, the installation of 35 miles of new continuous welded rail, and replacing culverts and at-grade crossings; 2) \$16 million for annual bridge replacement program; 3) funding for a continuous welded rail rehabilitation project on the Fox Lake Subdivision between Walworth, Wisconsin, and the State line; and, 4) funding for a Phase I continuous welded rail rehabilitation project on the Oshkosh Subdivision.

Consider, discuss, and take action on WSOR 2016 Capital Rehabilitation Plan: Ken Lucht provided to all members of the EWCRC a handout outlining the WSOR 2016 Capital Rehabilitation Plan. Ken Lucht summarized WSOR's 2016 Capital Rehabilitation Plan, described the many rehabilitation projects that are included in WSOR's 2016 Capital Rehabilitation Plan, and stated the sources of funding for each project. WSOR's 2016 Capital Rehabilitation Plan includes the following projects: 1) A tie replacement project between Pickett and Brandon; WSOR is funding this rehabilitation project entirely with its own funds, in the amount of approximately \$1.2 million, to replace approximately 9,000 ties. There is no state grant or consortium match for this rehabilitation project. 2) Rehabilitation of 8 bridges on the Oshkosh Subdivision, consisting of 3 bridges on the Cambria rail line, 1 bridge on the Gibson Spur, and 4 bridges on the Plymouth rail line; 3) Three culvert replacements on the Milwaukee Subdivision and on the Markesan Subdivision; and, 4) Reconstruction of the rail line located on Elizabeth Street in Plymouth.

Date, time, and place of next meeting (September 14, 2016): The next regular EWCRC meeting will be held on September 14, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. Sheboygan County will host the meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:08 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.