

**Minutes of the  
East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium  
Meeting of July 11, 2018**

**East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium Meeting** was called to order by Chairman Thomas Winker on July 11, 2018, at 10:00 a.m., at the Dodge County Administration Building, 127 E. Oak Street, Juneau, 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:** Andy Ross, Columbia County; Russell Kottke and Jeffery Caine, Dodge County; Joseph Koch and Karen Madigan, Fond du Lac County; Vicki Bernhagen and Dennis Mulder, Green Lake 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:** James E. Foley, Columbia County, Milwaukee County, and Jeff Schleif, Washington County.

**Others Present:** Roger Schaalma, WSOR; Rich Kedzior and Lisa Stern, WisDOT; Kimberly A. Nass, Dodge County Corporation Counsel; and, Kelly L. Lepple, Recording Secretary.

**Election of Officers:**

Motion by Bemis/Dohrwardt to re-elect all the existing officers. All existing officers are willing to serve another term. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**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 January 24, 2018:** Motion by Mulder/Koch to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2018 meeting, as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Andy Ross abstained.

**Financial Report:** Russell Kottke reported the following: The balance in the checkbook as of December 31, 2017, was \$1,000. Deposits were \$5,201.21. There were no expenditures. There were no transfers. As of May 31, 2018, the balance in the checkbook was \$6,201.21. Total EWCRC money on deposit in the Local Government Investment Pool as of May 31, 2018, is \$638,321.96. Motion by Rasmussen/Smith to approve the Financial Report. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Consider, discuss, and take action on EWCRC annual Financial Statement for 2017 prepared by the Dodge County Finance Department:** There was consideration of and discussion about the EWCRC annual Financial Statement for 2017 prepared by the Dodge County Finance Department. Motion by Mulder/Smith to approve the 2017 EWCRC annual Financial Statement as presented in written form. 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 2017:** There was consideration of and discussion about the statement for services that was presented for payment from Dodge County, in the amount of \$536.62 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 Mulder/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 \$536.62, 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 2017:** There was consideration of and discussion about the statement for services that was presented for payment from Dodge County, in the amount of \$3,137.96, for services provided by the Dodge County Corporation Counsel and staff in 2017. Motion by Dohwardt/Ross 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 \$3,137.96, for services provided by the Dodge County Corporation Counsel and staff in 2017. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Consider, discuss, and take action on the level of funding by member counties for 2019:** There was consideration of and discussion about the level of funding for member counties for 2019. Motion by Bemis/Madigan that the Board of Directors of the EWCRC recommend to each member county that each member county budget \$25,000 for its 2019 member county contribution to the EWCRC. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Consider, discuss and take action on FRPP Support Letter for 2019/2021 Biennial State Budget:** WSOR asked for support from the EWCRC in writing a letter to Secretary Dave Ross of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Governor Scott Walker, all members of the Wisconsin Legislature whose constituents reside in the EWCRC region, and to the Joint Committee on Finance, requesting that the Governor allocate \$20 million to the FRPP over the next two-year budget. Roger Schaalma provided a copy of the proposed letter to all EWCRC members for their review and consideration. Motion by Caine/Mulder to authorize and direct Chairman Winker to sign the letter as proposed and authorize and direct the Office of Dodge County Corporation Counsel to send the letter to Secretary Dave Ross of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, to Governor Scott Walker, all members of the Wisconsin Legislature whose constituents reside in the EWCRC region, and to the Joint Committee on Finance. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Consider, discuss, and take action on Report of WisDOT, Railroads and Harbors:** Rich Kedzior introduced the new Chief of Railroads and Harbors, Lisa Stern. WisDOT is starting the 2019 Freight Railroad Preservation Program (FRPP) grant cycle. WSOR submitted an application for the Phase 2 continuous welded rail rehabilitation Project on the Oshkosh Subdivision, from Ripon to Fisk and WSOR is also submitting an application for a bridge rehabilitation project in Winnebago County. WisDOT should know by September or October 2018 what projects were awarded grant funds through the FRPP. WisDOT's Annual Freight Railroad Conference is scheduled for November 13, 2018, at

the Sheridan Hotel in Madison, Wisconsin. More information will be coming soon regarding sponsorship, registration, agenda, speakers, and accommodations.

**Consider, discuss, and take action on report of WSOR:** Roger Schaalma provided the following report: WSOR is currently working on a continuous welded rail project from Brandon to Ripon. WSOR is also working on repairing and upgrading crossings and turnouts on the Oshkosh Subdivision. It is WSOR's intent to have the continuous welded rail installed and the surfacing and ballast work completed by the end of the year.

WSOR submitted an FRPP application for the Phase 2 continuous welded rail rehabilitation project on the Oshkosh Subdivision, from Ripon to Fisk, and if WSOR is awarded the grant, WSOR will start that project in early 2019.

WSOR has been working on a couple of substantially large bridge rehabilitation projects on the Plymouth Subdivision. WSOR also has been working on a bridge rehabilitation project on the Gibson spur in the City of Milwaukee. Those bridge rehabilitation projects are now complete. WSOR has a couple of more bridge rehabilitation/replacement projects in Winnebago County and in the City of Milwaukee. WSOR is upgrading three grade crossings on Douglas Road in Ripon. WSOR will soon be completing geometry testing to detect rail defects and complete its weed spraying over the entire WSOR system.

WSOR reported that sand is moving out of Green Lake County again and Country Visions is up and running. WSOR is working on rescheduling the excursion trip to tour the Plymouth and Sheboygan Fall Subdivisions. WSOR is waiting to receive certification from Amtrak.

Roger Schaalma provided a handout outlining its public private partnership between WSOR, WisDOT and its rail transit commissions.

On July 9, 2018, WATCO and WSOR met with WisDOT to give its annual financial report.

**Date, time, and place of next meeting (September 12, 2018):** The next regular EWCRC meeting will be held on September 12, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. Fond du Lac County will host the meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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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.