

**Minutes of the  
East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium  
Meeting of November 14, 2018**

**East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium Meeting** was called to order by Chairman Thomas Winker on November 14, 2018, 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:** 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:** Russell Kottke, Dodge County; Joseph Koch and Karen Madigan, Fond du Lac County; Dennis Mulder, Green Lake County; Thomas E. Winker and Donald Dohrwardt, Ozaukee County; Richard Bemis and Jim Glavan, Sheboygan County; Jeff Schleif, Washington County; and Larry Smith, Winnebago County.

**Excused:** James E. Foley, Columbia County; Jeffery Caine, Dodge County; Vicki Bernhagen, Green Lake County; Milwaukee County, and Joel Rasmussen, Winnebago County.

**Others Present:** Ken Lucht, WSOR; Rich Kedzior, WisDOT; 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. Mayor Pohlman provided a handout that provided information about the Santa Train coming to Plymouth on November 23, 2018.

**Approval of Minutes of July 11, 2018:** Motion by Bemis/Smith to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2018 meeting, as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Financial Report:** Russell Kottke reported the following: The balance in the checkbook as of May 31, 2018, was \$6,201.21. Deposits were \$256,201.21. Expenditures were \$229,674.58. Transfers were \$31,727.84. As of October 31, 2018, the balance in the checkbook was \$1,000. Total EWCRC money on deposit in the Local Government Investment Pool as of October 31, 2018, is \$632,254.68. Motion by Mulder/Smith to approve the Financial Report. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Consider, discuss, and take action on the level of funding by member counties for 2019 and authorize and direct Kim Nass to send invoices in the amount of \$25,000, to each member county of the EWCRC for its member county contribution for 2019:** There was consideration of and discussion about the level of funding by member counties for 2019 and authorization of and direction to Kim Nass to send invoices in the amount of \$25,000, in January, 2019, to each member county of the EWCRC for its member county contribution for 2019. Motion by Dohrwardt/Madigan to authorize and direct Kim Nass to send invoices in the amount of \$25,000, in January of 2019, to each member county of the EWCRC for its member county contribution for 2019. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

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

WisDOT's Annual Freight Railroad Conference was held on November 13, 2018, and thanked all of those on the Consortium who attended the conference. Mr. Kedzior stated that a presentation of the Intermodal Study was given at the conference. The current WisDOT Secretary may approve the plan prior to new administration.

There are unspent funds from the Brandon to Ripon rehabilitation project, which WSOR is currently finishing up with the installation of new continuous welded rail. WisDOT will amend the current agreement to use the unspent funds to move a siding located on the Waukesha Subdivision and move it to the Oshkosh subdivision.

WSOR will receive FRPP grants totaling \$11.57 million and FRIPP loans totaling \$1.44 million for six projects. WSOR will provide \$1.44 million in matching funds. The work includes the replacement of 7.5 miles of 90-pound jointed rail with 115-pound continuous welded rail (CWR) between Ripon and Pickett; replacement of 15.2 miles of 90-pound rail with 115-pound CWR between Milton and Whitewater; replacement of two bridges in WSOR's Fox Lake Subdivision and two bridges in its Prairie Subdivision; replacement of a bridge with a culvert in the Oshkosh Subdivision; and the rehabilitation of a steel deck on a bridge in the Plymouth Subdivision.

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

WSOR recently checked its rail lines for defects by means of a rail defect detector 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.

WSOR completed its weed spraying around the entire system 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.

WSOR has replaced eight crossings on the Northern Division; one on Douglas Street in Ripon, seven on the Brandon to Ripon line as part of the continuous welded rail rehabilitation project.

At the next EWCRC meeting, Ken Lucht will present WSOR's 2019 and 2020 Capital Plan and ask that the EWCRC contribute its 2018 member county contributions to help fund that local match for the Phase 2 Ripon to Pickett rehabilitation project.

WSOR will be 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 2019, WSOR will be installing approximately 5,000 new maintenance ties between Horicon and Cambria.

WSOR had a grand opening in late May of 2018, in Oshkosh to open the Oshkosh transload terminal. Several companies have approached WSOR about utilizing the transload facility. In Spring of 2019, WSOR will present to the Consortium an infrastructure build-out plan to add turn outs to a portion of the main track so industries can build their industry tracks and connect to the main line. The City of Oshkosh received a Tea Grant from the State of Wisconsin to construct the transload terminal.

In Late August of 2018, WSOR experienced some severe weather events, including heavy rain and wind that took 26 miles of track out of service on the Southern Division. There were approximately seven washouts on the Plymouth Subdivision and WSOR worked with its customers to accommodate their needs. Sauk County received approximately 18 inches of rain in a 24-hour period, which created major washouts in Reedsburg and points between Rock Springs and Reedsburg.

WSOR's annual calendar is going to print and calendars will be available by the January 2019 EWCRC meeting. Over 196 photos were submitted for consideration to be included in the calendar.

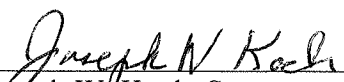
WSOR would like to reschedule the excursion trip to tour the Plymouth and Sheboygan Fall Subdivisions to December 6, 2018. The excursion will highlight past, current and upcoming rehabilitation projects, current business activity and other opportunities. WSOR is working on scheduling a facility tour of Bemis Manufacturing in Sheboygan Falls, WI.

**Date, time, and place of next meeting (January 9, 2019):** The next regular EWCRC meeting will be held on January 9, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. Sheboygan County will host the meeting.

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

**Meeting adjourned at 11:13 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.**