

**Minutes of the
East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium
Meeting of May 8, 2024**

East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium Meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Jeff Schleif on May 8, 2024, at approximately 10:00 a.m., at the Columbia County Administration Building, Meeting Room 115-113, 112 E. Edge Water Street, Portage, Wisconsin.

The Consortium rose to say the Pledge of Allegiance.

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; Jim Mielke and Jeffrey Caine, Dodge County; John Zorn and Karen Madigan, Fond du Lac County; Dennis Mulder and Charlie Wielgosh, Green Lake County; Shawn Rolland, Milwaukee County (appeared by speaker phone); Jeff Schleif, Washington County; and Donald Nussbaum and Howard Miller, Winnebago County.

Excused: Darren W. Schroeder, Columbia County; Tom Winker and Marty Wolf, Ozaukee County; Sheboygan County; Robert Hartwig, Washington County.

Others Present: Ben Mohlke, WisDOT; Ken Lucht, WSOR; Kimberly A. Nass, Dodge County Corporation Counsel; and Kelly Lepple, Dodge County Corporation Counsel Office.

Public Comment: None.

Approval of Draft Minutes of March 13, 2024: Motion by Caine/Mulder to approve the draft minutes of March 13, 2024. Motion carried. John Zorn abstained.

Financial Report: Jeff Caine reported for the period ending March 31, 2024. The balance in the checkbook as of February 29, 2024, was \$1,002.37. Deposits – \$5,201.28, Expenditures – None, and Transfers – \$5,201.21. Total EWCRC money on deposit in the Local Government Investment Pool as of March 31, 2024, is \$1,094,930.12. The interest rate for March 2024 was 5.40%. There was discussion about why Winnebago County only contributed \$25,000. Don Nussbaum will follow up with its Finance Department to submit the \$5,000 to make its 2023 contribution whole. There was discussion about why Milwaukee County only contributed \$25,000. Shawn Rolland stated that he will follow up with the County Board Chair to allocate \$5,000 to make its 2023 contribution whole. Motion by Caine/Zorn to approve the Financial Report as read. Motion carried.

Consider, discuss, approve, and authorize payment of invoice of Dodge County for services provided by the Dodge County Finance Department in 2023: There was consideration of and discussion about the statement for services that was presented for payment from Dodge County, in the amount of \$900 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/Caine 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 \$900, 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.

Consider, discuss, approve, and authorize payment of invoice of Dodge County for services provided by the Dodge County Corporation Counsel Office in 2023: There was consideration of and discussion about the statement for services that was presented for payment from Dodge County, in the amount of \$5,547.40, for services provided by the Dodge County Corporation Counsel and staff in 2023. Motion by Madigan/Nussbaum 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 5,547.40, for services provided by the Dodge County Corporation Counsel and staff in 2023. Motion carried.

Reminder of Election of Officers at Annual Meeting on July 10, 2024: Kim Nass reminded the members of the EWCRC of the election of officers at the July 10, 2024, annual meeting.

Consider, discuss, and take action on Janesville Bridge Project Memorandum of Understanding: Ben Mohlke provided a draft copy of the Janesville Bridge Project Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to each of the members of the EWCRC for their review and approval. Kim Nass stated that the 2021 and 2022 EWCRC member county contributions are designated for the Janesville Bridge Rehabilitation project. Kim Nass further stated that she reviewed the MOU and approves of its content. Ben Mohlke asked that the EWCRC approve the MOU as presented and sign the MOU. Motion by Schleif/Caine to approve the Janesville Bridge Project Memorandum of Understanding. It was the consensus of the Consortium to direct Jeff Schleif to sign the MOU on behalf of Chairman Tom Winker and the EWCRC. Motion carried.

Report of WisDOT Railroads and Harbors: WisDOT and its partners are working on implementing additional passenger rail service along the Twin Cities, Milwaukee, and Chicago corridor. This service expansion will add a second daily round trip passenger train on the corridor between Chicago and the Twin Cities. Service will begin on May 21, 2024. This will improve mobility and increase reliable travel options on this corridor.

Corridor Identification Grants are moving forward. Grants were awarded to four different routes for passenger rail. The Corridor Identification Program is a comprehensive intercity passenger rail planning and development program that will help guide intercity passenger rail development throughout the country and create a pipeline of intercity passenger rail projects ready for implementation.

Chair Tom Winker is attending the Freight Advisory Council Meeting today. The Committee was established to help inform WisDOT on issues that impact freight mobility and to provide a voice for the freight sector on the development of freight-related policies, processes, and projects.

WisDOT was directed by the Governor to update its 2019 Intermodal Freight Report. That report should be completed by 2025.

Report of WSOR: Ken Lucht reported the following: WSOR will be installing approximately 30,000 ties on its Reedsburg Subdivision between Waunakee and Devil's Lake. The Merrimac Bridge project is a \$26 million project, and that project should be completed by the end of 2024. WSOR will be installing ties and switch ties on the Prairie Subdivision and on the Johnson Street Yard in Madison. WSOR will perform its routine weed spraying and brush control to protect its rail, crossings, culverts, bridges, and ties. Contracts are in place and WSOR has started to do some weed spraying. WSOR has 19 active signal projects that are on hold because they do not have an approved contractor for the signal projects. WSOR would like to get this matter resolved with WisDOT so they can move forward with the projects. In 2024, WSOR will be installing approximately 500 ties on the Cambria Subdivision,

3,000 ties on the Milwaukee Subdivision, and 2,000 ties on the Plymouth Subdivision. WSOR will also be completing a number of at grade crossing rebuild projects: On the Cambria Subdivision, STH 26 will be completely rebuilt. On the Milwaukee Subdivision, a crossing on STH 67 will be replaced, and a crossing on STH 91 will be replaced. On the West Bend Subdivision, WSOR will be installing approximately 500 ties and rebuilding at grade crossings on CTH NN and STH 60.

In Waupun, United Cooperative is in the process of building a soy processing and grain elevator facility. The bins and elevator are up and WSOR is hoping that United Cooperative will be operational by the fourth quarter of 2024.

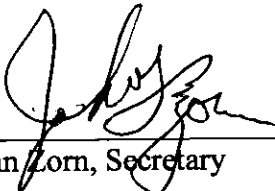
WSOR is working with the City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County on originating rock for projects for business and public road projects. WSOR has facilities on its line in the northern division, as well as in the southern division where WSOR can originate sand and gravel for construction projects.

WSOR is working with a potential new customer that would bring in fly ash on the Oshkosh Subdivision. This would add an additional 500-700 more carloads at the Oshkosh terminal. WSOR has a great partnership with the City of Oshkosh. The City of Oshkosh is a big advocate for freight rail for preserving roads and becoming more efficient.

Date, time, and place of next meeting (July 10, 2024): The next regular EWCRC meeting will be held on July 10, 2024, 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 Wielgosh/Caine to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:28 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.