## Minutes of the East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium Meeting of January 14, 2009

**East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium Meeting** was called to order by Chairman Jerald Holub on January 14, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., at the Holiday Inn of Fond du Lac, 625 W. Rolling Meadows Drive, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

**Certification Of Public Notice:** John F. Corey certified that the notice of this meeting complies with all applicable requirements of Wisconsin's open meeting law.

Roll call was taken.

**Present:** Kenneth Hutler and Vern Gove, Columbia County; Russell Kottke, Dodge County; Joseph Koch and Robert Fox, Fond du Lac County; Eugene Henke, Green Lake County; Jerald Holub and Duffy Reimer, Sheboygan County; Daniel Goetz and Brian Bausch, Washington County; and Stan Kline and Jef Hall, Winnebago County.

**Excused:** Edwin J. Qualmann, Dodge County; Alma Hedberg, Green Lake County; and Rose Hass Leider and Robert Walerstein, Ozaukee County.

Others Present: Karen Madigan, Tom Janke, and John Zorn, Fond du Lac County; Allen Buechel, Fond du Lac County Executive; Dan Amato, Representative of Columbia County Economic Development; Tony Smith, Mayville Limestone, Inc.; Jeff Francis, TerraTec Engineering; John Rogers, Business Development Director of the Sheboygan County Chamber of Commerce, Bill Gardner and Ken Lucht, WSOR; Frank Huntington, WisDOT Bureau of Rails and Harbors; John F. Corey, Dodge County Corporation Counsel; and Kelly L. Lepple, Recording Secretary.

**Welcome to Fond du Lac County:** Joseph Koch introduced Tom Janke, Fond du Lac County Highway Commissioner, Karen Madigan and John Zorn, Fond du Lac County Highway Committee Members, and Allen Buechel, Fond du Lac County Executive. Allen Buechel welcomed everyone to Fond du Lac County.

**Public Comment:** Dan Amato made an oral report about passenger rail service in Wisconsin, including Amtrak service in Columbus and Portage, about a proposal to provide passenger rail service between Madison and Milwaukee, and about a proposal to construct a second Amtrak rail line from Chicago to St. Paul.

Approval of Minutes of September 10, 2008 and Approval of Minutes of October 29, 2008: Motion by Kline/Gove to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2008, meeting, and to approve the minutes of the October 29, 2008, meeting, as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Financial Report:** Kelly Lepple: The balance in the checkbook as of August 31, 2008, was \$1,000.00. Deposits were \$93,472.66. Expenditures were \$82,035.16. Transfers to the AIM Investment Account from the EWCRC checking account were \$11,437.50. As of December 31, 2008, the balance in the checkbook was \$1,000.00. Total EWCRC Money on Deposit in the AIM

Investment Account as of December 31, 2008, is \$65,930.38. Motion by Fox/Koch to approve the financial report. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Consider, Discuss, and Take Action on a Letter dated October 14, 2008, from James Block of Johnson Block & Company, Inc., addressed to John Corey, regarding Proposal to Conduct Annual Audit of Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2008: John Corey reported that he received a letter, dated October 14, 2008, from James Block of Johnson Block & Company, Inc., regarding a proposal to conduct an annual audit of financial statements for fiscal year 2008. John Corey further reported that Johnson Block & Company, Inc., will charge the EWCRC \$2,100.00 to conduct the annual audit of financial statements for fiscal year 2008. Motion by Kline/Hall to contract with Johnson Block & Company, Inc., at a rate of \$2,100.00, to conduct an annual audit of financial statements for fiscal year 2008. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Consider, Discuss, and Take Action on Rail Restoration 15 Program (RR15): Ken Lucht made the following report: The Secretary of WisDOT has included RR15 in WisDOT's proposed 2009/2011 biennial budget. RR15 funds will be used to reinstall rail lines that had previously been removed. The 15 stands for \$15 million in funding each year over the course of the next two biennial budgets for a total of \$60 million, and the RR stands for rail restoration. The key areas targeted for RR15 include Plymouth to Sheboygan Falls and Monroe to Mineral Point, with branch line reinstallation to Shullsburg. RR15 funds will be used to reinstall the rail line from Plymouth to Sheboygan Falls. Funds from the current 2007/2009 biennial budget were used to acquire the rail line from Plymouth to Sheboygan Falls. WisDOT's proposed 2009/2011 biennial budget also includes an additional \$15 million per year to be used for capital upgrades to the publicly-owned railroad infrastructure. WSOR is very optimistic that the Governor will strongly support RR15 and other funds to be used to make capital upgrades to the publicly-owned railroad infrastructure. WSOR will soon discuss with the Governor WSOR's support for these two important sources of funding. It will be important for WSOR and EWCRC to actively encourage local State Legislators to support these proposed budget items. EWCRC should start thinking about the formation of a stakeholder group to provide input on the rebuilding of the railroad corridor between Plymouth and Sheboygan Falls. Potential stakeholder group members are WisDOT, City of Plymouth, City of Sheboygan Falls, Sheboygan County, other municipalities and communities located between Plymouth and Sheboygan Falls, and private sector businesses located in Sheboygan County and Sheboygan Falls, and Plymouth. EWCRC should put on the agenda for its next meeting the topic of the formation of this stakeholder group.

Consider, Discuss, and Take Action on Milwaukee County Joining the EWCRC: John Corey stated that he did not think that Milwaukee County included \$25,000 as a member county contribution to the EWCRC in its 2009 budget. Bill Gardner stated that the \$25,000 was included in the budget but was taken out at the last minute. Bill Gardner further stated that he will meet with Scott Walker in the near future and will address the issue of restoring the \$25,000 to the 2009 Milwaukee County budget.

Consider, Discuss and Take Action on the Level of Funding by Member Counties for 2009: John Corey asked that each member county of the EWCRC report its level of funding for 2009. The reported levels of funding for 2009 are as follows: Columbia - \$15,000; Dodge - \$25,000; Fond du Lac - \$25,000; Green Lake - \$25,000 on the condition that all other counties that contributed \$15,000 in 2008, would contribute \$25,000 in 2009; Ozaukee - \$25,000; Sheboygan - \$25,000; Washington – Undetermined at this time; and, Winnebago - \$25,000. Jerry Holub stated that it will

be necessary for those counties which have not yet made a final determination regarding their level of funding for 2009, to make a final determination by not later than the date of the next meeting, and to report their final determination to him then. Vern Gove stated that he and Ken Hutler are in support of the \$25,000 member county contribution and will ask the Columbia County Highway Committee to reconsider funding at the \$25,000 level rather than the \$15,000 level.

**Report of WSOR:** Bill Gardner made the following report: The Horicon to Hartford project is completed. Due to accumulated snowfall, the scrap rail from this project will not be picked up until Spring. WSOR is operating its trains from near Slinger to Horicon at a speed of 40 MPH. WSOR has noticed a slowdown in inbound and outbound products from its everyday customers. This slowdown has been offset by new customers who have started shipping products. A salt company will soon begin delivering salt in the Madison area. WSOR is shipping gasoline from Madison to Canada for US Oil Company. WSOR is now shipping about eight cars a day, seven days a week. This could increase to 16 cars a day, seven days per week. US Oil Company refines oil. One of the products of its refinery is gasoline. US Oil Company ships gasoline to Canada for use in crude oil production. The gasoline is injected into crude oil wells in order to increase production from those wells. Another new customer will soon start shipping cement. WSOR is currently transloading plastic in Milwaukee for a new customer. The customer currently transports plastic into the company's yard in Chicago, and then trucks it to Wisconsin. The company wants to expand its Chicago yard, but there is no room. So, the company will move all of the business it currently conducts in Wisconsin, from Chicago to Wisconsin, which will then allow the company to expand its yard in Chicago. The business in Wisconsin will then be serviced by freight rail rather than by truck. WSOR is shipping corn to ethanol plants. WSOR is shipping soybeans. Most farmers are not selling their corn. They appear to be waiting for the price to go up before selling. WSOR performed snow removal on the north end, just south of Ripon, south of County Trunk K. WSOR plowed 20 foot drifts in that location with the snow plow. WSOR also plowed snow from Oshkosh to Horicon, on the entire Cambria line, and from Reedsburg to Madison.

**Date, time, and place of next meeting (March 11, 2009).** The next regular EWCRC meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 11, 2009, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. Ozaukee County will host the meeting in the Ozaukee County Board Room, located in the Ozaukee County Administration Building, 121 W. Main Street, Port Washington.

Recess for	· Lunch	at 11	1:22	a.m.
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## Reconvene at 12:19 p.m.

Motion by Hall/Kline to adjourn. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,	
Jef Hall, Secretary	

Disclaimer: The above minutes may be approved, amended or corrected at the next committee meeting.