

**Minutes of the  
East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium  
Meeting of July 9, 2008**

**East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium Meeting** was called to order by Chairman Daniel Goetz on July 9, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., at the Dodge County Administration Building, 127 E. Oak Street, Juneau, 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 and Edwin J. Qualmann, Dodge County; Joseph Koch and Robert Fox, Fond du Lac County; Alma Hedberg and Eugene Henke, Green Lake County; Rose Hass Leider and Robert Walerstein, Ozaukee County; Jerald Holub and Duffy Reimer, Sheboygan County; Daniel Goetz and Brian Bausch, Washington County; and Stan Kline and Jef Hall, Winnebago County.

**Excused:** None.

**Others Present:** Roger Breske, Commissioner of Railroads; Dan Amato; David Schwengel; Bill Gardner, Ken Lucht and Ben Meighan, WSOR; Frank Huntington, WisDOT Bureau of Rails and Harbors; John F. Corey, Dodge County Corporation Counsel; and Kelly L. Lepple, Recording Secretary.

**Public Comment:** Dan Goetz introduced the new Wisconsin Commissioner of Railroads, Roger Breske, to the members of the EWCRC. Dan Amato introduced himself to the members of the EWCRC. Mr. Amato stated that he recently vacationed in France and rode the high-speed train from Lyon to Paris. Mr Amato gave an interesting report about his ride on the high-speed train.

**Approval Of Minutes Of May 14, 2008:** Motion by Kline/Holub to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2008, meeting as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Approval Of Minutes Of June 25, 2008:** Motion by Kline/Walerstein to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2008, meeting as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Financial Report:** Ed Qualmann: The balance in the checkbook on April 30, 2008, was \$44,812.50. Deposits were \$40,000.00. There were no expenditures. Transfers to the AIM Investment Account from the EWCRC checking account were \$58,812.50. As of June 30, 2008, the balance in the checkbook was \$26,000.00. Total EWCRC Money on Deposit in the AIM Investment Account as of June 30, 2008, is \$293,422.94. Motion by Holub/Koch to approve the financial report. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

## **Election of Officers:**

**Chairman:** Robert Walerstein nominated Jerald Holub for Chairman and Joseph Koch seconded the nomination. Brian Bausch nominated Daniel Goetz for chairman. There were no other nominations. Motion by Kline/Hutler to close nominations. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Rose Hass Leider requested that each nominee briefly state his qualifications for the office of chairman and briefly describe the goals he will attempt to accomplish if he were elected. Each nominee briefly addressed the EWCRC regarding his qualifications and the goals he would attempt to accomplish if he were elected. A secret ballot vote was taken. The results were Jerald Holub 9 votes and Daniel Goetz 7 votes. Jerald Holub was elected chairman of the EWCRC.

Upon election, Jerald Holub took the chair, and presided over the rest of the meeting.

**Vice Chairman:** Joseph Koch nominated Stan Kline for vice chairman. Motion by Hutler/Qualmann to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Stan Kline as vice chairman. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Stan Kline was elected vice chairman of the EWCRC.

**Secretary:** Stan Kline nominated Jef Hall for secretary. Motion by Koch/Hutler to close nominations and to cast a unanimous ballot for Jef Hall as secretary. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Jef Hall was elected secretary of the EWCRC.

**Treasurer:** Robert Fox nominated Ed Qualmann for treasurer. Motion by Hall/Hutler to close nominations and to cast a unanimous ballot for Ed Qualmann as treasurer. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Ed Qualmann was elected treasurer of the EWCRC.

**Report on Dodge County's Photocopy Fee:** There was discussion regarding Dodge County's photocopy fee of \$0.25 per page. John Corey was directed to report back to the members of the EWCRC at the September 10, 2008, meeting regarding the rate at which Dodge County charges its departments for photocopies. John Corey stated that he will find out the rate at which Dodge County charges its departments for photocopies and will report back to the members of the EWCRC at the September 10, 2008, meeting. Motion by Hall/Kline to direct John Corey to find out the rate at which Dodge County charges its departments for photocopies and report back to the members of the EWCRC at the September 10, 2008, meeting. A vote was taken by a show of hands. The results were 10 votes in favor of the motion and 6 votes opposed to the motion. Motion carried.

**Presentation on WSOR by Bill Gardner:** Bill Gardner made an interesting and informative presentation regarding the difficulties that WSOR has endured during the past eight months due to large snowfalls and large rainfalls and flooding. Bill Gardner reported that last winter a lot of drifted snow often accumulated on the rail corridors. Bill Gardner showed several videos of WSOR removing drifted snow from the rail corridors by means of a V-plow mounted on the front of a locomotive. Bill Gardner also made a report, including photographs, about the damage that was done to rail corridors recently by flooding.

**Consider, Discuss and Take Action on Proposed Rehabilitation Projects for 2009 to be Funded in Part by EWCRC:** Ken Lucht reported that WSOR is requesting that each member county of the EWCRC contribute \$25,000 to the proposed rehabilitation projects for 2009. Ken Lucht reported that WSOR will propose three major rehabilitation projects to WisDOT for 2009. Two of the proposed rehabilitation projects are located in the Northern Division and one of the proposed rehabilitation

projects is located in the Southern Division. In order for these proposed projects to be funded in part by WisDOT, it will be necessary for the Wisconsin Legislature to include the funds in the 2009-2011 biennial budget. The biennial budget deadline is July 1, 2009. However, in recent years, the Legislature has failed to adopt a biennial budget by the deadline.

Ken Lucht reported that the proposed rehabilitation project in the Southern Division is a Phase II project between Madison and Milton Junction, a distance of approximately 30 miles.

Ken Lucht further reported that one of the proposed projects in the Northern Division is a Phase II project between North Milwaukee and Slinger. This project will consist of reconstruction of 11 public at-grade railroad crossings, the installation of 18 switches, and the installation of 115-pound continuous welded rail. The materials to be used for this rehabilitation project will consist of approximately 260 tons of 115-pound continuous welded rail, approximately 975 ties, and approximately 2,500 tons of ballast. The estimated cost for this rehabilitation project is \$2,753,185. WSOR's goal for this 2009 rehabilitation project is that WisDOT will approve the project and contribute 80% of its costs, and that WSOR and the EWCRC will jointly contribute a total of 20% of its costs.

The other proposed project in the Northern Division is the repair of bridges on the Milwaukee Subdivision, the Markesan Subdivision, and the Oshkosh Subdivision. The estimated cost for this rehabilitation project is \$1,499,892.80. WSOR's goal for this 2009 rehabilitation project is that WisDOT will approve the project and contribute 80% of its costs, and that WSOR will contribute 20% of its costs.

Ken Lucht also reported that WSOR is very aggressively pursuing the extension of rail service between Plymouth and Sheboygan Falls and the upgrade of that rail corridor. The City of Plymouth and the City of Sheboygan Falls and the shippers that are currently without rail service continue to urge WSOR to take all action necessary to speedily extend rail service between Plymouth and Sheboygan Falls and to quickly upgrade that rail corridor. WSOR is temporarily providing transload services in Plymouth to shippers who are currently without rail service. WSOR is also receiving inquiries from other industries that are considering locating businesses along the rail line. The persons who have made these inquiries want WSOR and WisDOT to assure them that this rail line will be serviceable in the next two years. Ken Lucht provided to each member of the EWCRC an Economic Impact Analysis of the Plymouth-Kohler Rail Corridor. Motion by Kline/Leider that the EWCRC endorse the proposed 2009 rehabilitation projects. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Consider, Discuss and Take Action on the Level of Funding by Fond du Lac County, Columbia County and Green Lake County for 2008:** There was discussion regarding the sending of a letter to Fond du Lac County, Columbia County, and Green Lake County requesting each of these counties to contribute an additional \$10,000 to the EWCRC in 2008, so that the total contributions of each of these counties in 2008 will be \$25,000. Motion by Kline/Goetz to authorize and direct the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the EWCRC to send a letter to Fond du Lac County, Columbia County, and Green Lake County requesting each of these counties to contribute an additional \$10,000 to the EWCRC in 2008, so that the total contributions of each of these counties in 2008 will be \$25,000. The results were 15 votes in favor of the motion and 1 vote opposed to the motion. Motion carried.

**Consider, Discuss and Take Action on the Level of Funding by Member Counties for 2009:**

Chairman Holub stated that all members of the Board of Directors of the EWCRC should go back to their respective county committees and request that they budget \$25,000 for the 2009 member county contribution to the EWCRC. John Corey stated that at the May 14, 2008, meeting of the EWCRC there was discussion that a letter should be sent to all member counties requesting that each member county budget \$25,000 for its 2009 member county contribution to the EWCRC. John Corey asked to whom this letter should be sent. By consensus of the Board of Directors of the EWCRC, it was determined that the letter should be sent by the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the EWCRC to the county board chairman and to the county executive or county administrator or county administrative coordinator of each member county. Motion by Hass Leider/Kline that it is the recommendation of the Board of Directors of the EWCRC that the each member county budget \$25,000 for its 2009 member county contribution to the EWCRC and that the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the EWCRC is authorized and directed to send a letter to the county board chairman and to the county executive or county administrator or county administrative coordinator of each member county requesting that each member county contribute \$25,000 to the EWCRC in 2009. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Consider and Take Action on Long Range Capital Upgrade Plan:** Bill Gardner reported on WSOR's Long Range Capital Upgrade Plan. Bill Gardner stated that WSOR reviewed the condition of its entire rail system and determined that it will cost approximately \$42 million each biennium for a period of 12 years to properly rehabilitate it. Bill Gardner reported that WSOR has the machinery and human resources sufficient to upgrade approximately 30 miles of track with welded rail and 100,000 ties each year and to reconstruct 12 bridges each year. Mr. Gardner stated that WSOR is asking the Board of Directors of the EWCRC for its conceptual support for WSOR's Long Range Capital Upgrade Plan at a total cost of \$42 million each biennium for a period of 12 years. Mr. Gardner further stated that WSOR is requesting that the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the EWCRC send a letter to Frank Busalacci, Secretary of WisDOT, and to Governor Doyle stating that the EWCRC fully supports WSOR's Long Range Capital Upgrade Plan that will require an increase in Freight Railroad Preservation Program (FRPP) funding to \$42 million for the next biennial budget. Motion by Kline/Walerstein that the EWCRC support WSOR's Long Range Capital Upgrade Plan that will require an increase in FRPP funding to \$42 million for the next biennial budget and to authorize and direct the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the EWCRC to send a letter to Frank Busalacci, Secretary of WisDOT, and to Governor Doyle stating that the EWCRC fully supports WSOR's Long Range Capital Upgrade Plan that will require an increase in FRPP funding to \$42 million for the next biennial budget. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Report of WSOR:** Bill Gardner reported that it is likely that WisDOT will acquire the rail line from Plymouth to Sheboygan Falls within the next 60 to 90 days. WSOR met with individuals from Sheboygan County with regard to obtaining funding through the RR15 Plan to rehabilitate the rail line from Plymouth to Sheboygan Falls. Didion in Cambria ships all of its ethanol by rail. WSOR provides services to Didion three times per week and pull 10 to 15 railcars each time. There is a new customer in Green Lake County that will soon start shipping sand to a company in Texas. Bill Gardner reported on the joint use of the rail line segment between Rugby Junction and Slinger, Wisconsin. Bill Gardner stated that the CN will build a track on its property in this area and will not use WSOR's track. The CN has submitted a plan to the Office of Commissioner of Railroads which shows the location of the proposed new track from Ackerville to Hillside Road. Upon completion of the track, the CN will be able to park its trains there and will not block any public at-grade railroad crossings. Bill Gardner reported that Ron Adams told him that 22,000 more passengers rode Amtrak

between Milwaukee and Chicago in June of 2008 compared to June of 2007, because of high gasoline prices. Ken Lucht reported that WSOR is working with the Town of Burnett and the City of Hartford and the City of Plymouth to bring the Santa train to these communities again in 2008. Ken Lucht reported that Freight Rail Day 2008 will be held on Monday September 29, 2008, at the Howard Johnson Inn and Conference Center, in Wausau, Wisconsin. Ken Lucht stated that the purpose of Freight Rail Day is to educate the public and local officials about railroads and the economy. Ken Lucht invited all members of the Board of Directors of the EWCRC to attend Freight Rail Day on Monday, September 29, 2008. John Corey reported that Ken Lucht will be making an in-person presentation to the Dodge County Board of Supervisors on July 22, 2008, entitled "Update on Wisconsin's Publicly Owned Railroad System."

**Date, time, and place of next meeting (September 10, 2008).** The next regular EWCRC meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 10, 2008, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. Sheboygan County will host the meeting.

Motion by Fox/Qualmann to adjourn. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jef Hall, Secretary