

**Minutes of the
East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium
Meeting of September 10, 2008**

East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium Meeting was called to order by Chairman Jerald Holub on September 10, 2008, at 10:05 a.m., at the Wilderness Roadside Inn, N5575 State Road 57, Plymouth, 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.

Jerry Holub introduced and welcomed Randy Meyer, Mayor of Sheboygan Falls, Adam Payne, Sheboygan County Administrator, and John Rogers, Business Development Director of the Sheboygan County Chamber of Commerce.

Jerry Thompson, Railroad Services Coordinator for the City of Plymouth, welcomed the members of the East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium to Sheboygan County. Mr. Thompson presented a message to the EWCRS on behalf of Don Pohlman, Mayor of Plymouth.

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; and Stan Kline and Jef Hall, Winnebago County.

Excused: Daniel Goetz and Brian Bausch, Washington County.

Others Present: John Rogers, Business Development Director of the Sheboygan County Chamber of Commerce; Adam N. Payne, Sheboygan County Administrator; Jerry Thompson, Railroad Services Coordinator for the City of Plymouth; Randy Meyer, Mayor of Sheboygan Falls; Tammy Meyer, Sheboygan Falls; Keith Bassuener, Bemis Manufacturing; Bill Gardner and Ken Lucht, WSOR; Ron Adams, WisDOT Bureau of Rails and Harbors; John F. Corey, Dodge County Corporation Counsel; and Kelly L. Lepple, Recording Secretary.

Public Comment: Randy Meyer, Mayor of Sheboygan Falls, stated that he is very passionate about rail restoration and the need to provide companies with infrastructure they need to successfully compete with China in order to prevent jobs in the United States from going overseas.

John Rogers, Business Development Director of the Sheboygan County Chamber of Commerce, stated that he is focused on economic development in Sheboygan County and that the Chamber of Commerce has developed a Guide and Principles for Economic Development and the Sheboygan County Opportunity Network. Mr. Rogers further stated that he supports the build and rebuild of railroads in Wisconsin.

Keith Bassuener from Bemis Manufacturing stated that Bemis Manufacturing has recently started to consolidate its Wisconsin operations and is closing a plant in Menomonee Falls. He further stated that

the absence of rail service in Sheboygan Falls has had a significant impact on Bemis Manufacturing and that Bemis Manufacturing would like to see rail service restored in the area and he is willing to participate in making that happen.

Approval Of Minutes Of July 9, 2008: Motion by Kline/Leider to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2008, meeting as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Financial Report: Ed Qualmann: The balance in the checkbook on June 30, 2008, was \$26,000.00. Deposits were \$194,951.73. Expenditures were \$194,951.73. Transfers to the AIM Investment Account from the EWCRC checking account were \$25,000.00. As of August 31, 2008, the balance in the checkbook was \$1,000.00. Total EWCRC Money on Deposit in the AIM Investment Account as of August 31, 2008, is \$125,237.72. Motion by Kline/Hall to approve the financial report. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Report on Dodge County's Photocopy Fee: There was discussion regarding Dodge County's photocopy fee of \$0.25 per page. John Corey reported that Dodge County charges its departments a fee of \$0.049 per page for photocopies. Russell Kottke stated that Dodge County will charge the EWCRC a fee of \$0.05 per page for photocopies.

Consider, Discuss, and Take Action on Request by WSOR for EWCRC to Support WSOR's Rail Restoration 15 Program (RR15) and for EWCRC to Send Letters in Support of RR15: John Corey stated that WSOR has requested that the EWCRC support the RR15 program and has requested the EWCRC to send a letter in support of the RR15 Program. John Corey stated that a letter has been drafted which is addressed to Secretary Frank Busalacchi with copies to Governor Doyle, Representative Kestell, Senator Leibham, Plymouth Mayor Don Pohlman and Sheboygan Falls Mayor Randy Meyers. Motion by Hall/Kline to authorize and direct Jerry Holub to send a letter in support of the RR15 Program to Secretary Frank Busalacchi and to send a copy of the letter to Governor Doyle, Representative Kestell, Senator Leibham, Plymouth Mayor Don Pohlman and Sheboygan Falls Mayor Randy Meyers. There was discussion regarding the individuals to whom the letter should be sent. Jef Hall suggested that the letters be sent to the State of Wisconsin Senators and Representatives who represent the member counties of the EWCRC. Motion by Hall/Kline to amend the main motion to read as follows: "to authorize and direct Jerry Holub to send a letter in support of the RR15 Program to Secretary Frank Busalacchi and to send a copy of the letter to Governor Doyle, Plymouth Mayor Don Pohlman, Sheboygan Falls Mayor Randy Meyers, and to all State of Wisconsin legislators with a constituency in the member counties of the EWCRC." Motion carried by unanimous vote. A vote was taken on the motion as amended. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Consider, Discuss, and Take Action on Milwaukee County Joining the EWCRC: Jerry Holub reported that Tom Meaux, Ozaukee County Administrator, met with Scott Walker, Milwaukee County Executive, regarding Milwaukee County joining the EWCRC. Mr. Walker has included in his 2009 budget a contribution of \$25,000 to be made to EWCRC by Milwaukee County. Mr. Holub further reported that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors needs to approve the \$25,000 in Mr. Walker's budget before it is finalized. Jerry Holub further reported that he sent a letter, dated August 22, 2008, to Scott Walker requesting that Milwaukee County join the EWCRC.

Consider, Discuss and Take Action on the Level of Funding by Fond Du Lac County, Columbia County and Green Lake County For 2008: John Corey reported that Jerry Holub sent 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. John Corey further reported that he did not hear back from Columbia County or Green Lake County regarding the letter. John Corey further reported that on September 2, 2008, he received an additional 2008 member county contribution of \$10,000 from Fond du Lac County, which brings its total member county contribution for 2008 to \$25,000. Ken Hutler, from Columbia County stated that the Columbia County Highway Committee reviewed the letter and decided to contribute at the \$15,000 level for 2008. Eugene Henke, from Green Lake County stated that it did not have an additional \$10,000 in its budget to contribute to the EWCRC for 2008. Mr. Henke further stated that Green Lake County has budgeted \$25,000 for its 2009 member county contribution to the EWCRC.

Consider, Discuss and Take Action on Letter From the Washington County Highway Committee: There was discussion regarding the letter sent from the Washington County Highway Committee. Ken Lucht stated that he met with the Washington County Highway Committee regarding this matter. Ken Lucht further stated that Washington County asked WSOR to give a copy of its audited financial statement for 2007 to the Washington County Board Chairman. Bill Gardner reported that he and Tim Karp met with Washington County regarding WSOR's audited financial statements for 2007. Bill Gardner further reported that there was discussion regarding the RR15 program. Bill Gardner also reported that there was discussion on the Joint Use of Rail Line Segment between Rugby Junction and Slinger, Wisconsin. Bill Gardner asked that Russell Kottke from Dodge County contact the Washington County Chairman to discuss this matter. Bill Gardner also reported that on September 16, 2008, WSOR, Ron Adams, and various shippers will be attending the Washington County Highway Committee meeting.

Recess for Break at 11:00 a.m.

Reconvene at 11:15 a.m.

Reminder of Railroad Inspection Tour, Scheduled for October 29, 2008: Ken Lucht and Bill Gardner invited members of the EWCRC to participate in a railroad inspection tour on October 29, 2008, to inspect the railroad corridor from Waupun, Wisconsin, to Hartford, Wisconsin. Ken Lucht will provide John Corey with the details of this railroad inspection tour.

Reminder of Freight Rail Day, Scheduled for September 29, 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.

Report of WSOR: Bill Gardner made the following report: Rick Hanke is the owner of Hanke Trucking of Slinger, Wisconsin. Several townships are trying to contract with Hanke Trucking to transport salt into this area. WSOR is working with Rick Hanke to supply him with additional railcars to use to transport salt into this area. Hanke Trucking will unload the salt from railcars and deliver it by truck to salt storage sheds. Bill Gardner distributed written information regarding WSOR receiving an award from NADO for its partnership with local and regional governments. WSOR's rail gang is laying rail from Hartford to Horicon, the rail gang will be done laying rail by the first week of October, and then the rail gang will begin surfacing from Hartford to Horicon. Most of the at-grade crossings between Hartford and Horicon have been totally rebuilt, and only two crossings have not yet been completed. WSOR is shipping a lot of steel to Leeco Steel in Oshkosh. For the past several days the

tonnage that WSOR is hauling out of Horicon in the morning has increased to approximately 12,000 tons which equates to slightly more than 110 railcars. A restriction exists regarding how much freight tonnage WSOR can haul. The effect of this restriction has recently been that WSOR has left 5,000 tons of freight behind at Horicon each morning for the past several days. Business at WSOR is growing. WSOR is shipping a lot of wheat to Olson Mills in Milwaukee. WSOR made a presentation to the Union Pacific Railroad in Omaha, Nebraska, regarding acquisition by WSOR of several rail lines from the Union Pacific Railroad and operation by WSOR of several rail lines owned by the Union Pacific Railroad. One rail line that was the subject of this presentation is the Jefferson Junction Line that runs from Clyman to Fort Atkinson, on which a huge ethanol plant is located. Ken Lucht made the following report: That the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) provides advocacy, education, research and training for the Nation's regional development organizations in order to enhance the ability of regional development organizations to foster "regional solutions" to local government, business and community needs. The Wisconsin & Southern Railroad Co. in conjunction with three rail transit commissions and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation has received the National Association of Development Organizations' (NADO) 2008 Excellence in Regional Transportation Award. The award was given to deserving public/private partnerships throughout the United States that have demonstrated exceptional regional collaboration in the transportation industry and favorable impact on communities throughout the nation. This award potential was brought to the attention of WSOR by the Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. WSOR and WRRTC worked together on the application materials. The award was given at NADO's annual event in St. Paul/Minneapolis area on August 6, 2008, and Joni Graves of the Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission was in attendance to receive the award. It was a great honor to receive the award. The grant of the award shows that WSOR's partnership with rail transit commissions and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation is successful, and that WSOR is working on behalf of regionalism and the economy of the State of Wisconsin. The details of the award are set forth on WSOR's website and the award will be the subject of an article in the next quarterly newsletter. The Dodge County Highway Commissioner contacted WSOR about transporting salt to Dodge County. Columbia County contacted WSOR about transporting salt to Columbia County. WSOR has several transload sites near Columbia County and Dodge County that are available for its use to transload salt from railcars to trucks.

Date, time, and place of next meeting (December 10, 2008). The next regular EWCRC meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 10, 2008, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. Fond du Lac County will host the meeting at the Holiday Inn of Fond du Lac, 625 W. Rolling Meadows Drive, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jef Hall, Secretary