

**Minutes of the  
East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium  
Meeting of March 14, 2012**

**East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium Meeting** was called to order by Chairman Jerry Holub on March 14, 2012, 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:** John F. Corey certified that the notice of this meeting complies with all applicable requirements of Wisconsin's open meetings law.

Roll call was taken.

**Present:** Kenneth Hutler, Columbia County; Russell Kottke and Edwin J. Qualmann, Dodge County; Joseph Koch and Robert Fox, Fond du Lac County; Eugene Henke, Green Lake County; Rose Hass Leider and Robert Walerstein, Ozaukee County; Jerald Holub and Richard Bemis, Sheboygan County; Dan Goetz, Washington County; and Stan Kline, Winnebago County.

**Excused:** Vern Gove, Columbia County; Alma Hedberg, Green Lake County; Mark Borkowski and Theodore Lipscomb, Milwaukee County; Rick Gundrum, Washington County; and Jef Hall, Winnebago County.

**Others Present:** Karen Madigan, Fond du Lac County Board Supervisor; Jerry Thompson, Railroad Services Coordinator for the City of Plymouth; Don Pohlman, Mayor for the City of Plymouth; Dennis Roehrborn, Glacier Transit Storage, Plymouth, Wisconsin; Charles Beck, Citizen; Joseph Klein, Observer; Ken Hypki, Observer; Ken Lucht, WSOR; Frank Huntington, WisDOT Bureau of Railroads and Harbors; John F. Corey, Dodge County Corporation Counsel; and Kelly L. Lepple, Recording Secretary.

Bob Fox welcomed everyone to Fond du Lac County.

**Public Comment:** Bob Walerstein commented that he recently saw a rail car that was hauling ¼ mile-lengths of continuous welded rail and that the rail car was being pulled by a WSOR locomotive.

**Approval of Minutes of January 11, 2012:** Motion by Kline/Walerstein to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2012 meeting, as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Financial Report:** Ed Qualmann reported the following: The balance in the checkbook as of December 31, 2011 was \$15,070.00. Deposits were \$125,000.00. There were no expenditures. Transfers were \$114,070.00. As of February 29, 2012 the balance in the checkbook was \$26,000.00. Total EWCR Money on Deposit in the Investment Account as of February 29, 2012 is \$635,712.69. Motion by Koch/Kline to approve the financial report. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Ed Qualmann reported that he is not seeking another term on the Dodge County Board of Supervisors and that this will be the last meeting of the EWCR that he will attend as a member of the Board of Directors of the EWCR.

Bob Fox reported that he is not seeking another term on the Fond du Lac County Board of Supervisors and that this will be the last meeting of the EWCRC that he will attend as a member of the Board of Directors of the EWCRC.

Stan Kline reported that Jef Hall is not seeking another term on the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors and Jef Hall will no longer serve on the EWCRC.

Eugene Henke reported that Alma Hedberg is not seeking another term on the Green Lake County Board of Supervisors and Alma Hedberg will no longer serve on the EWCRC.

Jerry Holub thanked everyone for their time and service on the EWCRC.

**Consider, Discuss, Approve and Authorize Payment of Invoice of Dodge County for Services Provided by the Dodge County Finance Department in 2011:** There was consideration of and discussion about the statement for services that was presented for payment from Dodge County, in the amount of \$575.00, for services provided by the Dodge County Finance Director and staff, in recordkeeping, accounting assistance, and in preparing the EWCRC Annual Financial Report for 2011. Motion by Goetz/Bemis 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 \$575.00 for services provided by the Dodge County Finance Director and staff, in recordkeeping, accounting assistance, and in preparing the EWCRC Annual Financial Report for 2011. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

**Consider, Discuss, Approve and Authorize Payment of Invoice of Dodge County for Services Provided by the Corporation Counsel Office in 2011:** There was consideration of and discussion about the statement for services that was presented for payment from Dodge County, in the amount of \$7,811.84, for services provided by the Dodge County Corporation Counsel and staff in 2011. John Corey reviewed and explained the invoice. Motion by Bemis/Kline 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 \$7,811.84, for services provided by the Dodge County Corporation Counsel and staff in 2011. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Jerry Holub commented on the *Overview of Member County Contributions and Rehabilitation Projects* report and the *Summary of EWCRC Annual Revenue and Expenses* report which is drafted by the Dodge County Corporation Counsel office. Ken Lucht requested that the following be added to the *Overview of Member County Contributions and Rehabilitation Projects* report for each rehabilitation project: The total cost of each rehabilitation project and the breakdown of the funding by WisDOT, WSOR, and the EWCRC for each rehabilitation project. These reports help to answer questions about the expenditure of member county contributions. These reports are a snapshot of the application of member county contributions to rehabilitation projects. Jerry Holub also stated that it may be advantageous for each member County Clerk to place these reports on file so that members of the public may review them and thereby be informed about the application of member county contributions to rehabilitation projects.

**Update on the Plymouth to Sheboygan Falls Rail Line Rebuild Project:** Mayor Don Pohlman reported that he is waiting to be informed by WisDOT as to whether or not WisDOT will award the \$1 million T-Grant. Frank Huntington reported that WisDOT is in the process of drafting an agreement for the \$1 million T-Grant, and the FRAP grant is in the process of being approved. WisDOT is waiting for approval from the Wisconsin Department of Administration Bond Counsel. Mayor Pohlman reported that a stakeholder's meeting will be scheduled in the near future.

**Consider, discuss, and take action on Report of WisDOT, Bureau of Railroads and Harbors:**

Frank Huntington reported the following: WisDOT is still in the process of finalizing the Agreements for the Gibson Line acquisition. The deadline for filing new applications for freight railroad preservation assistance for rehabilitation projects was February 1, 2012. There is approximately \$15 million available. On or about July 1, 2012, WisDOT will select rehabilitation projects for funding.

**Consider, Discuss and Take Action on Report of WSOR:** Ken Lucht reported the following: WSOR thanked the EWCRC for its support of the Plymouth to Sheboygan Falls rail line rebuild project. This project would not have been successful without the support and involvement from Sheboygan County, the City of Plymouth, the City of Sheboygan Falls, WisDOT, WSOR, and all the private sector industries that are contributing funds to this project. It is important that WSOR make this rebuild project known around the entire State of Wisconsin to show how well private and public partnerships function. Ken Lucht also reported the following: WSOR is currently repairing its equipment and getting ready for the construction season. WSOR is completing its general track inspections. WSOR is getting ready to weed spray and brush spray the entire 240 miles of the Northern Division in the spring of 2012. WSOR is in the process of checking its rail lines for defects by means of a rail detector test car. The rail detector test car sends an ultrasonic beam through the rail and it thereby detects cavities or other internal defects. WSOR intends to use the rail detector test car on all rail in the Milwaukee Subdivision, including the welded rail located between Slinger and Horicon. WSOR has scheduled the complete replacement of a crossing at grade at Highway 144, Kettle Moraine Drive, in Slinger, Wisconsin. WSOR has started to order materials for this project. This project will start within the next month or two. WSOR is nearing completion of some general bridge work and the replacement of deck ties on top of many of its bridges on the Milwaukee, Plymouth, and Cambria Subdivisions. WSOR's largest project in the EWCRC area is in Washington County and a part of Dodge County. It is a project to replace the rail between North Milwaukee and Slinger, a distance of approximately 30 miles. The jointed rail will be replaced with continuous welded rail. The continuous welded rail has already been delivered to the site. WSOR will replace approximately 10,000 ties between Richfield and Milwaukee. WSOR will contract out work for the building of 20 switches. WSOR will solicit bids in about the next 30 days for those switches and WSOR will accept qualifying bids from qualified contractors. WSOR will rebuild three crossings in Milwaukee. The project to replace the rail between North Milwaukee and Slinger will be completed by late fall or early winter of 2012. WSOR will install 50,000 ties on the Plymouth Subdivision, starting at a point immediately north of Saukville and going from there to Elkhart Lake. WSOR has received a grant for \$10 million to make repairs to bridges. There are bridges in critical need of repair in many parts of the system. A number of bridges that are in need of repair are located on the Monroe Line. WisDOT is funding 80% and WSOR is funding 20% of this grant for bridge repair.

WSOR has started an economic impact analysis of the entire publicly-owned railroad system. Last year Sauk County made a county-wide economic impact analysis of rail shipping on the Reedsburg line. The economic impact analysis determined that there are over 2,500 people who are employed by companies that use the rail line and that these 2,500 people collectively earned \$150 million in wages and benefits last year. The UW Extension will sponsor and do the study. WSOR and Watco will pay the cost of the study. The study will be completed by the summer of 2012. When the study is done, WSOR will provide a copy of the study to each member of the Board of Directors of the EWCRC.

The State Budget for the Freight Railroad Preservation Program (FRPP) was \$60 million for the 2009-2011 biennium (\$30 million per year). The State Budget for the FRPP for the 2011-2013 biennium was reduced to \$30 million (\$15 million per year). WSOR is working with State Representatives to restore funding for the FRPP to \$60 million (\$30 million per year) for the 2013-2015 biennium. WSOR may ask the EWCRC in the near future for support of WSOR's efforts to restore the State Budget for the FRPP to \$60 million for the 2013-2015 biennium.

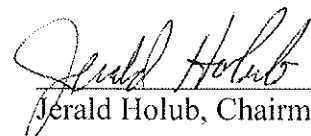
The United States Department of Transportation is offering a fourth cycle of TIGER grant funding (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery), otherwise known as stimulus funding. WSOR applied for TIGER grant funds in the past in Sheboygan County, but did not get funding for the intended project. WSOR also applied for another project in Rock County, and did not get funding for that intended project. WSOR is preparing a final application, which is due March 19, 2012, to upgrade a section of track between Middleton and Lone Rock, Wisconsin. The project will encompass the counties of Dane, Iowa, Richland, and Sauk County. Iowa County has chosen to be the applicant. WRTC has chosen to be a co-applicant. The total cost of this project is \$25 million. The project is a complete reconstruction of approximately 37.5 miles of track between Middleton and Lone Rock. WSOR is seeking \$15 million in grant funds from the federal government through the TIGER program, and \$10 million will come from other sources, including WSOR, Watco, and WisDOT through its grant program. The project will create 313 construction jobs and some of those jobs will lead to permanent jobs in the geographical area of the project.

**Date, time, and place of next meeting (May 9, 2012):** The next regular EWCRC meeting will be held on May 9, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. Dodge County will host the meeting.

Motion by Bemis/Walerstein to adjourn. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Gerald Holub, Chairman

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