

**Minutes of the
East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium
Meeting of November 5, 2014**

East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium Meeting was called to order by Chairman Rick Gundrum on November 5, 2014, at 10:00 a.m., at the Washington County Courthouse, Government Center, Room 1019, 432 E. Washington Street, West Bend, 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: James E. Foley, Columbia County; Russell Kottke and Harold Johnson, Dodge County; Joseph Koch and Karen Madigan, Fond du Lac County; Vicki Bernhagen, Green Lake County; Richard Bemis and Mark Winkel, Sheboygan County; Daniel Goetz and Rick Gundrum, Washington County; and Joel Rasmussen, Winnebago County.

Excused: Kenneth Hutler, Columbia County; Steve F. Taylor and Khalif Rainey, Milwaukee County; Thomas E. Winker and Donald Dohrwardt, Ozaukee County; and Ron Hardy, Winnebago County.

Others Present: Ken Lucht and Andy Laurent, WSOR; Frank Huntington, WisDOT Bureau of Railroads and Harbors; Don Pohlman, Mayor for the City of Plymouth; Jerry Thompson, City of Plymouth Railroad Services Coordinator; Lisa Strahota, Badger Mining Corporation; Jerry Letcher, Spectator; David Schwengel, Citizen; Tom Wondra, Washington County Highway Commissioner; John F. Corey, Dodge County Corporation Counsel; and Kelly L. Lepple, Recording Secretary.

Public Comment: Washington County Highway Commissioner Tom Wondra welcomed everyone to Washington County.

Approval of Minutes of July 9, 2014: Motion by Madigan/Foley to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2014 meeting, as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Financial Report: Russell Kottke reported the following: The balance in the checkbook as of June 30, 2014 was \$1,000.00. Deposits were \$76,286.50. Expenditures were \$7,281.66. Transfers were \$69,004.84. As of June 30, 2014 the balance in the checkbook was \$1,000.00. Total EWCRC money on deposit in the Local Government Investment Pool as of October 31, 2014 is \$521,646.28. Motion by Foley/Goetz to approve the Financial Report. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Report on risk factors involved in the Local Government Investment Pool: John Corey gave a brief oral report on the risk factors involved in the Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP). Mr. Corey reported that: The EWCRC is authorized by statute to invest its funds in the LGIP; many municipalities in Wisconsin invest funds in the LGIP; LGIP invests its funds in government securities and in securities issued by other entities; in general, government securities are safe and liquid; and, because government securities are safe and liquid, the rates of return on them are relatively low.

Consider, discuss, and take action on Report of WisDOT, Bureau of Railroads and Harbors: Frank Huntington reported that: WisDOT's 2014 Freight Railroad Conference is scheduled for November 12, 2014, and all members of the EWCRC are welcome to attend the Conference; WisDOT is in the process of buying from the Union Pacific Railroad, the rail line from Madison to Reedsburg, and that the purchase agreement has been signed; In August of 2014, WisDOT submitted the signed purchase agreement and other documents to the Surface Transportation Board; WisDOT anticipates that the closing of the sale and purchase transaction will take place by the end of 2014; The Saukville to Elkhart Lake rail line tie replacement project is nearly complete; The Plymouth to Sheboygan Falls rebuild project has been delayed due to a delay in the completion of the engineering specifications for the project; WisDOT anticipates that solicitations for bids for the project will be issued soon, and that construction activities will start in the spring of 2015; WisDOT has made awards of approximately \$20 million of grant funds; WisDOT awarded grant funds to WSOR for the Markesan Subdivision continuous welded rail project, from Fairwater to Markesan; WisDOT anticipates that this rehabilitation project will start in the spring of 2015; WisDOT awarded grant funds to WSOR for the Watertown rail line rehabilitation project, from Madison to Watertown; WSOR will soon start work on a \$19 million rehabilitation project on the Waukesha to Milton Junction rail line, and this rail rehabilitation project will be completed over several years; WisDOT also awarded grant funds to WSOR for bridge projects; WSOR has submitted applications for approximately 50 bridge rehabilitation projects; WisDOT and WSOR will have to prioritize these bridge projects; WisDOT has a new Section Chief named David Simon.

Frank Huntington stated that he will retire in December of 2014, that he has enjoyed his relationship with the EWCRC, and encourages the EWCRC to stay involved with the Freight Rail Preservation Program.

Consider, discuss, and take action on rehabilitation project(s) for 2014 to be funded in part by the EWCRC: There was consideration of and discussion about a rehabilitation project for 2014 to be funded in part by the EWCRC. Ken Lucht distributed a handout which detailed WSOR's capital expenditure planning for the EWCRC northern district for 2014-2015. Ken Lucht gave a brief oral report about the contents of the handout. Ken Lucht further reported: WisDOT recently awarded grant funds to WSOR for the Markesan Subdivision Rehabilitation Project. The Markesan Subdivision rehabilitation project will consist of the removal and replacement of approximately 4,000 ties, the upgrade of 6 switches, the upgrade of 5 public road crossings, the removal and replacement of approximately 7 miles of 75-pound jointed rail with 115-pound continuous welded rail, the installation of 4,000 tons of ballast, and tamping and surfacing of the railroad bed; At the January 8, 2014 meeting of the EWCRC, the EWCRC took action to fund, in part, the Markesan Subdivision rail rehabilitation project using its 2013 member county contributions, not to exceed \$225,000; WSOR now requests that the EWCRC fund, in part, the Markesan Subdivision rail rehabilitation project using its 2014 member county contributions, not to exceed \$225,000. Motion by Kottke/Winkel to contribute all of the EWCRC's 2014 member county contributions in an amount not to exceed \$225,000, to the Markesan Subdivision rail rehabilitation project, and to authorize the Office of Dodge County Corporation Counsel to pay invoices that will arise from the execution of the project as they are submitted to the Office of Corporation Counsel. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Consider, discuss, and take action on report of WSOR: Ken Lucht reported that: WSOR continues to perform routine maintenance on the railroad infrastructure throughout the EWCRC region; WSOR has approximately 280 miles of track that runs through the 9 counties that make up the EWCRC; WSOR performs weekly routine maintenance and routine track inspections; WSOR is

preparing its annual operating plan for 2015; the annual operating plan is also known as its AOP; WSOR anticipates that in 2015 it will spend \$12 to \$15 million for capital expenditures and maintenance on the Northern Division and Southern Division; and, WSOR is committed to maintaining the railroad infrastructure that the EWCRC invests in every year, and to provide safe, effective, and efficient service to all of its customers.

Ken Lucht distributed a handout which detailed WSOR/WATCO Business Development for the years 2013-2015. Ken Lucht gave a brief oral report about the contents of the handout. Ken Lucht reported that in the past few years, WSOR has searched for new business opportunities and has developed new business opportunities; The handout lists all of the businesses that have either built new facilities on the WSOR rail line or have expanded their existing facilities on the WSOR rail line; and, these businesses have created approximately 580 new jobs and it is anticipated that another approximately 135 new jobs will be created in the near-term or medium-term future.

Ken Lucht reported that on Saturday, November 8, 2014, from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., the Santa train will be in downtown Hartford, Wisconsin, located on the tracks at the intersection of Main Street and Wisconsin Street, and that on Sunday, November 9, 2014, Steam Locomotive 1003 will make a photo run from Horicon to Hartford.


Ken Lucht introduced Andy Laurent, who is the newest member to the WSOR marketing commercial group. Andy Laurent stated that he was formerly employed by the Chicago South Shore Railroad and worked there in local economic development planning.

Date, time, and place of next meeting (January 14, 2015): The next regular EWCRC meeting will be held on January 14, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. Columbia County will host the meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph W. Koch, Secretary

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