

**Minutes of the
East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium
Meeting of May 12, 2021**

East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium Meeting was called to order by Chairman Thomas Winker on May 12, 2021, at approximately 10:00 a.m., at the Dodge County Administration Building, Meeting Rooms H & I, 127 E. Oak Street, Juneau, Wisconsin.

Certification of Public Notice: Kimberly A. Nass certified that the notice of this meeting complies with all applicable requirements of Wisconsin's Open Meetings Law.

Present: Bob Koch and James E. Foley, Columbia County; Russell Kottke and Jeffrey Caine, Dodge County; Karen Madigan and John Zorn, Fond du Lac County; Dennis Mulder and David Abendroth (by phone), Green Lake County; Thomas E. Winker and Marty Wolf, Ozaukee County; Roger TeStroete, Sheboygan County; Jeff Schleif, Washington County; and Donald Nussbaum (by Phone), Winnebago County.

Excused: Milwaukee County; Al Bosman, Sheboygan County; and Brian Gallitz, Washington County.

Others Present: Ken Lucht, WSOR; Kimberly A. Nass, Dodge County Corporation Counsel; Kelly Lepple, Dodge County Corporation Counsel Office, John King, Didion Milling; Andrew S., Citizen, and Lisa Stern and Todd Wojciuk, WisDOT.

Public Comment: None.

Approval of Minutes of March 10, 2021: Motion by Koch/Zorn to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2021. Motion carried.

Financial Report: Russell Kottke reported for the period ending March 31, 2021. The balance in the checkbook as of January 31, 2021, was \$1,002.25. Deposits – \$205,201.60, Expenditures – None, and Transfers – \$5,201.21. Total EWCRC money on deposit in the Local Government Investment Pool as of March 31, 2021, is \$263,029.26. Motion by Caine/Schleif to approve the Financial Report. Motion carried.

Consider, discuss, approve, and authorize payment of invoice of Dodge County for services provided by the Dodge County Finance Department in 2020: There was consideration of and discussion about the statement for services that was presented for payment from Dodge County, in the amount of \$750.00 for services provided by the Dodge County Finance Director and staff, in recordkeeping, accounting assistance, and in preparing the EWCRC Annual Financial Report. Motion by Abendroth/Koch 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 \$750.00, for services provided by the Dodge County Finance Director and staff, in recordkeeping, accounting assistance, and in preparing the EWCRC Annual Financial Report. Motion carried.

Consider, discuss, approve, and authorize payment of invoice of Dodge County for services provided by the Dodge County Corporation Counsel Office in 2019: There was consideration of and discussion about the statement for services that was presented for payment from Dodge County, in the amount of \$3,015.82, for services provided by the Dodge County Corporation Counsel and staff in 2020. Motion by

Mulder/Caine 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 \$3,015.82, for services provided by the Dodge County Corporation Counsel and staff in 2020. Motion carried.

Consider, discuss, and take action on the level of funding by member counties for 2022: There was consideration of and discussion about the level of funding for member counties for 2022. Motion by Schleif/Zorn that the Board of Directors of the EWCRC recommend that each member county budget \$25,000 for its 2022 member county contribution to the EWCRC. Motion carried.

Report of WisDOT Railroads and Harbors: Lisa Stern introduced Todd Wojcik to the Consortium and stated that he is the new Real Estate Specialist at WisDOT. Lisa Stern also introduced Mike Halsted to the Consortium and stated that he is the new Harbors and Waterways Program Manager. Lisa Stern further reported that Jen Murray is the new Director of Bureau of Transit, Local Roads, Railroads and Harbors. WisDOT submitted an Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant application to upgrade bridges located in and around Janesville. WisDOT will also be applying for the new Raise Grant which is due mid-July. WisDOT may ask the EWCRC for a letter of support.

Presentation by WisDOT regarding the Milwaukee Port Project: Lisa Stern provided a PowerPoint presentation to the EWCRC regarding The DeLong Co., Inc., Milwaukee Bulk Transfer Facility. Lisa Stern provided facility details on storage capacity, inbound transportation modes, rail track capacity, vessel size, load rate, annual export capacity, and types of commodities the facility will be able to handle. Lisa further provided a facility footprint and facility layout. The first phase of this project will be completed and fully operational by the end of 2022.

Consider, discuss and take action on Track Extension MP 125.04 Milwaukee Subdivision, Hartford, Wisconsin: Ken Lucht provided a diagram of the proposed industrial spur track plan and profile at ProAmpac, located in Hartford, Wisconsin. ProAmpac will provide all the materials and labor. WisDOT is ready to issue a permit but cannot until the EWCRC approves the track extension plan per Section 8.4 of the Operating Agreement between WSOR and the EWCRC. The proposed track extension plan meets WSOR standards and WSOR will oversee the project. Motion by Koch/Schleif to approve the track extension plan at milepost 125.04, located on the Milwaukee Subdivision, in Hartford, Wisconsin. Motion carried.

Consider, discuss and take action on Mayville Fire Department use of Railroad Property: Ken Lucht gave an update on the Mayville Fire Department parking lot encroachment on track right-of-way. In December of 2020, Ken Lucht and Tom Winker met with the Mayor and Fire Chief for Mayville. WSOR proposed a diagram and plan for allowing the Fire Department to use about 5-10 feet of the railroad right-of-way and then WSOR would also build a private crossing to connect the fire station land to an existing public works parking lot on the other side of the tracks so the emergency response workers could park in the public works parking lot and then go across the private crossing. The Mayor of Mayville rejected WSOR's proposed plan and the Mayor in turn asked us to consider allowing them to encroach up to about 8.5 feet from the center line. It was the consensus of the Consortium that a representative from WSOR, EWCRC, and WisDOT contact the City of Mayville to meet and discuss another proposed plan.

Report of WSOR: Ken Lucht provided a summary report of dollars spent by WSOR in 2020 for maintenance and capital improvements. Ken Lucht also provided a report of WSOR's maintenance and capital improvement plans for 2021. Ken Lucht further reported on the line segment conditions in the northern and southern divisions.

Ken Lucht also reported the following: On the Cambria Subdivision, WSOR is going to remove a bridge and replace it with three culverts, which is scheduled to take place in June of 2021. On the Milwaukee Subdivision, between Hartford and Slinger, WSOR will be installing approximately 4,000 ties as part of its maintenance program. WSOR is going to fund crossing rehabilitation projects in the Northern Division for the following freight crossings: 107th Street Milwaukee, CTH SS Plymouth, Hartford Rural Street/Hilldale, Kettle Moraine Road Hartford, all with a 15-20 year useful life. WSOR is in the process of weed spraying and brush cutting and conducting rail defect inspections. WSOR experienced a reduction in the number of carloads in 2020 and have supplemented business by offering other services and implementing cost controls. WSOR is currently hiring for open positions and is having a hard time filling those open positions. WSOR employs approximately 200 workers and has been injury free for 3 years. WSOR has had a couple of incidents on two private crossings. WSOR is following up on private crossings. Private crossings are to the sole benefit of the landowner to get from one side of the track to the other side of the track. That crossing benefits nobody else. It does not benefit the railroad, does not benefit the County, or any other adjoining landowners. WSOR is working with another Rail Transit Commission to come up with a process to get more agreements in place. WATCO and Canadian National, the former WCL, have come to terms on acquiring 650 miles in northern Wisconsin as well as the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Date, time, and place of next meeting (July 14, 2021): The next regular EWCRC meeting will be held on July 14, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. Columbia County will host the meeting.

Motion by Schleif/Madigan to adjourn. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Schleif, Secretary

Disclaimer: These are draft minutes. These draft minutes may be approved, amended, or corrected at the next meeting of the East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium.