

**Minutes of the
East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium
Meeting of May 13, 2026**

East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium Meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Jeff Schleif on May 13, 2026, at approximately 10:00 a.m., at the Dodge County Administration Building, County Board Room, located on the Fourth Floor, 127 E. Oak Street, Juneau, Wisconsin.

The Consortium rose to say the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Present: Char Holtan and Steve Balsiger, Columbia County; Jeffrey Caine and Jim Mielke, Dodge County; Karen Madigan and John Zorn, Fond du Lac County; Dennis Mulder and Charlie Wielgosh, Green Lake County; Shawn Rolland, Milwaukee County; Richard Nelson, Ozaukee County; Jon Kuhlow and Jay Vander Weele (alternate), Sheboygan County; Jeff Schleif, Washington County; and Matt Woods and Howard Miller, Winnebago County.

Excused: Tom Winker, Ozaukee County; Chuck Born, Sheboygan County; and Robert Hartwig, Washington County.

Others Present: Ken Lucht, WSOR/WATCO; Lisa Stern and Sarah Simonson, WisDOT; Don Vruwink, Office of Commissioner of Railroads; and Kim Nass and Kelly Keller, Dodge County Corporation Counsel Office.

Public Comment: None.

Approval of Draft Minutes of March 11, 2026: Motion by Mielke/Zorn to approve the minutes of March 11, 2026. Motion carried.

Financial Report: Jeff Caine reported for the period ending April 30, 2026. The balance in the checkbook as of February 28, 2026, was \$1,000.62. Deposits – \$245,204.26, Expenditures – None, and Transfers – \$215,201.21. Total EWCRC money on deposit in the Local Government Investment Pool as of March 31, 2026, is \$1,817,203.19. The interest rate for March 2026 was 3.69%. Motion by Caine/Mulder to approve the Financial Report as read. Motion carried.

Consider, discuss, and authorize payment of invoice of Dodge County for services provided by the Dodge County Finance Department in 2025: There was consideration of and discussion about the statement for services that was presented for payment from Dodge County, in the amount of \$1,000 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 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 \$1,000.00, 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, and authorize payment of invoice of Dodge County for services provided by the Dodge County Corporation Office in 2025: There was consideration of and discussion about the statement for services that was presented for payment from Dodge County, in the amount of \$4,602.35, for services provided by the Dodge County Corporation Counsel and staff in 2025. Motion by Schleif/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 \$4,602.35, for services provided by the Dodge County Corporation Counsel and staff in 2025. Motion carried.

Reminder of Election of Officers at Annual Meeting on July 8, 2026: Jeff Schleif reminded the members of the EWCRC of the election of officers at the July 8, 2026, annual meeting.

Update on The University of Wisconsin-Extension Services – Report on Systemwide Economic Impact Study: Ken Lucht made a report on the Systemwide Economic Impact Study. The purpose of the study is to assess how freight rail service supports Wisconsin industries and contributes to state and local economic activity. It measures the direct economic footprint of the freight rail industry, its employment, wages, purchasing and tax contributions. It also evaluates how freight rail enables Wisconsin businesses to operate efficiently and competitively, including the economic consequences they would face if rail service were no longer available.

Presentation of WSOR's Production Totals for 2025: Ken Lucht provided a handout of WSOR's production totals for 2025. In 2025, maintenance and capital expenditure dollars spent was approximately \$15 million. WSOR installed approximately 28,000 ties throughout its system. WSOR also upgraded approximately 21 at grade crossings. WSOR could not install continuous welded rail in 2025 due to the Merrimac Bridge rehabilitation project. WSOR coordinates with WisDOT and the Office of Commissioner of Railroads regarding signal projects. WSOR also maintains its system by conducting weed control and brush cutting. Ken Lucht also reported on WSOR's track maintenance plan for 2026.

Presentation of WSOR's Ten-Year Capital Plan: Ken Lucht provided a handout of WSOR's ten-year capital plan. The plan includes new rail installation on the Prairie Subdivision, new rail installation on the Monroe Subdivision, a tie replacement project on the Reedsburg Subdivision, and a continuous welded rail rehabilitation project on the Plymouth Subdivision. All projects listed through 2030 have been applied for under the Freight Railroad Preservation Program funding for the publicly owned railroad system.

Report of WisDOT Railroads and Harbors: Lisa Stern introduced Sarah Simonson who was recently hired as the new Freight Rail Program Manager. Lisa Stern provided an update on the Janesville Bridge Project. The preliminary engineering plans for the Janesville Bridge Project have been approved by all parties and have been submitted to the Federal Railroad Administration. The Union Pacific Final design is projected to be completed by the end of 2026 with construction starting in 2027.

Report of WSOR: Ken Lucht reported the following: Lycon, a ready mix concrete supplier, who is located on the Oshkosh Subdivision is now fully operational. The new crossing over Compass Way located in the Industrial Park is now open and WSOR has started to bring in railcars of sand and gravel

from Janesville. Oshkosh Defense lost its military truck contract. AM General of South Bend, Indiana was awarded the five-year contract. The contract will be up for rebid in 2030.

Charter Steel located in Saukville, Wisconsin, is looking to grow and bring in scrap steel via railcars versus trucks. WSOR is working with Charter Steel to upgrade the Saukville bridge so that it can manage 286-ton loading on the rail and bridge. Charter Steel invited the EWCRC to come and tour the facility. Ken will reach out to Kelly and Kim with dates and times.

Date, time, and place of next meeting (July 8, 2026): The next regular EWCRC meeting will be held on July 8, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. Dodge County will host the meeting, to be held at the Dodge County Administration Building, located in Juneau, Wisconsin.

Jeff Schleif adjourned the meeting at 11:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Zorn, 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.

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF EAST WISCONSIN COUNTIES
RAILROAD CONSORTIUM
June 16, 2026**

The meeting of the East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium was called to order by Chairman Tom Winker on June 16, 2026, at 10:36 a.m., in the Charter Steel Conference Room located at 1658 Cold Spring Road, Saukville, Wisconsin.

Certification Of Public Notice: Kim Nass certified that the notice of this meeting complies with all applicable requirements of Wisconsin's open meetings law.

Present: Jim Mielke, Dodge County; Steven Balsiger, Columbia County; John Zorn, Fond du Lac County; Tom Winker, Ozaukee County; and, Dennis Mulder, Green Lake County.

Excused: Char Holton, Columbia County; Jeffrey Caine, Dodge County; Karen Madigan, Fond du Lac, County; Charlie Wielgosh, Green Lake County; Shawn Rolland, Milwaukee County; Richard Nelson, Ozaukee County; Jon Kuhlow and Chuck Born, Sheboygan County; Jeff Schleif and Robert Hartwig, Washington County; and Matt Wood and Howard Miller, Winnebago County.

Others Present: Steve Scrivner, NSF; Yuan, Duchemin, NSF; Sarah Simonson, WisDOT; Drew Archie, WisDOT; Holly Winker, Ozaukee County; Ken Lucht, WSOR; Kim Nass, Dodge County Corporation Counsel; and Kelly Keller, Recording Secretary.

Joel Casterton and Greg Schaefer welcomed everyone to Charter Steel and gave a PowerPoint presentation on Charter Steel. After the Power Point presentation, all attendees toured the Charter Steel facility.

Tom Winker adjourned the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Zorn, Secretary

**EAST WISCONSIN COUNTIES RAILROAD CONSORTIUM
FUNDS ON DEPOSIT AS OF MAY 30, 2026**

**PREPARED FOR THE JULY 8, 2026, EWCRC MEETING
US BANK**

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Date/Activity	Total Amount Of Income/ Expenditures/ Transfers	Balance
Balance as of April 30, 2026.....		\$ 31,003.54
<u>DEPOSITS:</u>		
May 4, 2026 – WSOR 2026 2nd Quarter Rent.	\$ 5,201.21 (deposit)	
**Interest accrued for May 2026 (\$1.33)	\$ 1.33 (Interest)	
TOTAL DEPOSITS.....		\$ 5,202.54
<u>EXPENDITURES:</u>		
May 14, 2026 – Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission Invoice #2026-20-WRRTC 2026 Freight Rail Economic Impact Study – 1/3 Portion. (Check No. 5024)	\$ 8,899.00	
May 14, 2026 – Finance Department Invoice for Services Rendered in 2025 (Check No. 5025)	\$ 1,000.00	
May 14, 2026 – Corporation Counsel Invoice for Services Rendered in 2025 (Check No. 5026)	\$ 4,602.35	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$ 14,501.35
<u>TRANSFERS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT POOL:</u>		
May 4, 2026 – WSOR 2026 2nd Quarter Rent.	\$ 5,201.21 (EFT)	
May 4, 2026 – Remaining amount of Dodge County 2026 Member County Contribution.	\$ 15,502.19 (EFT)	
TOTAL TRANSFERS.....		\$ 20,703.40
May 31, 2026 – BALANCE IN CHECKBOOK		\$ 15,502.68

TOTAL EWCRC MONEY ON DEPOSIT IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT POOL (as of May 31, 2026)	\$ 2,060,028.70 (Interest Rate for May 2026 is 3.63%)	