



proud past, promising future

CLARK COUNTY  
WASHINGTON

**RAILROAD ADVISORY BOARD**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2009**

**4:00 PM -5:30 PM**

**1300 FRANKLIN STREET – PUBLIC SERVICE CENTER**

**6TH FLOOR – TRAINING ROOM #679**

**Meeting called to order 4:00 p.m.**

<b>Members Present:</b>	Daniel Weaver, Florence Wager, Eric Temple, Thomas Smith, Will Pickering, Melinda McLucas, Rodger Lance, Dave Hurt, Bill Ganley, Scott Dalesandro, Dick Clairmont, Dick Carroll, John Allen
<b>Absent Members:</b>	Doug Ballou, Patrick Boss, Richard Hanford, Lloyd Lycan, Jack Melton, Jerry Petrick
<b>Ex-Officio:</b>	Eric Temple, Will Pickering
<b>Public:</b>	Doug Auburg
<b>Staff:</b>	Fred Abraham, April Flinn

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Facilitator</b>
<b>Roll Call/Introductions</b>	<b>Dan Weaver, Chairman</b>
Around the table.	
<b>Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes</b>	<b>Dan Weaver, Chairman</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>January minutes were circulated. Minutes motioned to be approved, seconded minutes approved as circulated.</li> </ul>	
<b>Communications/Announcements/PVJR Activities</b>	<b>Dan Weaver, Chairman</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No new announcements to be made.</li> </ul>	
<b>PVJR Activities</b>	<b>Eric Temple</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eric went up to Olympia for a meeting. He is expecting significant money from the State. May not get the full \$6 million.</li> <li>Looking at the track on Monday and talking to his guys. The \$1.1 million grant from two years ago has been used effectively. The tracks have never looked better. Nice solid crossties on the tracks. Didn't change out any rail, but put in some new crossties, ballasts &amp; surfacing.</li> <li>A small issue with the FRA around the switch stands. They are in need of a toe path for the guys to stand on when they throw the switches. The crew got a little side-tracked on that, but they are now working on it. The FRA didn't think what was there, was adequate enough. It is something that needs to be done. They did not receive a fine. This was on switches from Rye Jct. to Barberton only.</li> <li>There is an economic slowdown. Clark County has been less affected than the rest of the State. Car counts are down about 10%. Not as much freight is being shipped due to fuel charges, but fuel charges should be going down soon.</li> <li>Since they have taken over the line, they have been losing money. They instituted a surcharge on January 1<sup>st</sup> of any traffic north of the sand trans-loading site. There is a surcharge on the Anderson Dairy cars. It's something that may become an issue. They ship 40+ cars a year and PVJR has to maintain 9 miles of tracks. It may be a political landmine that is coming up for them. Even with the fuel surcharge they are still losing money.</li> </ul>	
<b>BYCX Activities</b>	<b>Will Pickering</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It has been a slow month for them. They still have snow up there.</li> </ul>	

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Facilitator</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The tracks are clear. They are in the process of picking up downed timber.</li> <li>Their season will start in May. In the meantime/downtime they are doing maintenance.</li> </ul>	
<b>Status of County Activities</b>	<b>Fred Abraham</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hal Bauder with Public Works was confronted by Kent Berry about a log jam that was up against the bridge by Moulton Falls. Somebody was up there logging and went ahead and cleared the jam.</li> <li>The final walk-through with WSDOT is on Friday. They should sign off on it. After a little clean up they will be done with it.</li> <li>There is a Federal Legislative trip planned. Fred needs to talk to Commissioner Boldt again, because he will be going next week, and wants to make sure he will still be able to go with him. They are putting through a couple more appropriation bills this year. He will be working on those this week to get them in the proper hands by the 13<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>Keyera is moving right along and things are coming together.</li> <li>Fred turned the floor over to Scott about the Columbia River Logistics. He said that it is a dead project at this stage. The shipping numbers that came back from BNSF did not make it feasible for them to continue looking at the site. They will be sitting back and see where the economy goes until their lease expires in 2010. BNSF operations does not want Scott's operation in Clark County. BNSF said they can't handle the 3000 cars. Eric said he has had very good meetings with BNSF and says that BNSF would like to work with Scott's group and have his cars on their rails. The floor was turned back over to Fred.</li> <li>Caples Road project to go up the end of March to first week of April, during Spring break. All of the correspondence is put together to go out to the public within the next couple of weeks. Fred anticipates it to be a 3-4 day project. They will be removing the existing grade crossing that is there by pulling out all the ties and bad ballasts that are there and putting in new ballasts, ties and heavier rail. Installing concrete panels and then asphalt up to the panels. There will be some signal upgrades, but that will happen after 88<sup>th</sup> Street is done. They will be taking the 88<sup>th</sup> Street signals and putting them up at Caples Road. Caples Road signals are the oldest signals in the system. Boxes are becoming a nightmare.</li> <li>WUTC has given an out regarding the amount of truck traffic that goes inside the limits of the crossing arms. Fred is waiting for the formal proposal from Cathy Hunter. It will be signage, jersey barriers, and some additional signaling, most likely.</li> <li>Public Works put on a Railroad Safety seminar, because of the issues they've had on 72<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and some other project. The WUTC came down from Olympia and local FRA representative gave a great presentation of what it takes to be involved in track construction and rehabilitation with limitations. Railroad safety has always been an issue and Fred is trying to work with Tim McVicker and Mark Wilsdon in Risk Management. Fred wants to try to get Tim Marshall involved as well on this. Fred wants to try to put something together that contractors can go out and tap and County workers can access, but does not eliminate having Will Cahill on site.</li> <li>2009-2011 emergent grant is still looking promising. We will receive any monies available but not sure of the total amount until April or May.</li> <li>Anderson Plastics. The county is concerned about the surcharge.</li> <li>Fred is going to Olympia on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> to testify to the Senate and House Transportation Committees on behalf of the REET language change proposed.</li> </ul>	
<b>Subcommittee Reports</b>	<b>Dan Weaver, Chairman</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nothing new on the reversionary rights.</li> </ul>	
<b>Unfinished Business</b>	<b>Dan Weaver, Chairman</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fred Abraham, Dick Carroll, Dick Clairmont, Rodger Lance, Lloyd Lycan and Dan Weaver went to Legislative Day in Olympia. Everybody in Olympia received the group very well. They were met positively and several indicated a push forward on their behalf.</li> <li>Fred stated that Jerry Petrick was approved and will be replacing Bart Phillips as representative of CREDC.</li> </ul>	
<b>New Business</b>	<b>Dan Weaver, Chairman</b>

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Facilitator</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CREDC/Clark County will be working a very strong strategic plan which will be folded out from the Commissioner's office showing what they want in relation to this. RRAB will be asked to participate for the economic development for 2009, once we have established the criteria to follow.</li> </ul>	
<b>Good of the Order</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revenue car count for 2008 was down a little bit, 7%-8% from the last year. They have been consistently going up the ladder of the last few years. With the economic struggles the 7%-8% drop is not very significant.</li> <li>• Attendance sheet was passed out. Under the bylaws, after so many absences you can be removed from the board.</li> <li>• Fred requested from the BYCX and members of the group to put out a support letter on behalf of the REET language. Number 5587 Senate Bill and Number/910 House Bill.</li> </ul>	
<b>Round Table</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The meeting with Dick Thompson said that there was no stimulus \$ for the Railroad.</li> <li>• Noticed that Senator Murray has not been included in the agenda.</li> <li>• Will be trying to set up a meeting with Senator Murray.</li> </ul>	
<b>Meeting Adjourned at 4:50 p.m.</b>	