



proud past, promising future

CLARK COUNTY
WASHINGTON

RAILROAD ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2008

4:00 PM -5:30 PM

1300 FRANKLIN STREET – PUBLIC SERVICE CENTER

6TH FLOOR – TRAINING ROOM #679

ROLL CALL:

Members Present:	John Allen, Dick Carroll, Dick Clairmont, Scott Dalesandro, Bill Ganley, Lloyd Lycan, Melinda McLucas, Jack Melton, Florence Wager, Dan Weaver, Thomas Smith,
Absent Members:	Doug Ballou, Patrick Boss, Richard Hanford, Dave Hurt
Ex-Officio:	Eric Temple, Will Pickering
Public:	Doug Auburg (BYCX)
Staff:	Fred Abraham, Mark McCauley, Madison King

Agenda Item	Facilitator
Introductions	Dan Weaver, Chairman
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dan Weaver opened the meeting and requested introductions around the table for the benefit of Mark McCauley, Director of General Services. 	
Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes	Dan Weaver
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lloyd Webber pointed out that Keyera Propane paid \$1,059,000 for the property purchased on 78th street rather than \$10,590,000. Dan Weaver also asked to have BYCX added after the "WSDOT grant" on page 1 under PVJR Activities. Board approved minutes with the above changes. 	
Communications/Announcements	Dan Weaver
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fred explained to the Board about his precarious situation as to whether or not his position will be retained due to budget cuts. He recognized and thanked those who sent him e-mails in support of him. Fred said that Mark McCauley is working with him in regard to saving his position. Dan Weaver passed out a letter that he had drafted to the County Commissioners regarding the potential of Fred's job being cut from the budget. The letter was discussed at length in regard to how it should be re-worded. Mark McCauley explained to the group that he will be going to the Commissioners from an economical angle. Florence motioned that the letter be approved on condition of the discussed changes, motion seconded and approved. Another letter was introduced by Dan regarding the RRAB's review of the draft of Clark County Railroad Industrial property code and guidelines developed by the RRWG. A few minor changes were requested, Florence motioned to approve letter on condition of changes, Dick Clairmont seconded, motion approved. 	
PVJR Activities	Eric Temple
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fred passed out a copy of the revenue car count. Per Eric via conference call, it would be difficult to give an exact revenue car count, but he could give an overall update on how things are going on different fronts. Canfield has put some good business miles out in hopes of gaining federal approval to ship grain from Clark County. There were going to be some trans loads with different grains, corn products, beans, etc. for small ports in Asia, but there are a shortage of 20' containers in this region which really hampers the business. Eric 	

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<p>is optimistic that the global slow down may actually help that side of the business. Eric was hoping to get in touch with Steve at Canfield regarding how things are going, but has not heard back.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eric confirmed that Scott Delasandro was present, then shared that he had a good meeting with Darryl and Bonnie, both of BNSF regarding Scott's company, and they plan on contacting Scott directly. He also had a good conversation with Jim of Union Pacific and it appears that everyone is agreeing to the concept of getting Scott's company up on the PVJR, which would be fantastic. Eric had been fairly confident of funding of \$6,000,000 for fixing the track but that source has dried up, but there are some federal and state earmarks for funding in process which look good. Eric is also going to do some of the work on the line soon, tamping track. He stated that he has a Mark III tamper which is a really nice production tamper, and explained what a tamper does for those who don't know. Eric stated that Chris Lantz is a great new employee who is very qualified to run the machine, and has a friend who is an expert tamper mechanic. They are going to get all of the mechanical problems solved, and are hoping to test on Clark County to confirm repairs. They also have a bolt tightening machine they are bringing over. Chris believes he will have most of the track at Class II from Fruit Valley junction to the Rye yard, which is a tremendous improvement in the rail road. Eric inquired if Scott had an update and requested to stay on the line if he did. • Per Scott Delasandro, they are moving ahead with the plans on the building. He met with the developer who should get back to him by Friday with a cost estimate. Scott does not share Eric's optimism about the BSFN. Bonnie and Christian have failed to set a meeting with him, which he has requested twice in the last 30 days. They have indicated that if Scott moves, prices may be raised. The ball is in their court. Eric volunteered to call BNSF again, and stated this appears to be a BNSF standard marketing maneuver. 	
BYCX Activities	Will Pickering
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will Pickering shared that he is inquiring on the Port of Vancouver regarding some ties that are available at a great rate and good quality which should allow them to maintain the current operating section. DNR has been doing some brushing for the County. They have approximately four miles to go. DNR is only able to brush so high, so it will need to be gone over again with equipment high enough to reach the canopy, which will be done by BYCX next spring. • Will said that he has a board meeting tonight and would be asking his board to also write a letter to the Commissioners regarding Fred's position with the railroad. • Per Fred, the 1.1 million dollar grant project is almost done with the exception of seeding and planting, which will be done after Thanksgiving. • Fred said DNR brush clearing is completed at the lower portion of the line; and the upper line is now being worked on as stated previously by Will Pickering of the BYCX. Fred has checked the upper line and is happy with the weed kill rate there as it has been a couple of years since it has been done. The County will follow up on this area again in the spring of 2009. 	
Status of County Activities	Fred Abraham
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fred stated that the 1.1 million dollar project is approximately 70% done on the re-hab portion. The re-hab portion is down to approximately 600 ties to insert, which includes surfacing the track, and servicing the joints. HDR has made efforts with BNSF in regard to field studies they need to do and are now in the process of putting together a proposal for Rye Junction interchange tracks. Fred will be meeting with HDR on Wednesday morning and invited the Board to attend, as we will see what has been done to date. The contractor has done a good job, and we will have less than 2 ties per panel that will be bad, almost all the way up to the Rye yard which should put us into a Class II in that area. 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On mile post 2.59 every thing is complete with exception of seeding and tree planting, which DNR will do around Thanksgiving. The entire project, including Rye Junction interchange options from HDR should be complete by the first week of December. • In regard to the 2009-2010 emergent request Fred had put in, we are #6 on the list and should receive funding between \$366,000 to \$535,000 for the next biennium, depending which of the three options the legislators choose. There is \$2.7 million in that fund but the problem is that the State also has a shortfall, which can affect what we receive. • Caples Road rail crossing has been an ongoing situation, which is a Public Works job. They are ready to move forward with it in early January 2009 under the new budget and they have agreed to do concrete panels rather than asphalt, which will take care of that problem area for many years. • There are perspective shippers that Fred is working with. There is a gentleman in Brush Prairie who has bought what used to be the feed store there. The tenant won't be using the rail road that goes into the property, so the owner would like to take advantage of the railroad that goes into the property. He would like a transload operation, and the property would definitely be able to accommodate that. • Fred also met with Dave Nelson, a developer in town, who has a client interested in possibly sighting a tenant in Yacolt which would put together a proposal in conjunction with the BYCX, Eric Temple and the prospective client to build a facility there to restore vintage railroad cars, and to do some work on railroad engines. It would also create a facility that could be used by both BYCX and Eric Temple for facilitating work on their own engines and rail equipment. The long term goal would be to associate a rail museum out there to bring tourism to Yacolt. The facility would also bring good paying jobs. He met with Mayor Warren who is on board, and will take it to City Council. We may be able to get some funding because of BNSF's being a 501 C-3 corporation. The location of it would be North of Yacolt street. Fred has been working with Doug Auburg from the BYCX and with Dave Nelson the developer. Fred will make a presentation to the city council on November 17, 2009. • Clark County purchased a shed that is now set up and is available for equipment storage. Shelves will be added later. We purchased two weed-eaters this year and are hopeful to purchase another two next year. These are used by DNR crews to clear brush along the railroad right of way. • Fred is working with Mark Wilsdon, Risk Management to work on any areas that propose a threat. These include illegal use of railroad right of way, illegal crossings, private crossings that have no railroad signs, building access issues concerning ADA requirements. • Board reappointment letters have been received by Lloyd Lycan, Jack Melton, Florence Wager and Richard Hanford. Their new term runs from January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2011. 	
Subcommittee Reports	Dan Weaver
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fred shared that we are in the top ten for website hits. 	
Good of the Order	All
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Lantz, CBRR, was unable to attend today. • There is a Chili and Bread cook off on Saturday, November 15th, from 11am – 1pm at 4700 NE 78th Street. All are welcome to attend. 	
Round Table	All
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fred passed out attendance records. Discussion on using the collected funds for a holiday celebration in December. 	
Meeting Adjourned at 5:50 PM.	

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