



proud past, promising future

CLARK COUNTY
WASHINGTON

RAILROAD ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2010

4:00 PM -5:30 PM

1300 FRANKLIN STREET – PUBLIC SERVICE CENTER

6TH FLOOR – TRAINING ROOM #679

Members Present:	John Allen, Dick Carroll, Dick Clairmont, Todd Coleman, Scott Dalesandro, Rodger Lance, Lloyd Lycan Melinda McLucas, Jack Melton, John Shaffer, Tom Smith, Florence Wager
Excused Members:	Bill Ganley, Dan Weaver
Absent Members:	
Ex-Officio:	Will Pickering, Eric Temple
Public:	Doug Auburg
Staff:	Fred Abraham, Troy Pierce, April Flinn

Agenda Item	Facilitator
Meeting called to order @ 3:59 PM	Lloyd Lycan
Roll Call/Introductions	Lloyd Lycan
No Introductions were made.	
Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes	Lloyd Lycan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moved and seconded minutes approved as circulated. 	
Communications/Announcements	Lloyd Lycan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Communications or Announcements 	
PVJR Activities	Eric Temple
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handout – Eric Temple has been working on the PVJR handout. This handout was distributed to the legislators in Olympia after Rail Day in subsequent meetings Eric has had. Rail Day in Olympia – Representative Judy Clibborn added the Chelatchie Prairie Railroad to the list of projects that she would like to see funded through the legislature for this legislative session. Eric Temple had a positive meeting with Representative Judy Clibborn and Senator Mary Margaret Haugen regarding funding for the railroad. Sink Hole Issue – Eric Temple has been apprized of the work on the sink hole issue at MP 1. Fred Abraham will have more information on the sink hole in his report for the County Activities. Transload Site Neighborhood Issue – The transloader has been dumping sand into trucks there for a trucking company. A concern has been raised about a cloud of sand in the air as well as diesel fumes. The truck with the excess fumes has been fixed by the shipper. The neighbor was concerned about the silica content in the sand, since it is a potential carcinogen. The truck is now somewhat sealed from the dust billowing up as it is being dumped into the trucks, by having tarps over the opening at the top of the truck. There is no hazmat sheet associated with the sand shipments. The hope is that this will correct the problem and satisfy the citizen. Rail – There is no update on the rail that may be available from the abandoned railroad up north in the Seattle area. 	
BYCX Activities	Will Pickering
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Off-season Month – They have spent time near Chelatchie cleaning and scrapping debris. 	

Agenda Item	Facilitator
<p>They were finally able to set up the storage container that they received a couple of years ago. The storage container will allow for more usable space in the shop.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ties – Some ties have been started to be placed toward Heisson for installation this year. • Equipment – They are currently working on some of their equipment. • 2010 Grants – The papers have been signed for the 2010 grants for the track to continue tie restoration toward Heisson. 	
Status of County Activities	Fred Abraham
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1,366.8M Grant – The overview of the initial meeting with WSDOT on the grant was distributed via e-mail. Elizabeth Phinney from WSDOT will be the project manager from their end. She has worked with Will Cahill in the past. A portion of the grant will be used to address the drainage issue at MP 0.2-0.4. The grant will also be used to replace a portion of the 66# rail, as well as to relay ties from MP4-14 in the most needed areas. The money will also be used for ballast, surfacing, aligning, and for a new crossing at State Pipe. The contract is in the hands of WSDOT. There are some minor changes that WSDOT's Risk Management wants to make. Fred Abraham is hoping to get the contract this week to send it to the County's Risk Management and PA's offices. Then the contract will go to the BOCC for acceptance of the contract. • WUTC – The application was submitted on time for the No Trespassing signs grant. Fred Abraham should be hearing something back in early April. Then Fred Abraham will go before the BOCC for acceptance of the grant. The installation of the signs will need to fit into Public Works schedule. No trespassing signs will be installed at all right-of-way access, bridges, and roads. The next call for a grant with WUTC will be in June, when Fred Abraham will put in an application for public crossing regulatory signs. After that, the next grant application will be for private crossing regulatory signs. The Public Works sign department will make sure that we are in compliance regulations for reflective signs. • NACCC – Fred Abraham will be meeting with the Neighborhood Association tonight. He will give them an update on what is happening with the railroad. He will update them on grants and also take questions from them. • Rural Lands – On February 9, 2010 there will be a rural lands meeting. Fred Abraham will be providing them with an overview of the future of the rail line for the lower 14 miles, what is currently happening with the rail, and what the potential will be for the whole 33 miles of track. • Federal Appropriation Requests – The appropriation requests are currently being worked on. Rough drafts will be sent to Eric Temple for his review early next week. • Business Outreach – Between Kelly Sills and Fred Abraham, they have identified over 30 businesses for Kelly Sills, Todd Coleman, and Fred Abraham to speak with this year regarding the rail line. Jerry Petrick added that this year, 2010, is the year to reach out to these businesses. CREDC is gathering stakeholders in the community such as WorkSource and Clark Public Utilities to form a team to meet regularly and for the purpose of recruiting companies that will provide family wage jobs. There seems to be much enthusiasm to make this happen. • Sink Hole – The sinkhole that happened at MP 1 was approximately 30 feet across by 18 feet deep, and was caused by a broken and deteriorated pipe. So far approximately 1200 tons of rock has been added to the hole. A new pipe and catch basin will be installed and inspected periodically. Clark County's Risk Management is putting the sink hole on a claim for \$30,000-\$40,000. Lori Volkman with the PA's office is researching previous slides in this same area. She does not want to raise any red flags to the community but wants to alert the community above the railroad in that area as to potential dangers and property loss. 	
Subcommittee Reports	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Outreach – The NACCC group wants to have a meeting with Fred Abraham. He will talk with them tonight at their meeting. The NACCC is appreciative of the railroad and they understand and appreciate the response from the individuals that deal with the railroad. • Web Page – A suggestion was made that there should be something on the website 	

Agenda Item	Facilitator
<p>regarding the sink hole at MP 1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety – The third meeting for On Track Safety was held today. The FRA’s attorneys have informed Dick Clairmont that they need to have a plan. Lloyd Lycan and Will Cahill have put in previously drafted plans regarding OTS. A copy of the final draft will go to the unions through Human Resources to make sure that it meets their regulations as well as to Tim Marshall and Eric Temple to review for compliance to CBRR’s operating rules. Will Cahill is working on a teaching curriculum and a test for the employees to be done in a classroom setting. The initial test will be a written test with 50 questions. After the initial test, the tests will be given through the Learning Management System through the County. Dick Clairmont has run the plan by the local FRA representative. The representative had a couple of concerns, but they have been addressed. Fred Abraham will send a letter to the FRA upon completion and implementation of the program. It will probably be around six weeks before implementation. • Rails with Trails Liaison – No Update 	
Unfinished Business	Lloyd Lycan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rails with Trails – The month has been slow on the plans for Rails with Trails. A memorandum of understanding will be drafted between the operator and the trail user groups in the May-June timeframe by Lisa Goorjian of Vancouver Parks. The designer has said that a 16 foot offset from the track does look promising for the alignment. The trail will never be closer than 11 feet, but they are trying for 16 feet. The outcomes for the trail. 1) It will be outside the 16 foot line. 2) If inside the 16 foot line the trail will be above or below the track. An appraisal is on the way for the property at 174th if the trail needs to cross there. The schedule for the plans is to have 90% plans in May. • Legislature Rail Day – John Shaffer updated the group on the trip up to Olympia for Rail Day. Craig Pridemore was supportive of the efforts put forth towards the railroad. The group went up north to make an appearance and not to ask for any more money. John Shaffer expressed that he was disappointed in the County Lobbyist. The impression from the lobbyist was that the group that went up was a hindrance to him, and that he had better things to do. John Shaffer does not feel that there are any legislators in Olympia that are not supportive of the efforts to improve the railroad. • REET Letter to BOCC – Lloyd Lycan drafted a letter to the BOCC regarding funds from the Real Estate Excise Tax (REET). Lloyd Lycan read the letter to the RRAB. A motion was made to send the letter to the BOCC, and was seconded. It was approved to send the letter to the BOCC. • Autobiography’s – Lloyd Lycan asked the group to consider writing an autobiography to be added to the member roster. These are meant for only getting to know one another better; they will not be posted online. 	
New Business	Lloyd Lycan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridges & DNR Crews– DNR crews are working on bridge six. They will then start work on bridge 12 and 23. The foreman for the crew was reassigned last week. As of yet, we do not know if DNR will stay established here with the closing of Larch Mountain Corrections. There is currently a petition circulating around Clark County to save Larch Corrections. A back up to using DNR would be to use the County’s corrections, other non-profit groups, or military personnel. • Car Counts – The car counts were down for 2009. There is a company that PVJR is talking with that would bring approximately 300 cars per year to the line. Eric Temple does not believe that we will have 1000 cars in 2010. He is looking toward 2011 for a rise in the freight cars to attain the 1000 plus car mark, however one major shipper can change that. • DNR Contract – Fred Abraham received the new contract from DNR through 2011. 	
Good of the Order	ALL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Port of Vancouver Open House – Tom Smith presented on the open house. On January 21, 2010 there was a tour of the Port. There are five terminals. Terminals two, three, and four are active terminals. Because of Port activities, there are about 23,000 people 	

Agenda Item	Facilitator
<p>employed. The port has two large harbor cranes that handle the heavy cargo. They are the largest cranes in North America. The wind turbine generators have been loaded on rail cars through the Port. Terminal five, the old Alcoa site, is being developed and can handle 110 cars, and they are currently laying track. Tours are open to the public.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill Ganley – He is still not feeling well. Fred Abraham would like the board to consider sending a card to him. Lloyd Lycan will prepare a card from the RRAB. 	
Round Table	ALL
•	
ADJOURNMENT @ 5:22 PM	