



proud past, promising future

CLARK COUNTY
WASHINGTON

RAILROAD ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, MAY 10, 2010

4:00 PM -5:30 PM

1300 FRANKLIN STREET – PUBLIC SERVICE CENTER

6TH FLOOR – TRAINING ROOM #679

Members Present:	John Allen, Todd Coleman, Scott Dalesandro, Bill Ganley, Lloyd Lycan, Melinda McLucas, Jack Melton, John Shaffer, Florence Wager, Dan Weaver
Excused Members:	Dick Carroll, Dick Clairmont, Bart Phillips, Tom Smith, Rodger Lance
Absent Members:	
Ex-Officio:	Will Pickering, Eric Temple
Public:	Doug Auburg, Jon Holladay - HDR, Andrea Heckman - HDR
Staff:	Fred Abraham, April Flinn, Troy Pierce, Lisa Goorjian
Agenda Item	Facilitator
Meeting called to order @ 4:02 pm	Lloyd Lycan
Roll Call/Introductions	Lloyd Lycan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jon Holladay from HDR introduced himself to the group. 	
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"> Fred Abraham read parts of an article from Progressive Railroading regarding BNSF Railway and American Shortline Regional Railroad Association. Fourteen short lines and small railroads partnered to form the Shortline BNSF caucus. They discussed how to improve communication between BNSF and connecting short line railroads, and how to attract rail business. 	
PVJR Activities	Eric Temple
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business – It has been a good month. It could be a record year. Talk is going around about putting in another rail spur at Canfield Trucking. Rates – BNSF has requested new rates on new products that will be shipped. Legislative – The focus for this month has been on the political side. There was good attendance at the rail party. John Shaffer drove to Renton to attend the party. Eric Temple feels that it was a successful party. He is going to now be working on the Growth Management Act with Speaker Chopp and other representatives, so that he can try to avoid issues with Futurewise from now on. Sand Transload Site – The South West Washington Clean Air Agency went out to the transload site and took air samples. The transload site is in compliance with clean air standards. 	
BYCX Activities	Will Pickering
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Train Rides – Last weekend was opening weekend for train rides, for Mother’s Day. There was good ridership. The sign-up has already started for future rides. Ties – Ties have been installed. More ties have been ordered so they can be installed. Chipper – BYCX purchased a chipper. They will take the wheels off and mount it on a speeder, for use along the rail line. Publicity – BYCX has received publicity from The Columbian, The Oregonian, The Reflector. 	

- **Weed Spray** – They will be coordinating work with the weed spray. Also, a gentleman, Harvey Holt, a retired chemist from Purdue University will be applying alternative, eco-friendly, weed sprays in select areas along the rail line. He will work with vegetation management to do this. This is an experimental project and at no cost to Clark County. It is still associated with Purdue University research on weed management.

Status of County Activities

Fred Abraham

- **Andersen Plastics** – The operation currently exists in Battle Ground. They would like to add extra machines to their operation, but do not have room at their current location. They have a need for expansion. Fred advised them of property that was available in Brush Prairie. Andersen Plastics likes the property because it has rail and a building already on site. Two of the seven parcels are zoned CR2. To locate there has to be a comp plan update, and review, which is a year long process. The process will be starting tonight with public outreach to NACCC. The County Commissioner's are ready to sign an executive order that will enable Andersen Plastics to get moved into the Brush Prairie property sooner based on the public meeting outcome tonight and on May 22nd to the Brush Prairie Neighborhood Association. Jack Dunn will be at the NACC meeting tonight to make the presentation and answer questions along with Fred. The Brush Prairie Neighborhood Association meeting is scheduled for May 22, 2010, 7 pm at the Hockinson Fire Department. The City Manager of Battle Ground will be offering a letter of support, and the BOCC will be offering a letter of support as well. Two county employees will be present at the meeting. Minor questions have arisen, and have been answered. One concern is over the truck traffic. The roads will only be impacted with one trailer load every three days, plus six to seven cars per shift. If they start full production, it would be one trailer load per day. The expansion will add 20-30 new jobs to the community.
- **\$1.3668 M Grant** - \$1 M has been added to the WSDOT grant, making it \$2.3668 M. The current contract will be revised. The extra money will be used to buy additional rail, change the switch for Andersen Plastics at Brush Prairie, and to buy new ties to Battle Ground. The drainage proposal is out on the street. The pre-bid meeting will be tomorrow. Five bids for materials will soon follow, and thereafter bids by contractors to do the rehab work.
- **WUTC Grant** – The approval letter has been sent. The contract agreement is being looked at by the PA's office and Risk Management. The letter will then go to the BOCC for signatures within the next two weeks. This grant is for the development of no trespassing signs for the railroad right-of-way. DNR crews will install the no trespassing signs this fall or early winter.
- **New Grant Call** – The 2011-2013 biennium grant call program is in place. There is \$2.5 M in the grant program and \$5 M in the loan program. We are looking to leverage both.
- **78th Street Auction** – This auction is off the market, temporarily. The original appraisal was for \$1M. A second appraisal came in under \$500,000 there was a restriction placed on the auction for railroad industries. The amount also significantly reduces the amount of industries that can locate there with the restriction. Like properties in the area showed a lower per acre value due to the economic climate. A maximum return on sales applies on road fund property according to the statutes. Fred is working directly with Commissioner Stuart, and has had a meeting with Omega Industries, who really wants to expand business to this location. Omega had an independent appraisal done, and it came back at around \$500,000. The PA's office is working to make the auction occur at the lower appraisal and stay within the state statute.
- **Legislative Session 2011** – Fred Abraham has discussed with Eric Temple, about getting the legislators and local staff together for a trip on the rail line. Eric would like to work with BYCX at using a car for the legislators, and Eric would provide the locomotive. This trip would take place in late August or early September.
- **Bridges** – The timbers for bridge 23 will be here in two weeks. Fred will try to get the DNR crews in soon. The hope is to be able to use the bridge mid-June. The work on bridge 6 is complete. Bridge 12 work is almost complete.
- **Fence Encroachment** – In the north county area, there is a 25 foot right-of-way. There is a fence at 19'6".
- **Clear Cutting** – The clear cutting through Moulton Falls station that was thought to be

happening is not. It is not county property; it is a private land owner.	
Subcommittee Reports	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Outreach –At tonight’s meeting, Andrew Ness will be sharing a Port update, Kevin Gray will give an update on environmental issues, and Jack Dunn and Fred Abraham will give information on Andersen Plastics. • Web Page – The web page was just updated. 	
Unfinished Business	Lloyd Lycan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rails with Trails Update – At last month’s meeting, they were still waiting for the property appraisal. The appraisal for the property has now been received. It now has to go through an independent review. They are expecting the review either today or tomorrow. They will be submitting for the environmental permits sometime this month. Then the public hearing process and meetings will begin in the June timeframe. Data regarding the trail alignment with the tracks was given out the RRAB subgroup today. Modifications will be made according to the group’s feedback. They are now considering some construction issues. They are looking for access points, and staging areas. There are limited access points along the trail. They need to figure out how to get construction vehicles to the trail area where there is limited road access. They posed the question of whether or not the rail can be used during construction, to haul equipment. They will have to have a conversation with Eric Temple about that issue. Lisa Goorjian added that the project is on schedule. • Rails with Trails MOU – Fred Abraham and Eric Temple are still working through the process for the Memorandum of Understanding for the Rails with Trails project. They want to make sure that it is done correctly. 	
New Business	Lloyd Lycan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Development & Legislation – John Shaffer is trying to get the message out. Fred Abraham and John Shaffer met with Representative Deb Wallace. She gave them names of people to get in contact with to help with economic development. She is a great supporter of the railroad. The rail needs to get where it can support itself. The problem is that there is not much available land. • Community Outreach Replacement for John Allen - John Allen is leaving for a job in Roseburg. A replacement needs to be found for community outreach. The Neighborhood Association counsel meets one time per month at the 78th street Public Works operations building. John shares about the RRAB and shares NACC information with the RRAB. There are 26 neighborhood associations in Clark County with another 20 plus in the City of Vancouver. Dick Clairmont would like to take over for John, but needs help to back him up. • Tim McVicker – A thank you letter will be written by Lloyd Lycan thanking Tim for his help with the On Track Safety Program. • Board Replacement – A letter will be drafted to the BOCC about having a representative from the City of Vancouver to replace John Allen. The BOCC appoints all new board members. • Legislative Appreciation Social in Renton – There were no representatives from Southwest Washington at the social put on by Eric Temple in Renton. 	
Good of the Order	ALL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance – The attendance log was passed around to all members to keep track of their attendance and be aware of the rules. • HDR – John Holladay and Andrea Heckman from HDR gave an update on rail from their perspective. At the federal level, there is money out there for the railroads. They want to get the money to the projects. The short lines looked bleak in 2008 and 2009, but business is starting to increase again for the short lines. 	
Round Table	ALL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing 	
ADJOURNMENT @5:34 pm	