



proud past, promising future

CLARK COUNTY
WASHINGTON

RAILROAD ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2009

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, Dave Hurt, Rodger lance, Lloyd Lycan, Melinda McLucas, Jerry Petrick, Thomas Smith, Florence Wager, Dan Weaver
Excused Members:	Bill Ganley, Jack Melton, John Shaffer
Absent Members:	
Ex-Officio:	Will Pickering, Eric Temple
Public:	
Staff:	Fred Abraham, April Flinn, Troy Pierce, Mark McCauley
Agenda Item	Facilitator
Meeting called to order @ 4:02	Dan Weaver
Roll Call/Introductions	Dan Weaver
Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes	Dan Weaver
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moved and seconded minutes approved as circulated. 	
Communications/Announcements/PVJR Activities	Dan Weaver
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nothing 	
PVJR Activities	Eric Temple
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential Customers – There has not been much activity this month. There have been no calls from potential shippers. He does have one small potential customer that will bring in about 60 cars per year. Once the rezone goes through, there is a potential for more business. BOCC – The BOCC has a strategy to get the rezone accomplished. They are still waiting on the rezone until they get direction to move forward by the PA's office. There is about an eight month time frame for this to go through. City of Battle Ground – Eric met with Dennis Osborne with the City of Battle Ground. Battle Ground is starting to want to support the railroad, but looks positive overall. Olympia – It is going to be a lean year from Olympia because there is not much money in the budgets. 	
BYCX Activities	Will Pickering
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Train Runs – There was a good turnout for the run two weekends ago. The Yacolt schools will be riding on Friday, and Vancouver schools will be coming up to ride also. The Halloween run is coming up, which is a very popular one with the headless horseman. Ties – 400 Ties were inserted last week with the grant money. The previous year's ties were picked up as well. Brush Clearing – DNR crews are doing brush clearing. 	
Status of County Activities	Fred Abraham
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WSDOT Grant – Elizabeth Phinney with WSDOT is about one to two weeks away from drafting the contract for the 1.366M Grant. TIGER – Everything has been submitted and now we are waiting to hear back. Grace Ave – The Grace Avenue project has sat dormant for 8-9 months. A meeting was held this morning with the 90% plans. The City of Battle Ground wants to widen the road from Eaton Blvd to Rasmussen phase one and then Rasmussen to Main Street phase two. The widening needs to accommodate the rail line. The County rail line needs to be protected before the road improvements go through. Anderson Dairy & Plastics is a major employer in Battle Ground and is located on the rail line. They would like to have both the dairy & plastics businesses in one location, but they own both pieces of property. If Anderson moved, the City of Battle Ground would be able to put Grace Avenue 	

straight through to Main street and would not have to go around the buildings as it does now.

- **Economic Development Team** – The team is continuing to meet. Commissioner Mielke, Fred and Kelly Sills have been meeting with local businesses that are located on the rail line. This has been giving the businesses a voice and the team has been getting good feedback from the businesses. BOC Gas may be expanding in the next 10 years. Oldcastle Glass is looking at possibly using the rail line in the future with a new manufacturing facility. GTS Drywall would like to use the rail line again more extensively. Everyone seems to be very supportive of the railroad and what it means to Clark County.
- **Overlay Zoning** – The Port of Vancouver is a major player in the overlay zoning.
- **199th Street** – There was a signal outage at 199th Street. The County crews were able to fix the outage. A relay had to be borrowed from BNSF because we did not have one in stock.
- **Bridge Assessment** – The bridge assessment has been completed by HDR. Right now it is in draft form. We are hoping to have a final report by the end of the month. There are more problems than anticipated. The bridges were rated on a scale from 1-5, with 1 being that the bridge cannot be used to 5 being that there are no problems. Every bridge breaks down to being around a 3-4, so they are usable. It's estimated that it will cost around \$16,000 a year to have a company make sure the bridges are compliant to federal and state regulations through annual inspections.
- **Regulatory Signs** – There have been a lot of trespassing issues on the railroad right-of-way. Fred took a high-rail tour with the County's traffic engineer and sign department to look at the signs on the railroad. They found RCW language that can be put on the signs for no trespassing, so that criminal action can be taken against trespassers. Fred has received a good response from the PA's office on the language to be placed on the signs. The sign department will look at where these signs need to be placed and estimate a cost to make and install. Risk Management agrees with putting up the signs to remove risk from the County.
- **Heisson/Fletcher Property** – The railroad cuts through this property. The deed from 1901 states that the railroad owner must maintain the crossing, culverts, and fence. A new timber crossing and approach was installed, the brush was removed, and the culverts were cleaned out. The fencing still needs to be fixed, which is around 30-40 feet, and will be completed later by the land owners nephew. The County will provide the materials. The property owner is very supportive and satisfied with the work.
- **Marketing** – The County is working with CREDC to help advertise and promote the rail line.

Subcommittee Reports

- **ROW** – Signage for no trespassing discussed under County Activities. Bicycle signs are going up for skewed tracks. Rough road tracks are next.
- **Community Outreach** – From 7:15-8:00 there will be a NACC presentation on the Columbia River Crossing. From 8:00-8:30 an H1N1 update will be presented by the Health Department.
- **Web Page** – The web page has been updated and is scheduled to be updated periodically.
- **Safety** – Nothing new.

Unfinished Business

Dan Weaver

- **Expiring Terms** – Tom Smith, John Allen, Dave Hurt, Dick Clairmont, and Jerry Petrick have all indicated that they would like to renew their board terms. Scott Dalesandro has asked for a little more time to figure out if he can continue.
- **Rails with Trails** – A subcommittee meeting was held just prior to the RRAB meeting. The survey work is being done. Fred brought up two concerns with the plans that were distributed. His first is the identification of where the horse trail will end at the south end, and what provisions are being made for the parking and trail access. Equestrian riders will be parking at Battle Ground Lake to access the trail, and will return to Battle Ground Lake when finished. There will be approximately 1-1 ½ miles of horse trail. Issues that were brought up to work on are drainage, where horses will be crossing the track, and where land is available for rail business development. It was discussed that a meeting should be set up with trail user groups to get their input and to discuss the plans of the rail.

New Business

Dan Weaver

- **Nominations for Chairman and Vice-Chairman** – The chair and vice-chair positions end at the end of the year.
- **Bylaws** – The bylaws state that officers can serve for two consecutive years. Asking if the bylaws should be changed. The board will take this into consideration and report back in November.

Good of the Order

ALL

- **Social** – The board will consider having a short December meeting with a social for the holidays.

Round Table

ALL

ADJOURNMENT @ 5:15