Clark County Railroad Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 9, 2022, 4:19pm to 4:47pm
Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin St., 6th Floor BOCC
Training Room and virtual via WebEx

Advisory Board-Present: Dan Weaver, Eric Fuller, Jim Malinowski, Jim Pearson, John Hansen, John Shaffer, Kent Cash, Lloyd Lycan, Mark Herceg, Rick DeNise

Advisory Board-Not Present: Dave Nelson, Mark Daniels, Neil Chambers

Clark County Staff and Leadership: Kevin Tyler, Rocky Houston

BYCX: Randy Williams

Guests: Dave Rowe, Jackie Lane, Margie Burgett

4:05pm Quorum present and meeting called to Order – Dan Weaver

4:07pm March 28, 2022 minutes adopted

BYCX Activities – Randy Williams:
• Late start to the season due to diesel locomotive repairs
• 3 of 4 traction motors repaired
• Working on generator this weekend
• New floor in cab due to water damage
• Need track work done but short volunteers
• Need to do run down track to check for trees and also activity at 25.2 that needs repaired
• Getting ready to put boiler tubes in for steam engine
• New owners of Back Roads Bar are making it more family friendly – will be something for BYCX guests to do
• Schedule is on website - ticket sales are not open yet

County Activities – Kevin Tyler:
• RRB 1230 – 1.4 million grant for track/roadbed rehab work on lower section up to Battle Ground
  o Working through review of 90% plans, specs, and cost estimates
  o Updated schedule – showing bid advertisement in late August with probable start of construction beginning in October – 50 days of construction anticipated to complete project
• GCB 3592 - 2.7 million grant status (Bridge repair and then more roadbed rehab mostly in northern sections)
  o DOT has asked us to update scope of work
  o Will be working with PVJR next to make sure they are in support
  o Project Manager assigned
• Crossing Repairs
Put lights back into service – when engine approaches crossing bars won’t come down but some lights will activate to help with safety
Received technical memo from ExelTech about repairs, what is needed and cost estimates – being circulated for review internally – hoping to finalize soon

- 25.2 curve by Yacolt
  - Received quote (estimated 4k) from West Rail on repairs
  - Received feedback from Randy and Will Pickering
  - Kevin will try to execute this week and repairs dependent on West Rail schedule

- Lands Coordinator
  - Denielle Cowley will be introduced at June meeting – she will help Kevin and Rocky, with railroad program

- Training Requirements
  - Hired Train Safe Eccentrics to make sure we are current with FRA standards

Unfinished Business – Dan Weaver

- Update bylaws
  - Need to be reviewed with Kevin and get finalized
  - Code changes

- Board Appointments
  - John Shaffer and Mark Daniels will be on council agenda May 17

New Business – Dan Weaver

- Board Members
  - Resignation of Jennifer Campos/City of Vancouver
  - Dan will see who replacement will be
  - Held back on CREDC due to schedule/lack of activity

- Dan would like to set up a sub-committee for agenda items for future meetings
  - Two council positions up for election in November – should inform candidates about Railroad
  - Anything written for advocating the railroad – mostly verbal/in-person – Need approved talking points advocating for retaining and upgrading railroad – work with Eric and Amber Carter
  - Kevin asked about a retreat – they have taken a trip to Olympia, in February, but not for a few years – other advisories have a retreat to plan for coming year

- Lawsuit status
  - In negotiations and restricted communication with arbitration

- Include Rock Quarry in Chelatchie in Clark County reserves
  - Rejected by board due to only three councilors present – question whether they can bring up again
  - Need for more rock – Eric Temple would like as customer
  - Can’t bring any cars in due to track condition
  - BYCX in favor of commercial operation as all track from Battle Ground to Chelatchie would need to be replaced – Some of the curves are too tight for rock cars so should be some straightening also
  - Willing to put money into track as it’s cheaper to bring in by rail
  - There is a demand for aggregate
  - Gravel and quarry rock work for asphalt – quarry rock does not work for concrete
  - MP 27 to 31 are really wet – needs replaced – all light rail – nothing can go across bridge 20 other than maintenance equipment
  - Approximately 80 million to replace track
  - Need another comprehension plan

- Greater Brush Prairie HOA
Several meetings with HOA and some conclusions reached – will put together a summary

- In-person meetings or virtual
  - Need input – send email to Dan or vote right now
  - May be some caution in the fall due to flu season
  - County is in-person with virtual (hybrid) option
  - Kevin will get feedback from people attending virtually
  - BYCX having Zoom meetings due to distance people need to drive

- Open Public Meetings Act
  - New members joining and will need run through open public meetings act
  - Kevin can do privately or as a group
  - Dan suggested sending link and have members view it on their own
  - Kevin will send link to everyone

- Infrastructure and jobs act – can county tap into that?
  - This money would be helpful to upgrade the track
  - 500k was part of states supplemental budget
  - Kevin and Amber have been discussing grants

- Margie Burgett comments
  - Kevin visited the railroad right-of-way with Margie near Yacolt
  - Margie stated significant labor, equipment and resources anticipated for BYCX and Clark County
  - BYCX did some trenching
  - Old cattle guard boxes – slide in one location and some work private property owners doing adjacent to road – County retained an inspector three years ago and cattle boxes are hazardous to pedestrians and dirt bike riders riding in ballast – County wanted to fill them in – membership said no as you can’t maintain them but they could be covered – BYCX can get materials up there with their cars but county has to handle the labor – could be planked over – Kevin and BYCX will discuss further

- Town of Yacolt – one day carnival sponsored by Impact Auto
  - Certificate of Insurance – BYCX will send to Kevin electronically

Public Comment – Dan Weaver: None

Good of the Order – Dan Weaver: None

5:00pm Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by Chris Walker

Upcoming Meeting:

Date:       June 13, 2022
Time:       4:00pm to 5:30pm
Location:   TBD