



# Clark County Railroad Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 13, 2023, 4:00pm to 5:29pm  
Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin St., 6<sup>th</sup> Floor BOCC  
Training Room and virtual via WebEx

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**Advisory Board-Present:** Dan Weaver, Eric Fuller, Jim Malinowski, Jim Pearson, John Hansen, John Shaffer, Kent Cash, Lloyd Lycan, Chad Eiken (Interim, City of Vancouver)

**Advisory Board-Not Present:** Mark Daniels, Mark Herceg, Neil Chambers

**Clark County Staff and Leadership:** Kevin Tyler, Rocky Houston, Denielle Cowley

**BYCX:** Randy Williams, Doug Auburg

**PVJR:** Nathan Bruce

**Guests:** Dave Rowe, Jackie Lane, John Cotton, John Jagelski, Les Cotton, Marvin Mathison, Michael O'Connell, Nancy Halvorson, Steve Jagelski

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**4:00pm** Quorum present and meeting called to Order – Dan Weaver

**4:02pm** January 9, 2023, minutes adopted (Motion by John Shaffer, Second by Kent Cash)

**Comments from the Chair** – No comments

## **PVJR – Nathan Bruce**

- Best January start since Eric took over
- New business interest with people calling, for example 600 cars of sand per year
- Finishing up with first of track rehab which covers Fruit Valley up to Battle Ground, first 14 miles of line and upwards of 2000 ties changed out, 2500-3000 tons of rock, hoping for relay ties to be included
- Appeal hearing at the Growth Management Hearings Board held on Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> regarding Chelatchie surface mining overlay proposal including public comment. A decision is expected by March 22. No timeline for further action beyond that. Decision may have been appealed and Kevin will get that information. Discussion about potential project.
- Question about target site for rock. PVJR acquired new properties last year with 78<sup>th</sup> St being the grand plan. It has a hopper feeder and offload facility.
- Discussion about concrete batch plant proposal is not on railroad property, but railroad keeps getting lumped into those discussions, no conversation yet but it is adjacent to rail
- PVJR looking to expand storage capacity (siding tracks) in the Barberton area. Ready to accommodate rail served business if a customer comes along.

## **BYCX Activities – Randy Williams**

- Making good progress with steam engine

- Cleared between MP 26.7 and MP 19.3, some trees still need attention
- Starting discussions with Eric regarding the maintenance building in Yacolt
- Setting up 2023 schedule, increasing fees
- Some restaurants hoping to be open in Yacolt near railroad soon

#### **County Activities – Kevin Tyler:**

- RRB 1230 – \$1.5 million grant for track/roadbed rehab work on lower section up to Battle Ground
  - Construction is complete
- GCB 3592 - \$2.7 million grant status (Bridge repair and then more roadbed rehab mostly in northern sections)
  - Amend grant to refine scope of work and extend for another 2-year period (June 2025)
  - Grant focuses entirely on bridges and rehab work on the upper track – from Battle Ground northward, as far as the money allows – if relay ties work out it will be in better shape
- GCB 1249 - \$500k grant from State of Washington
  - Moving forward
- \$1.75 million grant Eric is working on was introduced to the senate and house
- Signal Repairs – Summit Signal will be here at the end of the month for repairs
- North Line maintenance and repairs – projects are moving forward, and Kevin will provide a monthly update status
- Kevin would like Project Managers to attend this meeting within the next couple months to speak about plans
- Bridge program audit by FRA – Kevin received audit report and will be focusing on getting the program up to current standards, and also work on getting bridge inspections completed and priority repairs – hopes to have all this in place by the time the grant money is expended – Kevin has a copy of the extensive study John Holiday did several years ago
- Will grant money be sufficient to cover everything on the north end? Kevin doesn't know yet – it might be depending on Eric's success with other grant money – we're talking about ballast and ties, not rail, Nate may be able to speak to that – He said ties are good and rock is good – roadbed would be first thing to address – John is worried about the agreement with the county and believes it's going to be awhile before PVJR is running up north, possibly three years that the county is on the hook – Kevin said lease also states that county doesn't have to expend general fund dollars to maintain rail line, can be grants and county and PVJR are supposed to work together to pursue other grants – John said PVJR needs to step up and Kevin said the county spends 200k per year on the railroad. Nathan is hoping Eric can get the tax credit law pushed through.
- What permission is involved with switching from new ties to relays? Kevin said it's a combination of granting agency willing to accept that as item to pay for, they will pay for labor to install it, county has to follow state law when bidding projects – we need to define process and method that's consistent with state law to accept relay ties as an owner provided item – need someone to help us with specifications
- Dan asked if there is a requirement from FRA for certain gauges of steel? Nathan is not aware of any – he said there are some things that would keep us from classifying as C tracks, speeds that we run (10mph) shouldn't be an issue

#### **Unfinished Business – Dan Weaver**

- Update bylaws and county code
  - Kevin and Dan worked on code changes and ran across a few issues – Dan needs to talk with group next week to get finalized – need to resolve issue of positions being saved
  - Bylaws will follow once code is addressed

#### **New Business – Dan Weaver**

- County Council work session March 1<sup>st</sup> on Freight Rail Dependent Use (FRDU) and Senate Bill SB 5517 – Dan recommends resending letter he wrote in 2018 to council and community planning regarding parcelized properties –

Dan read letter aloud to group and would like session members to focus on the recommended area on the overlay map – Dan will send to Kevin, the board, Council and Community Planning for inclusion in the work session

- 4:59pm Motion to send letter by John Shaffer, Second by Jim Malinowski

**Public Comment – Dan Weaver:**

- Michael O’Connell/former property owner near railroad – Would like clarification on where we stand on analysis of Lagler property and is there any progress in resolving the issue? Also, is the county interested in development of property like Lagler? Dan said the Rural Industrial Land Bank was approved by the county and then appealed – appeal process was lengthy and then the proposal was dropped by the county – Rural Industrial Land Bank would have taken in all of Lagler property which included 800 -900 acres within two sections of SR503 – Dan believes the county is in favor of that type of development and thinks that the lease with Portland Vancouver Junction Railroad addresses this – Kevin clarified the lease states county is obligated to work in good faith with operator and others but not under obligation – if interested in council opinion you can attend the work session on March 1<sup>st</sup>
- More discussion about development along the railroad related to past discussion around freight rail dependent use.

**Good of the Order – Dan Weaver:** None

**5:29pm** Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by Chris Walker

**Upcoming Meeting:**

**Date:** March 13, 2023

**Time:** 4:00pm to 5:30pm

**Location:** Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin St., 6<sup>th</sup> Floor BOCC Training Room and virtual via WebEx