



# Clark County Railroad Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 10, 2023, 4:00pm to 4:49pm  
Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin St., 6<sup>th</sup> Floor BOCC  
Training Room and virtual via Microsoft Teams

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**Advisory Board-Present:** Dan Weaver, Eric Fuller, Jim Malinowski, Jim Pearson, John Hansen, John Shaffer, Kent Cash, Lloyd Lycan, Mark Daniels, Neil Chambers

**Advisory Board-Not Present:** Chad Eiken (Interim, City of Vancouver), Gregg Smith, Mark Herceg, Zack Keith

**Clark County Staff and Leadership:** Rocky Houston, Denielle Cowley, Glen Yung, Sue Marshall, Kevin McDowell

**Battle Ground, Yacolt, Chelatchie Prairie Railroad (BYCX):** Randy Williams, Doug Auburg

**Portland Vancouver Junction Railroad (PVJR):** Nathan Bruce

**Guests:** Jackie Lane, Kimberley O'Hara, Michael O'Connell, Steve Jagelski

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

**4:03pm** June 12, 2023, minutes adopted (Motion by John Shaffer, Second by Neil Chamberlain)

**Comments from the Chair – None**

## **Portland Vancouver Junction Railroad (PVJR) – Nathan Bruce**

- June numbers continued to trend upward
- No accidents, injuries, or incidents to report
- OTAK has been out and will put together a bid towards mid-July
- Hired contractor to perform weed control per county request
- Removed some trees adjacent to neighbor's property that might have been ready to topple

## **Battle Ground, Yacolt, Chelatchie Prairie Railroad (BYCX) – Randy Williams**

- Steam engine is in 1472 inspection – should be ready to go late July or early August
- Minor car cleaning and maintenance
- Had a runner's group out and next weekend will probably get robbed
- Will be taking OTAK engineers to inspect bridges 20, 23, and 25
- Met with contractor about maintenance building

## **County Activities – Denielle Cowley:**

- GCB 3592 - \$2.7 million grant status (Bridge repair and then more roadbed rehab mostly in northern sections)
  - OTAK completed survey for all bridges, completed design review for bridges 6 and 12, and they are targeting 60% design in later August
  - Roadbed rehab – RFP is complete and contract negotiation is commencing

- Bridge Inspections and Bridge Management Program
  - KPFF is working through the load rating analysis and first draft of a plan for inspections

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

- Railroad Advisory Board bylaws – Draft needs to be read
- Freight Rail Dependent Use (FRDU) Work Session application
  - Application approved and set for August 9 at 9am
  - Dan and John will present – Jim Malinowski would like the opportunity to comment

#### **New Business – Dan Weaver: None**

- Dan put in a request for a work session regarding Freight Rail Dependent Use (FRDU)
  - See RRAB-FRDU 9-step planner
  - Motion to approve document as framework for presentation (Jim Pearson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Neil Chambers)
- August meeting canceled (Motion by Kent Cash, Second by Neil Chamberlain)

#### **Public Comment – Dan Weaver**

- Jim Malinowski (RRAB Member) – Would like to meet with Dan to talk about North County and how to approach it as he feels the railroad is very important to them and wants to make sure it is preserved and available for future use
- Michael O’Connell – Agrees with Jim –there is a lot of industry on the RR line - Discussion about the Lagler property, industrial property, potential jobs, property taxes, helping the school district, poor infrastructure in north county – the public needs to be educated – may want to show how we would buffer the property from the surrounding areas.
- Mark Daniels (RRAB Member) – how do we present information about the benefits of the railroad in terms of industry, taxes, jobs supported, shows the potential of what future development looks like along the railroad.
- John Shaffer (RRAB Member) – discussion about tax benefits of Lagler property specifically and what it would mean if the property was zoned for industrial.
- Daniel Weaver (RRAB Member) – discussion about projects listed by the Columbia River Economic Development Council whose needs could not be met with freight rail service.
- John Hansen (RRAB Member) – discussion about how industry pays for schools and having the schools help with outreach.
- Jim Malinowski – said there are several places that thrive alongside railroads – he believes people that are opposed to the railroad are using scare tactics and claiming adverse impacts that don’t happen.
- Steve Jagelski – wants to know how to get information out to the public – may be time for the RRAB and county to work together – may need to go beyond the county for money.

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

**4:49pm** Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by Chris Walker

#### **Upcoming Meeting:**

**Date:** September 11, 2023

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

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