



Clark County Railroad Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 8, 2024, 4:00pm to 5:01pm
Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin St., 6th Floor BOCC
Training Room and virtual via Microsoft Teams

Advisory Board-Present: Dan Weaver, Eric Fuller (not able to join virtually), Gregg Smith, Jim Malinowski, Jim Pearson, John Shaffer, Neil Chambers

Advisory Board-Not Present: John Hansen, Mark Daniels, Mark Herceg, Zack Keith

Clark County Staff and Leadership: Denielle Cowley, Glen Yung, Kevin Tyler, Sue Marshall

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

Portland Vancouver Junction Railroad (PVJR): None

Guests: Dave Rowe, David (unspecified last name), Deken Letinich, James McRae, Kim O'Hara, Maggie Derk (City of Vancouver), Marvin Mathison, Michael O'Connell, Nancy Halvorson, Terry Gardner (Town of Yacolt)

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

4:04pm June 10, 2024, minutes adopted (Motion by Jim Malinowski, Second by John Shaffer)

Comments from the Chair - None

Portland Vancouver Junction Railroad (PVJR) – No one in attendance

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

- Initial run Father's Day weekend and ran last weekend in June
- Next run will be July 20th and 21st with train robbers
- Volunteers working on car repairs
- Some work on the small engine as it was overheating
- No schedule from Railworks yet
- Rockslide was looked at – concern over hill coming down
- Opened up parking lot for 4th of July parade – thanked Terry for cleaning up the mess

County Activities – Kevin Tyler

- Bridge Repairs Project Update
 - Anticipate preconstruction meeting towards end of this month
 - Could be a delay in materials such as treated lumber
- Railroad Roadbed Rehabilitation Project Update
 - Exeltech's 90% plans, specs and estimates are circulating for review through the county
- Railroad Bridge Management Plan

- FRA (Federal Railroad Administration) reviewed bridge management plan and provided comments – county has 60 days to respond and revise plan accordingly – nothing major
- Clark County Parks and Lands Division
 - Rocky Houston leaving Clark County on July 12 (Kevin’s Manager) so will be recruiting for new Parks Manager
 - Splitting Parks and Lands Division and there will be a Lands Division within Public Works that Kevin will lead – programs include Noxious Weed Management, Forestry, Legacy Lands, and the Railroad
 - Also looking at other structural changes in the coming year
 - Kevin will be the interim manager of the Parks Division after Rocky leaves and he will be leaning on Denielle more to help out with the railroad
- Bridge Painting
 - John asked if there is an estimate to paint the bridge over HWY 99 - Kevin said there is not and they are working on it internally to try and bid it as part of the rehab project with available grant funds – we can fall back on WADOT standard specs for bridge painting as they are very detailed – looking at later this fall – Dan asked about the graffiti and Kevin said the issue is the corrosion of the metal
- Member Appointments
 - Members recommended to appoint to RRAB have been forwarded to Kathleen Otto

Unfinished Business – Dan Weaver

- Open House/Presentation
 - Some folks have done some work but not much has been done due to vacations – will talk about it under new business but any finalization of recommendations to start development of railroad requirements and approval of industrial area will be postponed at least two months – Jim Malinowski asked if it makes sense to do anything before the election – Dan said he thought they might get an initial vote to proceed before the council turns over – it will be a fair amount of work to prepare for the meetings and is it going to make any difference – John said it depends on the consultant they hire – Dan doesn’t think we can afford to wait but the information needs to be available
- **New Business – Dan Weaver**
 - Motion to hold August meeting (Motion by Jim Malinowski, Second by John Shaffer)
 - John and Dan attended the council meeting where they discussed hiring a consultant to implement FRDU – council decided not to approve the consultant selected and discussion was to add a study of vacant buildable lands and find out what is available for job growth – they were asked to come back the next day to speak to council about their views on the railroad – short presentation the next day included discussion of properties already approved, Lagler property not being sold separately, would not be in favor of taking Lagler property by eminent domain – Councilor Medgivy wanted to add a sentence about land for jobs and an RFP and the Planning Director said in order to add that it will take until November
 - Discussion about the acreage/landowners involved, the upcoming election, data about property taxes and school districts, the railroad operator
- **Public Comment – Dan Weaver**
 - David McDonald – Overlay has been in place since 2018 (correction by board; the work was done in 2018 and approved in January, 2019) – consultant was only to implement development regulations for the overlay and should apply to future overlays. The only way they can be changed is through the comprehensive plan update that has to be completed by 2025. Railroad operator is attempting to get NPDES permits due to DOE requirements and he is appealing because he is exempt. The county is only enforcing on the stormwater. EPA issued 90 day order regarding unpermitted construction

activities and is still working on a resolution. It's important that this board have complete information and doesn't appear you have all the information you need to make decisions.

- Jim McRae – Lives close to Barberton and works as a volunteer for getting the vote in the democratic party – PRJ0002316 bridge repair bid is inconsistent and looks rushed. He thinks it should be redone and passed around some samples showing differences in dollar amounts and overestimations of cost. He believes there is padding of costs to the taxpayers and asks the board to look into it closely and have it redone. The engineer who signed off on it has worked for the county for three weeks. He has other examples and can provide them to the board.

Good of the Order – Dan Weaver

5:01pm Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by Chris Walker

Upcoming Meeting:

Date: August 12, 2024

Time: 4:00pm to 5:30pm

Location: Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin St., 6th Floor Training Room and virtual