



# Clark County Railroad Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 12, 2024, 4:01pm to 4:33pm  
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, Jim Malinowski, Jim Pearson, John Hansen, Mark Herceg, Neil Chambers

**Advisory Board-Not Present:** Eric Fuller, Gregg Smith, John Shaffer, Mark Daniels, Zack Keith

**Clark County Staff and Leadership:** Denielle Cowley, Kathleen Otto, Kevin McDowell, Kevin Tyler

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

**Portland Vancouver Junction Railroad (PVJR):** None

**Guests:** Dave Rowe, Jackie Lane, Kim O'Hara, Maggie Derk (City of Vancouver), Michael O'Connell, Nancy Halvorson, Steve Jagelski, Terry Gardner (Town of Yacolt)

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**4:01pm** Quorum present and meeting called to Order – Dan Weaver

**4:06pm** July 8, 2024, minutes corrected and adopted (Motion by Neil Chambers, Second by Jim Malinowski)

**Comments from the Chair -** None

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

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

- Train robbers showed up the third weekend in July
- Passenger count is about the same as it was last year
- Tickets reduced by 40% due to rockslide
- Questioning expenditures until they get back to full running mode – should be able to recover by end of year
- Doing some track maintenance
- Due to rockslide, they are running the 25-ton locomotive
- Once Bridge 25 is fixed they will be able to restore fares to the previous rate

**County Activities –** Kevin Tyler

- Bridge Repairs Project Update
  - Contract paused while waiting for materials – Contractor working on submittals to Construction Manager – Randy mentioned the age of the trestles and odd shapes/sizes so contractor will need to find the lumber mill, etc. Also said contractor may work six days per week
  - Still on track to get repairs done this year
  - Dave Rowe asked if we've asked any US representatives for help with the upgrades as money is available – he said the Willamette Shore Trolley has about 5 cross ties leftover from rebuilding and

maybe they can donate it – Kevin will get Dave connected with the Project Manager and will reach out to the policy lead regarding legislative activities

- Randy asked if there is any traction on the repair for the accident at Heisson – Kevin said they have asked for a quote and will need a change order on the contract
- **Railroad Roadbed Rehabilitation Project Update**
  - No update – waiting to see how much funding is left after bridge repairs
  - Project should go out to bid in November
- **Member Appointments**
  - Waiting for County Manager to act – once that happens it will show up on Council agenda
  - After that new members will have Open Public Meetings Act training
  - There will be an announcement later in the year for everyone that wants to reapply for another term

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

- **Open House/Presentation**
  - Nothing at the county or community planning in terms of implementing the FRDU property
  - Still need to accumulate data so it's available
- **Freight Rail Dependent Use (FRDU)**
  - Dan provided Kevin with a letter sent to council from the Clark County Citizens United regarding property owners in north county that are holding out to develop their land along the railroad – Kevin will distribute it to board members, and it is available through the councilor's office – More information to come
- **New Business – Dan Weaver**
  - None
- **Public Comment – Dan Weaver**
  - Steve Jagelski – took grandkids to Chelatchie Prairie Railroad and they loved it - he wants to compliment the people who are the conductors and how they treated his grandkids – also said the train intersects his property at 131<sup>st</sup> and Lauren Rd and when they heard the train he and the kids went down there and the engineer made a point of waving to him and the kids – it stimulates a young person's mind and the kids were asking him several questions – he said people talk about how close it is to the schools and he thinks about how it shows future growth or jobs and to not count the kids short
  - John Hansen – He was at a family reunion in New Mexico/Arizona and there is a railroad that runs from Taos down to Santa Fe that provides entertainment and public transportation – the public enjoys it and it's something Clark County should look at – he also just got back from Alaska and took a train ride from Denali to Whitaker that was a wonderful trip – believes people are short-selling this in Clark County
  - Jim Pearson – Took a trip on the Verde Railroad in Arizona that went through the country – provided box lunch and magazines, and pointed out features and geology – very well organized
  - Dave Rowe – When he worked on Portland MAX he would take school kids from 148<sup>th</sup> and Burnside to Ruby Junction for a field trip – every kid wrote to him and young and older kids love to ride the train
  - John Hansen – Rail field trip growing up in South Dakota on the Old Milwaukee Railroad – went through the countryside and the teachers educated the kids so it wasn't just a business process, it was educational also

#### **Good of the Order – Dan Weaver**

- **Surface Mining Overlay – Will be some action/discussion by the council coming up and we may want to weigh in on something – this is where the gravel will be coming from that Eric was going to haul down the upper line**

- not sure of discussion date - comment about how difficult it is to find out when things are coming before council - Kevin will keep his eye open and will send a notice when he sees it, also suggests looking at the council calendar - Kevin showed the group how to find the information - Dan said previously when they were working on the FRDU or anything railroad related the Community Planning department included them on the mailing but they don't copy them on anything now - Kim O'Hara asked if there is a way to copy people who come to the railroad advisory board meetings regularly but are not on the board about information going before council - Kevin said yes, if you're included in the meeting invite he can find out about items pertinent to the RRAB and send to the entire group

**4:33pm Meeting Adjourned**

Submitted by Chris Walker

**Upcoming Meeting:**

**Date:** September 9, 2024  
**Time:** 4:00pm to 5:30pm  
**Location:** 4700 NE 78<sup>th</sup> St. Conference Room B-1 and virtual

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