



Clark County Railroad Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 9, 2024, 4:03pm to 5:04pm
Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin St., 6th Floor BOCC
Training Room and virtual via Microsoft Teams

Advisory Board-Present: Dave Rowe, Gregg Smith, Jerry Jacobus, Jim Malinowski, Jim Pearson, John Hansen, John Shaffer, Mark Daniels, Mark Herceg, Neil Chambers, Terry Gardner

Advisory Board-Not Present: Dan Weaver, David Millar, Eric Fuller, Zach Keith

Clark County Staff and Leadership: Denielle Cowley, Jordan Boege, Kathleen Otto, Kevin McDowell, Kevin Tyler, Sue Marshall

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

Portland Vancouver Junction Railroad (PVJR): None Present

Guests: Chuck Hancock, Jackie Lane, James McRae, Kim O'Hara, Maggie Derk, Marvin Mathison, Michael O'Connell, Nancy Halvorson, Nate Boyd

4:03pm Quorum present and meeting called to Order – John Shaffer

4:08pm October 14, 2024, minutes adopted (Motion by Jerry Jacobus, Second by John Hansen)

Comments from the Chair – Dick Clairmont, former Railroad Advisory Board member, passed away – he had a collection of railroad memorabilia and wanted to know if anyone would like to add it to their collection – if you are interested contact Dan Weaver

Portland Vancouver Junction Railroad (PVJR) – Not present

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

- Middle of Christmas season – 3 trains/2200 passengers, 2 more weekends to go
- Working with Railworks, they are doing a great job getting things done

County Activities – Kevin Tyler

- Bridge Repair Updates
 - Finished bridge 6 and 25, bridge 23 is 99% complete, repairs on bridge 18 and 20 have been ongoing
- Railroad Roadbed Rehab Status
 - Putting out contract for rehab work in early January
 - Some rehab work up near Yacolt
 - Some painting of Hwy 99 bridge and then bridges on the south line will go to PVJR
 - Areas for work with money left over were based on where BYCX is operating, near Yacolt and as far south as the money will take us, Kevin and Randy will discuss offline
- Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA)

- Not legally required for an advisory board, good practice to follow OPMA procedures and best practice is to observe them to the extent practical
- Car Counts – Kevin will get that info out to everyone
- Discussion about painting bridges, graffiti, and illegal camping

Unfinished Business – John Shaffer

- Railroad presentation and open house – On hold, new councilors coming in
- Advisory Board terms expiring – every existing board member asked to be renewed for another term, also received some letters of interest from community members
- Chelatchie Bluffs Surface Mining Overlay – Hearing with final argument will be in January
- Motion to recommend reappointing John Shaffer, Neil Chambers, Mark Daniels, and Jim Malinowski to the railroad advisory board (Motion by Dave Rowe, Second by John Hansen), all in favor, none opposed

New Business – John Shaffer

- High-Capacity Transit and Passenger Rail – Presentation by Dave Rowe

Public Comment – John Shaffer

- Charles Hancock – Would like to know the status of bridge 12 -Kevin said that will be completed after 18 and 20 are done
- Nate Boyd – Asked if there is a visual aid for the public that shows the bridge locations – Kevin said it is on the website and will send it
- Nate Boyd – In regard to Dave Rowe’s presentation and the I5 bridge replacement – feels biggest challenge is convincing the public that rail is much better

Good of the Order – John Shaffer

- Michael O’Connell – Discussed article in the Columbian about the Port of Ridgefield and toxic waste – he said the public was opposed to doing anything and many groups came together to change their minds – it’s worth reading and shows that complex problems can be solved – also added that it’s important to recognize the Rails and Trails study

5:04pm Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by Chris Walker

Upcoming Meeting:

Date: January 13, 2025

Time: 4:00pm to 5:30pm

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