



Clark County Railroad Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 9, 2025, 4:00pm to 4:43pm
Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin St., 6th Floor BOCC
Training Room and virtual via Microsoft Teams

Advisory Board-Present: Dan Weaver, Dave Rowe, Jerry Jacobus, Jim Malinowski, Jim Pearson, John Hansen, Mark Daniels, Mark Herceg, Neil Chambers,

Advisory Board-Not Present: David Millar, Eric Fuller, Gregg Smith, John Shaffer, Terry Gardner, Zach 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 Present

Guests: Jackie Lane, Kim O'Hara, Maggie Derk, Michael O'Connell

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

4:01pm May 12, 2025, minutes approved (Motion by Neil Chambers, Second by Jerry Jacobus).

Comments from the Chair – None

Portland Vancouver Junction Railroad (PVJR) – Not present

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

- Will be running Father's Day weekend
 - Steam engine will not be out
 - Running at about half capacity due to #1 locomotive being out of service
- Track rehabilitation project going well, had meeting today
 - About 300 ties in the ground
 - Heavy equipment coming out Wednesday
- Recent vandalism was in the Reflector

County Activities – Kevin Tyler

- Railroad Roadbed Rehab Status
 - Lee Contractors has been brush clearing and installing ties
 - Sub-contractor, American Track, will be doing ballast and surfacing
 - Potential bids for 300k of unspent funds

Unfinished Business – Dan Weaver

- Railroad presentation and open house
 - Mark put together slides with information and in process of figuring out what story to tell

- Packet was passed around and will be emailed
- Several categories including history of the line, information about PVJR and BYCX, car counts, tax revenue, environmental, businesses/economic impact, industrial development, safer transportation, freight operations, battery operated trains, railroad challenges
- Slide presentation can be shortened version but handout containing most of what is collected would be beneficial

New Business – Dan Weaver - None

Public Comment – Dan Weaver

- Michael O’Connell commented about parking – he has tried to park to the east of the facility and has used two different credit cards in the machines and neither will work, so he put in change and it didn’t issue a receipt – he would like the meters/kiosks fixed – Response that the county doesn’t control them, they belong to the City of Vancouver – Also, there is an app you can use to pay, Maggie added the parking enforcement is tied to your license plate, and if there are any stations not working please let her know and she can pass it on
- Kim O’Hara commented that when talking about the benefits of train over trucks that there is always a cost - the trucks are not going behind her house, but the train is. It is passing back and forth in her backyard, carrying things that don’t benefit her, so that’s a cost.
- Michael O’Connell commented that ODOT did a historical study of the railroad that once went from Bend to Idaho – then it went away, and they are assembling information and attaching costs to what was gained and what was lost during the inactive status – it is a 121-page report, and he will provide it to the board – could be useful for the presentation

Good of the Order – Dan Weaver - None

4:43pm Meeting Adjourned (Motion by Jerry Jacobus, Second by Dave Rowe)

Submitted by Chris Walker

Upcoming Meeting:

Date: July14, 2025

Time: 4:00pm to 5:30pm

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

From: Kim O'Hara <kohara42@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 10, 2025 1:52 PM
To: Kevin Tyler <Kevin.Tyler@clark.wa.gov>
Cc: Chris Walker <Chris.Walker@clark.wa.gov>; Dan Weaver <danielcweaver1945@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Railroad Advisory Board Meetings - 2025

Good afternoon:

I want to clarify my comments listed in the minutes. The written summary implies that my only concern about this railroad is that it runs in my backyard and that does not benefit me. That summary is lacking and I would like to clarify what is missing from the minutes. For the record, I did go back to the audio archive and listen to my comments.

Your summary should have reflected my concern that board members imply in their discussions that there are no real costs to using this short line. I disagreed. There are costs to everything, including railroad usage. Comparing costs of train vs truck to carry materials is valid, and is not always won by the train. Costs vary. And there are many different kinds of costs to using the train or a truck. One of those costs is to the neighborhoods through which that train travels- including mine. Trucks do not travel on the rails behind my house but a train does. Trucks have no cost to me as they travel down the road but a train traveling in my backyard has a very large cost to me.

Nothing exists in a vacuum and to imply that the train has no costs associated with its use is absurd. One of those costs is to me, which you included in the minutes' summary. But you did not include the rest of my comments which implied a questionable Board discussion of costs/benefits of this rail line, and my firm belief that everything has a cost, including this train.

Regards,
Kim O'Hara
Sent from my iPhone