



Clark County Railroad Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 8, 2025, 4:00pm to 5:19pm
Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin St., 6th Floor BOCC
Training Room and virtual via Microsoft Teams

Advisory Board-Present: Dan Weaver, Dave Rowe, Eric Fuller, Gregg Smith, Jerry Jacobus, Jim Malinowski, John Hansen, John Shaffer, Mark Herceg, Neil Chambers, Zach Keith

Advisory Board-Not Present: David Millar, Jim Pearson, Mark Daniels, Terry Gardner

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

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

Portland Vancouver Junction Railroad (PVJR): None Present

Guests: Maggie Derk

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

4:02pm August 11, 2025, minutes approved as corrected, clarify only bearings are painted on Hwy 99 bridge (Motion by Neil Chambers; Second by John Hansen).

Comments from the Chair – None

Portland Vancouver Junction Railroad (PVJR) – Not present

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

- Diesel locomotive - turbo charger out to Reno for repairs, main generator going to the east coast for repairs
- Longview Fiber 7001 – Want to get running and have another heavy locomotive. Retrofitted with Cummins V-903. Rain cap left off and filled with water.
- Have another 903 engine and need to decide if it will go back into service. Needs engine exchange.
- Train robbers in August went well. Trains were close to being sold out. Good participation/good weather.
- Normally don't run on major holidays but did on Labor Day weekend and had 300 unexpected passengers.
- Inspected 33 miles of track with Nate Bruce/PVJR. Also showed him the shop. They were looking for tracks for feasibility of a rail speeder run. Will talk more about it at their board meeting.
- DNR says level 2 on industrial fire protection - Randy using speeder for fire patrol.
Dave Rowe asked about sparks behind the train. Randy hasn't seen any evidence of fire from sparks during the time he's been there. There have been two fires; one unknown and one caused by an engine pulling too hard (spark arrestor added)
- Issue with security - gates installed, no trespassing signs added to cars, and more cameras.
- Monthly meeting tonight.
- Section between milepost 22 and 23 needs attention.
- Two private crossings around milepost 24.5 need attention.

- Bridge work and brush clearing great – found one spot around 17.8 that has a defect and can't take a locomotive - a curve dips and is a little too low. Will see if PVJR will repair.
- Waiting on FRA inspector to see if they can proceed with putting steam engine back together.
- New building on hold as grant did not get renewed this year. PVJR has an interest in the building.

County Activities – Kevin Tyler

- Railroad Roadbed Rehab contract and grant update
 - Working with county finance team to calculate remaining grant balance in order to program additional work – should know within the next month.
- Presentation by Oliver Jim, construction manager for the railroad rehabilitation project and bridge rehabilitation project, may be found here: <https://clark.wa.gov/public-works/railroad-advisory-board-39>
- Question about load ratings:
 - Bridges 18 and 20 couldn't be rated due to disrepair
 - Other bridges had load rating analysis that considered defects identified in most recent bridge inspection report
 - OTAK identified more repairs and change orders were added for additional repairs
 - Need to at least confirm load rating with repairs meets the initial analysis and add bridges 18 and 20 in to see what their load rating is.
 - The county and PVJR are required to collaborate on a load rating analysis after the repairs are done according to the lease
- Question about transferring bridges to PVJR
 - Need to check lease with attorney
 - Completed everything identified in 2020 bridge inspection/report by HDR
 - Can transfer bridges on south line, bridge 18 south
 - Randy received citizen complaint about graffiti on I-5 bridge; went to Surface Transportation Board – wasn't sure whose responsibility it is, also homeless activity
- Discussion about rail weight and bill regarding used rail being donated that didn't pass – PVJR has ties they can offer to BYCX

Unfinished Business – Dan Weaver

- Railroad presentation and open house
 - Draft slide presentation by Neil Chambers can be found here: <https://clark.wa.gov/public-works/railroad-advisory-board-39> as well as audio discussion

New Business – Dan Weaver - None

Public Comment – Dan Weaver - None

Good of the Order – Dan Weaver - None

5:19pm Meeting Adjourned (Motion by David Rowe, Second by John Hansen)

Submitted by Chris Walker

Upcoming Meeting:

Date: October 13, 2025

Time: 4:00pm to 5:30pm

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

Draft