



Clark County Railroad Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 8, 2024, 4:02pm to 4:52pm
Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin St., 6th Floor BOCC
Training Room and virtual via Microsoft Teams

Advisory Board-Present: Dan Weaver, Eric Fuller, Jim Malinowski, Jim Pearson, John Hansen, John Shaffer, Mark Daniels, Mark Herceg, Neil Chambers, Zack Keith

Advisory Board-Not Present: Gregg Smith

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

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

Portland Vancouver Junction Railroad (PVJR): None

Guests: Charles Hancock, Gregg Herrington, Heather Tischbein, Jackie Lane, Jerry Jacobus, Karissa H, Kim O'Hara, Linda Micheel, Lisa Henry, Maggie Derk (City of Vancouver), Michael O'Connell, Shari Phiel, Tom Griebe

4:02pm Quorum present and meeting called to Order – Dan Weaver

4:05pm December 11, 2023, minutes adopted (Motion by John Shaffer, Second by Neil Chambers)

Comments from the Chair – Board has lost some important board members. Dan read the mission statement to the board. He reminded the board to only be politically involved when applying for grants/funds available for railroad activities.

4:12pm Election of Officers 2024 - Nominations open for Chair and Vice Chair

- Motion by Neil Chambers to re-elect Dan Weaver as Chair of Railroad Advisory Board and to re-elect John Shaffer as Vice Chair of Railroad Advisory Board, second by Jim Malinowski, all in favor, none opposed.

Portland Vancouver Junction Railroad (PVJR) – No presence

- 45 loaded rail cars for December 2023.

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

- Passenger count was just short of 8,000.
- Free tickets given to Cloth and Foster and 100% were used.
- New merchant in Yacolt, Stellar Luxe, brought twenty ornaments to be hidden at the Moulton station.
- Working on the building/getting quotes – hoping for a favorable lease with PVJR.
- Track work up at Chelatchie.
- Randy had fun playing Santa.

County Activities – Kevin Tyler

- Bridge Repairs Project Update

- Notice to Contractors will go to Council on January 16th.
- Bid advertisement will follow approximately 30-60 days later depending on schedules.
- Railroad Roadbed Rehabilitation Project Update
 - Council approved contract with Exeltech – project should kick off soon.
- Railroad Bridge Management Plan
 - Waiting for final version of plan to send to Federal Railroad Administration for review.
 - Has draft inspection reports for four bridges.
 - Waiting for load rating analysis for several bridges.
 - Crushed cap on bridge 23 identified for repair – should be addressed this summer – Kevin will see if it can be addressed sooner.
- Portland Vancouver Junction Railroad FAQs
 - <https://clark.wa.gov/public-works/portland-vancouver-junction-railroad-faqs>
 - Kevin shared the above webpage that was created to update the community about the railroad and the operator.
 - Several state and federal regulatory agencies are looking at the recent issues and if anyone has any questions after looking at the above page, please contact Kevin Tyler.
 - Public comment/Public Testimony – cannot control public comment other than derogatory comments, may put a time limit on comments if needed, do not need to rebut, contradict or argue with any public comment – need to receive public comment and can respond at an appropriate time and later date.

Unfinished Business – Dan Weaver

4:38 pm County Code changes

- Motion by Neil Chambers to recommend Railroad Advisory Board County Code changes to Clark County Council, second by Jim Malinowski, all in favor, none opposed.

4:39pm Bylaw changes

- Motion by Jim Malinowski to accept revisions to the Railroad Advisory Board Bylaws, second by Neil Chambers, all in favor, none opposed.

New Business – Dan Weaver

- Recruitment of vacant RRAB positions
 - Board would like new members to have experience with railroad management, regulations or operations, economic development, land use issues, transloading, transportation, municipalities, and rail impacted areas.
 - Not in a hurry to fill positions/interested in quality people.
 - Advertisement of positions should have a heavier focus on railroad experience but experience in other areas as listed above would be preferable.

Public Comment – Dan Weaver:

- Linda Micheel
 - What efforts have been made to encourage/promote light industrial activities as opposed to heavy industry? The way the county has grown around the railroad with communities and towns, it does not seem feasible to me to have heavy industrial loads running multiple times a day through highly populated areas. Can you work with light industrial rather than heavy?
- Tom Griebe
 - Resident living near Prairie High School and somewhat adjacent to railroad – objects to how the Council and Clark County are handling the FRDU – going around the Growth Management Act by the railroad is ridiculous – A lot of us out here don't realize what is going on because the county hasn't

really publicized it and when it was publicized adequately it totally exploded – People were furious and Eileen Quiring barely was reelected as a result of the blowback – asking to publicize this more so people affected realize what’s going on

- Gerald Jacobus asked about the application he put in for the vacant board positions. John answered and his application would be considered, but after we re-advertise and seek more applications.

Good of the Order – Dan Weaver

- Jim Malinowski suggested reading the Clark County Historical Society’s book, Clark County History 2023, which is now available. It features an article by Gregg Harrington regarding the history behind “Vancouver’s railroad that never was”. Jim is on the board for the museum in Amboy. He believes it would be a shame to lose something that has tremendous historical value, and potential economic value.

4:52pm Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by Chris Walker

Upcoming Meeting:

Date: February 12, 2024

Time: 4:00pm to 5:30pm

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