



Clark County Railroad Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 11, 2024, 4:00pm to 5:17pm
Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin St., 6th Floor BOCC
Training Room and virtual via Microsoft Teams

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

Advisory Board-Not Present: Eric Fuller, Mark Herceg

Clark County Staff and Leadership: Denielle Cowley, Jordan Boege, Kathleen Otto, 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, Dave Rowe, Jackie Lane, Jerry Jacobus, Kim O'Hara, Martha Maier, Nancy Halvorson, Nate Boyd, Steve Jagelski, Terry Gardner

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

4:01pm February 12, 2024, minutes adopted (Motion by Neil Chambers, Second by Mark Daniels)

Comments from the Chair – None

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

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

- Will start running Mother's Day weekend
- Maintenance at Chelatchie so PVJR may resume intent of commercial operations
- Installed approximately 175 ties and over 1,000 spikes used, had some switch repair
- New volunteers helping with maintenance to the cars
- Diesel engine in the shop for repairs
- Need to do some weed control
- BYCX lease is from mp 18.7 to 33, passenger section is 26.7 to 21 if bridge 20 is in good shape

County Activities – Kevin Tyler

- Bridge Repairs Project Update
 - Going out for bid April 3rd, anticipate bid opening on April 23rd and then construction to start in June
 - Adding the slide near Lucia Falls as part of the construction project – will try to get that done first
- Railroad Roadbed Rehabilitation Project Update
 - Kevin spoke with the Contract Manager at Exeltech – they anticipate starting their walkthrough of the line next week

- They will spend a week between Battle Ground and Yacolt and then come back to look at Yacolt to Chelatchie – after that they may have a tentative plan of repairs by mid-April
- Tentative plan for getting the project out to bid is this fall
- Railroad Bridge Management Plan
 - Draft plan has been sent to Federal Railroad Administration for review
 - Received all inspection reports with the exception of the tunnel and culvert crossing near Yacolt
 - Should receive load rating analysis in a couple weeks
- Legislative update (SB5494/HB1371)
 - Bill passed through the house, did not pass through the senate
- Freight Rail Dependent Use – Consultant Update
 - Community Planning working on consultant contract, should go before County Council March 26th

Unfinished Business – Dan Weaver

- Recruitment for vacant RRAB Positions went out February 28 and are due back March 15

New Business – Dan Weaver

- Future agenda items
 - 5:03pm - Proposal to develop presentation and have an open house for the community regarding the positive aspects of the railroad and to mitigate misconceptions (Motion by Jim Malinowski, Second by John Shaffer)

Public Comment – Dan Weaver

- Martha Maier – New to format and one of those people that you already have to convince that we need this railroad from PVJR. Just learned about it and has been doing some research. Loves trains and thinks taking the train to Seattle is great, great way to transport goods. Not sure we need a train in northern Clark County to be transporting a lot of things because not sure we want all that industry there. Real concern about Eric Temple. Doesn't think he's a person you want operating your train and suggests you find somebody else to operate it. Commend you for wanting to research. Thinks it's great you're getting public input and going to educate the public because it's really needed.
- Nate Boyd – Presentation to general public should be digestible and understandable. Suggested using visuals and/or graphs to show why the railroad is good for the county. Volunteers at the Oregon Rail Heritage Center which got a lot of public view in terms of what railroads do and what they provide.
- Dave Rowe – Some public perception of trains and carloads is negative due to terminology and need to explain difference. Fifty carloads could be one or two trains. Rubber tires have particles that enter field and streams and those rubber tire particles have been found to kill fish. Trains do not pollute our streams as much as cars do, and he can provide that study.
- Steve Jagelski –Went to school board for information and it was negative. What has been published in the paper or at school board meetings about positive things with the railroad? Is there anything written where he could speak at school board meetings and say something positive about the tax and how much money it could generate for the schools. Need positive things out in other areas before a public meeting is held and should get something in the newspaper or on TV to show what the railroad can do in one to five years and five to ten years. Mark Daniels agreed and said the message is not out there at all. The railroad is getting trashed in the Ridgefield Reflector. Nate Boyd asked if it would be feasible to have a field trip for people that have questions about the facilities or the line itself. Dan said they want to develop a program so people can understand the whole picture. Dan asked that the link of the presentation he and John gave be sent to the entire group. Study of fish mentioned.
- Dan will develop the subjects for the presentation and what would fit.

Good of the Order – Dan Weaver

- Dave Rowe – Letter to the editor – he has copies if anyone wants to read it.

5:17pm Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by Chris Walker

Upcoming Meeting:

Date: April 8, 2024

Time: 4:00pm to 5:30pm

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