



proud past, promising future

CLARK COUNTY
WASHINGTON

RAILROAD ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, MAY 11, 2009

4:00 PM -5:30 PM

**1300 FRANKLIN STREET – PUBLIC SERVICE CENTER
6TH FLOOR – TRAINING ROOM #679**

Members Present:	John Allen, Dick Carroll, Dick Clairmont, Bill Ganley, Dave Hurt, Rodger Lance, Lloyd Lycan, Melinda McLucas, Jack Melton, Jerry Petrick, Will Pickering, Thomas Smith, Eric Temple, Florence Wager, Dan Weaver	
Excused Members:	Scott Dalesandro, Tim Kelly	
Absent Members:	Richard Hanford	
Ex-Officio:	Eric Temple, Will Pickering	
Public:		
Staff:	Fred Abraham, April Flinn	
Agenda Item	Facilitator	
Meeting called to order @ 4:00	Dan Weaver	
Roll Call/Introductions	Dan Weaver	
None		
Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes	Dan Weaver	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moved and seconded minutes approved as circulated. 		
Communications/Announcements/PVJR Activities	Dan Weaver	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Florence Wager received the Citizen of the Year Award 		
PVJR Activities	Eric Temple	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Car Counts – There is nothing new to report on the car counts, they are still down from previous years. Soybean Meal – A transload of soybean meal that is outbound. There is already a loading system in place. The business could grow under the right circumstances. Hawaii – There is potential for a fairly substantial aggregate business. The State of Hawaii wants to send garbage to Roosevelt, and they have a need for aggregate. A deal is in the works. Eric met with each Commissioner - Keyera – They still want to locate in Clark County, but are still trying to figure out what to do with the land’s environmental condition. The Commissioner’s seem to want to work with Keyera. Brush Prairie – They had a post lawsuit discussion. The area is already zoned Railroad Industrial, but they are still waiting on the judge’s ruling. They may be able to use the land bank if needed. Port of Vancouver – He wants to press them harder to see if they are willing to help get the potential Lagler land developed. There is a property tax issue for the Battle Ground School District, since the Port is exempt from property taxes, however the Port has other taxes to offset that. 		

- **Industrial Code** – Board action on Tuesday, May 12th yielded three yes votes from the Commissioner’s about defining the Railroad Industrial Code and design standards. They also talked about overlay for future use of the land, and creating pockets of land for the railroad industrial overlay.
- **REET 2 Funding** – The Commissioner’s were under the impression that there would be money available to be spent on the rail. But, the law says that the money must be collected by 12/31/08. The money has been spent or committed. The Commissioner’s were not aware of the 2008 language in the REET bill. They may be willing to use what’s left over for matching funds on grants the railroad is to be receiving.
- **Saving Money** – Instead of building the new yard tracks between 78th/88th Streets and use the tracks between St. Johns and 78th St. (Rye Yard). The County would have to close the three road crossings through the yard. There have also been questions about the yard tracks being built to BNSF standards between 78th/88th Streets as to its viability to use the entire right-of-way for tracks only without roads.
- **Passenger Rail Funding** – The amount of money that goes to passenger rail funding from the stimulus package is phenomenal. To try to get access to more money, Eric has talked to the Commissioner’s about changing part of the political strategy. All three agreed to going ahead and using the RTC study and move forward with presenting it as a passenger rail proposal to the federal government. They would look into doing passenger rail from Battle Ground and connecting with rail traffic going into Portland for serving light rail coming to Vancouver.
- **Biomass** – PUD and Clark County are talking about a clean energy facility in Chelatchie Prairie. The Commissioner’s want to have a garbage and biomass energy generation facility. This would be very good for the railroad. It could give additional funding to upgrade the infrastructure including bridges on the entire line.

BYCX Activities	Will Pickering
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- **Weed Spray** – The County will be doing the spring weed spray the week of May 11th.
- **Mother’s Day** – There was a good turnout for the Mother’s Day weekend; the next scheduled run is for Memorial Day weekend.
- **Track Crew** – They are concentrating on cleaning up the tracks. Crews will go out once the brush is tied up.
- **Steam Train** – Nothing new to report.
- **Facility News** – They have not heard anything in about two months.

Status of County Activities	Fred Abraham
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- **Keyera** – The Commissioner’s do want to move forward. The County is bound to take care of or monitor the clean up effort. The PA’s office is cautious and wants to make sure that the County is legally able to go about going after the polluter that has infected the site. HDR did a reassessment of the property and found that there is a solvent based material at about the one foot level. The levels were not as high when HDR did the assessment as when the other company did the assessment because HDR hit the site at a dryer time. It appears that the contamination is brought in by storm waters and should to be a minimal clean-up. The 55 foot level contamination could not be determined because the water level was too high to get a good reading. Enough mapping has been looked into and documentation completed to know that there is and old pipe that flows between the BOC Gas site and the County’s property. It is believed that that the chromium levels are being delivered by that pipe or by the old permalume site to the east. Public Works and Real Property are working with the EPA and HDR. From everything that Nikki Bushaw has gathered it looks like the County will be able to do something for Keyera. There are a few loose

ends that need to be tied up. Nikki will be talking to Keyera and hopefully be able to give them the green light. A conference call is set up for Wednesday between the PA's office, Nikki Bushaw, and the EPA.

- **WSDOT Grant** – There has been an amendment to the WSDOT Grant. After paying HDR, after the City permits came through and all of the work that West Rail did, they have found about \$30,000 is left. It is going to be used for additional rock for shoulders that need to be built up as well as on the track itself in certain areas.
- **OTS Training** – Eric Temple has allowed the county, through Tim Marshall, to get that particular program. Dick Clairmont and Tim McVicker have looked at the program. The next step is for Will Cahill to go through extensive training. Upon his training he will train County staff. This is close to being completed.
- **Lagler Property** – The appeal update is that oral arguments were presented and briefs have now been sent to the Superior Court judge. The judge will now look at the briefs and there is some correspondence going back and forth between the judge and the lawyers. Fred feels that the judge may pass the case on to the Appeals Court. There is no timetable in which this has to be completed.
- **Rails with Trails** – They are still doing all the engineering assessment between the Fairgrounds Park and Battle Ground State Park. Most of the field work is done.
- **88th Street** – The plans for the crossing have been passed before WUTC. They are submitting the paperwork on for final approval by the CBRR and Clark County to move forward.
- **Weed Management** – Railroad right-of-way starts Wednesday.
- **Ditch Maintenance** – There is a major storm area issue in Battle Ground. There is also a substantial amount of property that Dennis Pavlina is trying to develop. They have never gotten very far with Mr. Pavlina. Dennis Osborn with the City of Battle Ground set up a meeting regarding the storm water issue. Mr. Pavlina now wants to work in a partnership with the County and City of Battle Ground.
- **DNR Contract** – The DNR contract is in place and they will start to do their annual clean up operations shortly.
- **78th/88th Streets Scope** – A concept for 78th/88th Streets is based on BNSF concept. May be able to get away with doing away with the roads and just getting the tracks in there.

Subcommittee Reports	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ROW – Nothing new to report. • Community Outreach – Still going to meetings. • Web Page – Nothing new to report. 	
Unfinished Business	Dan Weaver
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bicycle Tire Safety – They are still in the process of fixing this problem. 	
New Business	Dan Weaver
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	
Good of the Order	ALL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	
Round Table	ALL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	
ADJOURNMENT @ 5:30	