



proud past, promising future

CLARK COUNTY
WASHINGTON

RAILROAD ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, MAY 12, 2008

4:00 PM -5:30 PM

1300 FRANKLIN STREET – PUBLIC SERVICE CENTER

6TH FLOOR – TRAINING ROOM #679

ROLL CALL:

Members Present:	Bill Ganley, Dick Clairmont, Bill Ganley, Richard Hanford, Dave Hurt, Rodger Lance, Lloyd Lycan, Tom Smith, Dan Weaver
Absent Members:	John Allen, Dick Carroll, Scott Dalesandro, Melinda McLucas, Jack Melton, Bart Phillips, Florence Wager
Ex-Officio:	Will Pickering, Eric Temple (via phone)
Public:	Doug Auburg (BYCX)
Staff:	Fred Abraham, Mary Beth O'Donnell

Agenda Item

Meeting called to order at 4:05PM

- **Roll Call/Introductions**

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve minutes of the meeting from April 14, 2008 by Dick Clairmont, seconded by Dave Hurt, minutes approved unanimously as circulated.

Communications/Announcements

- A letter from Fred Abraham to business "A Dog's Life" was distributed for review. Dave Gray reported to Fred that he found wood chips and waste dumped on the railroad right of way behind this business. The letter requested the business to clean up the debris and stop depositing the waste in the right of way. As of this date no response has been received. The matter will be turned over to the county PA's office after May 15th if there is no action by the business owner.

PVJR Activities

- Eric Temple gave his report via conference call.
- Keyera has run into a permitting problem with the parcel of land they are looking at to site their business. The County has a long range, proposed roadway (extension of 99th Street) that would run through the parcel. The road won't be built during the 15 year term of Keyera's lease, but this is disappointing as they are the largest, interested client to date. Eric will be talking further with County staff about this issue. They are looking for another potential site, but it is difficult to find a parcel for a large company. Eric said he is trying to negotiate with the County on a parcel at the NE corner of 78th St. across from BOC Gases, owned by the County. This would be an excellent location.
- Progress with the grain trans-load customer, Lane Mt. Silica, continues to be delayed.
- Still waiting for a ruling from the court on the asphalt plant.
- The rezone process for the railroad industrial lands in Brush Prairie is going well with the formation of the Railroad Resource Work Group. This will help generate new business on the line eventually. The owner of the property, Dennis Lagler, desires to see the land developed for rail industrial rather than residential and is pro-jobs and pro-taxes for the County. Eric complimented Fred on his ability to manage this new group and their efforts.
- Eric is excited to get money for track upgrades. The tracks are beginning to deteriorate and he hopes to focus the \$1.1 Million grant funds in the right areas.
- PVJR is close to hiring a new employee for maintenance work. There are only two now in Clark County.

Agenda Item

- The car count is down due to the economy and lack of new customers. Eric is hopeful the new railroad industrial lands will increase business.
- Fred stated that he will talk with Public Works staff about alerting him of future road plans if they will affect the railroad. Fred will also look into the 99th St. extension issue.

BYCX Activities

- With Mother's Day on Sunday, it was a good weekend for ridership. Roses were handed out to all mothers. Next month, Memorial Day weekend will kick off the summer season.
- Repair on tracks at 182nd damaged by the snow plow will be done in June. This will present an opportunity to do any repairs to the crossing when the road is open.

Status of County Activities

- **WSDOT Grant project:** Fred attended a meeting with BNSF officials at the WSDOT Olympia Rail offices in April. The result of the meeting produced four options for design at the Rye Junction. If none are approved, the money allocated for this portion of the project will be rolled back into the rehab portion and used for materials. Option 1: Run track into the BNSF yard to switch cars; this plan leaves PVJR at the mercy of BNSF and their train schedules which would take priority of PVJR. Option 2, Phase 1: Construct _____ turn out and siding, stage and move cars around; Phase 2: Incorporate Option 1 and 2 and construct 3000 foot interchange and 6500 foot interchange. Option 3: Re-establish the "Y" at Burnt Bridge Creek. Eric and BNSF are favorable to this as it could enable good freight movement and allow storage of empty cars on the main line while freight is being moved on the "Y". At the end of the meeting BNSF agreed to allow HDR to proceed with the design work for these options for cost estimating and bid purposes.

Drainage: There are two areas of concern. MP0.5: Water is ponding which affects the tracks. A catch basin with a culvert draining into the creek needs to be installed. Permits will have to be taken out with the City of Vancouver as it resides on city property. MP??____: An existing flume has collapsed and heavy rains have caused erosion of the bank which jeopardized the integrity of the tracks. Again, this is on City property and will require permits. A pre-app conference is being scheduled with the City to review what the permitting requirements will be. The project is still on target for a late June, early July start. Should Corps of Engineers permits be required and cause a long delay, we would proceed with the permitting process at this time and put off the actual culvert work until the next grant. Work on the track rehab would proceed in spite of the drainage delay.

Caples Road: Repair of the crossing is ready to go once school is out for summer holiday. This timing will reduce the amount of traffic in the area and make it easier to get the work done. Contact has been made with the owners of the adjacent property regarding the illegal crossing. The owners are willing to discuss a solution with the County PA office.

CBRR Dinner Train: Eric will move the train out of the Battle Ground yard by June 1st.

43rd Ave Overlay at St. Johns: The asphalt was removed and a new overlay was done. The tracks and ties were repaired at the same time resulting in a nice, smooth crossing.

Burnt Bridge Creek Trestle: Reports have come back showing there is no creosote on the wood and consequently, no environmental hazard is caused by the trestle in the water. The trestle has become a habitat for fish and plant life. The County Community Health department will make a final decision based on findings from DNR, DOE and Fish and Wildlife.

Railroad Resource Work Group (RRWG): The group met at the Lagler Dairy property on April 15th. They will visit examples of industrial parks in Portland and Clark County in the near future, after which they will begin work on developing the code language for the railroad industrial land. Open Houses will be held this summer and the RRAB is invited to attend.

Battle Ground drainage: This is an ongoing issue that will take time to solve.

Sub-Committee Reports:

- **Encroachments:** Fred thanked Lloyd Lyman for his report of last month. Fred asked Lloyd to set up a meeting with him to discuss next steps. Will Pickering will coordinate a meeting with Lloyd to look at the tracks north of Battle Ground.
- **Web Page:** Rodger said that it is difficult to find the railroad webpage from the County home page. The page itself could be more exciting. Mary Beth will review the existing pages and navigation issues and get back to the board with her findings at the next meeting.

Agenda Item

- **Train Building Grant:** This is currently in a stalemate. Doug Auburg is trying to put together a conference call with lobbyist Pat Boss of PVJR to discuss the scope. Doug met with Fred and Eric a month ago.

Unfinished Business:

- There was not a formal RRAB meeting in December so there are no recorded minutes. A motion was made by Dan Weaver to enter into the record, there was no business meeting held in December 2007, rather a social gathering for the holidays took its place. Tom Smith seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Motion approved.
- Bart Phillips term on the board expired in December 2007. The BOCC would still like to have representation from CREDC. Dan Weaver agreed to talk to Bart personally about a recommendation for a replacement of his seat.

Good of the Order

- It was in the news today that light rail ridership is up 18% and commuter rail up by 25%. More people are turning to public transportation.
- Rodger Lance said he visited the Spring Water Corridor in Portland and thought it was a good example of how the railroad can run adjacent to a trail used by runners, walkers, bicyclist, etc.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 5:25PM.