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CLARK COUNTY  
WASHINGTON

## RAILROAD ADVISORY BOARD

# MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2008

4:00 PM -5:30 PM

1300 FRANKLIN STREET – PUBLIC SERVICE CENTER

6TH FLOOR – TRAINING ROOM #679

### ROLL CALL:

<b>Members Present:</b>	John Allen, Dick Carroll, Dick Clairmont, Scott Dalesandro, Richard Hanford, Dave Hurt, Lloyd Lycan, Melinda McLucas, Jack Melton, Bart Phillips, Florence Wager, Dan Weaver
<b>Absent Members:</b>	Bill Ganley, Rodger Lance, Tom Smith
<b>Ex-Officio:</b>	Will Pickering, Eric Temple
<b>Public:</b>	Neil Chambers (RR Resource Work Group), Sharon Wiley
<b>Staff:</b>	Mary Beth O'Donnell (Fred Abraham, Absent)

### Agenda Item

Meeting called to order at 4:00PM

- **Roll Call/Introductions**

Fred Abraham is out of town today.

### Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Moved Dave Hurt, seconded Lloyd Lycan, minutes approved as circulated. Voted in approval of minutes unanimously.

### Communications/Announcements

- Letters of complaint have been submitted to Fred Abraham regarding the Spirit of Washington dinner train parked in the Battle Ground rail yard. Copies of the letters from Robert Ezelle were distributed to the group for their information should this complaint be made public. Eric Temple will reply to Mr. Ezelle regarding his concerns. Eric stated he will move the trains by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Meanwhile, they are looking for a temporary storage.

### PVJR Activities

- Eric Temple reported he met with the Port of Vancouver who is looking for an operator. Eric is discussing the potential for PVJR to partner with the Port.
- WSDOT Grant: Most of the ties will be replaced on the lower 6 miles of track during this project. Lobbying will continue to obtain grants at State and Federal levels. \$5-8Million is needed to perform complete track upgrade.
- The car count is behind from this time last year. Factors contributing to the slow down are fewer housing starts which is reflected in less sand being used for producing shingles for roofing material; the grain container trans-load facility, which was due to start in September 2007, has not opened yet; Keyera, the propane shipper, is scheduled to start in early 2009 with 700-1,000 cars annually. If all shippers came through as anticipated there could be 10,000 cars per year within a few years.
- Port of Vancouver is interested in the newly rezoned railroad industrial lands near Brush Prairie as a potential site for their operations. Preliminary discussions are going well. Currently the Port is landlocked and has run out of space. The Railroad Resource Work Group (selected by the County) has been assigned to assist in creating development codes and a concept plan for the railroad industrial land. This groundbreaking effort will redefine how local municipalities interact with residents and industries.
- City of Battle Ground would like to take out the lead track to Anderson Dairy and remove the maintenance shop at Grace Avenue. They've offered PVJR \$35,000 to do so, which is the replacement cost of the current building only. PVJR is talking to BYCX about applying for

### **Agenda Item**

- Federal funding for historic trains, which could be put towards construction of a new locomotive storage and maintenance shop. Pat Boss has been lobbying for these funds.
- Keyera facility location: How much construction is needed for the Keyera facility? Currently planning to locate on a 3 acre site where 62<sup>nd</sup> Ave dead-ends, need concrete pad to place tank and piping up to it, no water or sewer needed. Eric met with Doug Ballou and Gloria of NACC. Keyera is a first class organization and they are committed to make things work favorably for the neighbors. They have agreed to meet with the neighbors.

### **BYCX Activities**

- Still off-season and fairly quiet - steam engine is still down for repairs, anticipate to have it operational by this summer – one excursion train is scheduled for next weekend. Currently replacing ballast and ties on sections not in operation – using \$10,000 grant funds mostly for ballast material. Weed spray is scheduled for next week.
- BYCX working with Eric Temple on grant fund raising efforts for locomotive shop.

### **Status of County Activities**

- In Fred Abraham's absence, Dan Weaver read from a report prepared by Fred as follows:
- WSDOT Grant project:** A local surveyor is assisting HDR and Cahill with a solution to drainage problems at MP 0.5 and MP 2.39. Cahill has nearly completed the scope for the rehab phase and anticipates delivering specs to County Purchasing for bid documents soon. A meeting is planned in the near future with BNSF and WSDOT officials on the Rye Junction interchange. Permitting issues are currently being addressed with regards to drainage areas. SEPA has been completed by WSDOT.

**Caples Road:** The week of Spring Break, March 31-April 4, repair work on the crossing was completed. West Rail Construction of Vancouver worked with County Public Works department to reinstall asphalt and rubber interface, new ties and rail. The new asphalt crossing has eliminated potential safety issues for traffic and train operations.

**Caples Road Vehicle Access:** Letters have been sent to property owners adjacent to the crossing to advise them of the illegal use of an access road, through the crossing arms, to their property. Once they respond, a meeting will take place with the County P.A., the railroad coordinator and the owners to come up with an agreeable solution for a new access road.

**Railroad Resource Work Group (RRWG):** The next meeting will be April 15<sup>th</sup> with a field trip to the site. The diverse group will be tasked to designate codes for the new zone. This cutting edge development is being watched nationally. A recommendation by the group will take approximately one year.

**Burnt Bridge Creek Trestle:** The county has received a request from a citizen regarding ownership of the collapsed trestle. After research, it is determined that the county is the likely owner of the trestle and the tidelands. The citizen is asking for the trestle to be removed as he believes it causes environmental pollution. Investigation and testing is underway by Fish and Wildlife and DOE as to the trestle's condition. The removal will be very costly and would involve county and state combined efforts. At this time no conclusive testing has been received.

### **Sub-Committee Reports:**

- Lloyd Lycan reported that he and Tom Smith met with Dave Gray two weeks ago at Rye Junction for a hi-rail trip to look at right-of-way encroachments on the line. They began with a brief safety meeting about regulations. Lloyd handed out notes from the meeting and showed pictures taken of properties in violation of the railroad right-of-way. Lloyd gave the pictures and his report to Mary Beth O'Donnell to be given to Fred Abraham. Fred is to follow up with a letter to the property owners asking what they will do to correct the violation. It was agreed that the burden of a solution should be placed on the property owners before sending out surveyors, which will be very expensive. The next step would be to get the County P.A.'s office and the BOCC involved. In the past the County has not wanted to be aggressive. The County has already sent out reversionary rights letters to property owners. There are different degrees of encroachment and if there are specific areas that create a hazard, those owners should be pursued immediately. The general consensus of the RRAB is to proceed with getting letters out to the property owners. Dan Weaver offered a letter he received from the BPA regarding power line encroachment as an example of a letter that might be drafted for this purpose.

**Agenda Item****Unfinished Business:**

- In a previous Railroad Advisory Board (RRAB) meeting it was discussed that Dan Weaver would represent the board on the Railroad Resource Work Group (RRWG) committee. However, this was never voted on or approved. Florence Wager motioned to appoint Dan Weaver as a member of the RRGW, John Allen seconded. All in favor, motioned passed. It was also voted unanimously that John Allen would serve as a back up representative to Dan Weaver.

**New Business**

- Mary Beth O'Donnell distributed new binders to the group to be used for board related documents.
- Eric Temple reported there will be a meeting in Olympia on April 22<sup>nd</sup> with BNSF, WSDOT and County officials to review the track interchanges at Rye Junction. Options for discussion are rebuilding a Y over Burnt Bridge Creek into the BNSF yard on Fruit Valley Road or create a siding north of 78<sup>th</sup> St. to transfer cars. A car count report was not available but will be forwarded by Eric this week.
- Dan Weaver attended the last Brush Prairie HOA meeting. Commissioner Betty Sue Morris was in attendance along with four candidates running for a seat on the board next year. The asphalt plant was the biggest issue. There are three appeals filed against the plant being built and are awaiting the judges ruling. There isn't much the HOA can do at this point except delay the permitting if they find that due process was not followed in obtaining the site for development. Eric Temple said Columbia Basin Railroad has been asked not to provide service to the plant, but stated if the plant is built CBRR will provide service.

**Good of the Order**

- Jack Melton thanked the group for the get well card and said he will try to attend board meetings in the coming months.
- Sharon Wiley had to leave the meeting early and was not able to give a report on her lobbying efforts.

**Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned by Dan Weaver at 5:25PM.