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CLARK COUNTY  
WASHINGTON

RAILROAD ADVISORY BOARD

**MEETING MINUTES**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 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 Clairmont, Scott Dalesandro, Bill Ganley, Richard Hanford, Dave Hurt, Rodger Lance, Lloyd Lycan, Thomas Smith, Florence Wager, Dan Weaver
<b>Absent Members:</b>	Dick Carroll, Melinda McLucas, Jack Melton, Bart Phillips
<b>Ex-Officio:</b>	Will Pickering, Eric Temple (via conference call)
<b>Public:</b>	Barbara Anderson
<b>Staff:</b>	Fred Abraham, Mary Beth O'Donnell

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Facilitator</b>
<b>Meeting called to order at 4:04PM</b>	<b>Dan Weaver</b>
<b>Roll Call/Introductions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Barbara Anderson is a guest today representing the NACCC on behalf of Doug Ballou. This was based on a meeting the previous week with Doug Ballou, John Allen and Fred Abraham to extend an open invite NACCC to all RRAB meetings.</li> </ul>	<b>Dan Weaver</b>
<b>Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moved Rodger Lance, seconded Bill Ganley, minutes approved as circulated. Voted in approval of minutes unanimously.</li> </ul>	<b>Dan Weaver</b>
<b>Communications/Announcements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>January 24, 2008 was Rail Day in Olympia. Those who attended met many of the Legislators and gained insight on the level of support for the train. It proved to be productive day.</li> </ul>	<b>Fred Abraham</b>
<b>PVJR Activities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eric Temple was called over the telephone at 4:10PM.</li> <li>Eric thanked those who were in attendance on January 24<sup>th</sup> for Rail Day. Having so many there worked in our favor. Florence Wager asked if it would help to follow up with the Legislators. Eric will talk to Pat Boss first and get back to the group with an answer.</li> <li>The lease has gone out to the propane company. The grain and sand transload facility on 88<sup>th</sup> St is making progress, to start shipping grain cars in February. An offer is in on the 25 acre site for a large warehouse, just waiting to hear something.</li> <li>PVJR is sponsoring a Clark County baseball team this year.</li> <li>Scott Dalesandro said that he has talked to the Port of Vancouver regarding a space for relocating his business. POV plans to include UP – what do we do to add them to our line? Eric replied that he's avoided this issue to date. A paper barrier exists that prohibits interchange with UP, but that is not worth much. At some point it is on his agenda to take off the table and at the appropriate time, look to the UP.</li> </ul>	<b>Eric Temple</b>
<b>BYCX Activities</b>	<b>Will Pickering</b>

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Facilitator</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They are using this down time to repair and replace parts on a steam locomotive. Many of the parts have been donated. Repairs should be complete by March. They're still waiting for the weather to clear up to do rail repairs resulting from damage by the snowplows.</li> <li>• Fred asked if BYCX had come up with any rail and ties. Will replied that Jim has a couple hundred ties lined up through a donation, and he still needs to check on rail. The goal is to start inserting ties when the weather improves.</li> </ul>	
<b>Status of County Activities</b>	<b>Fred Abraham</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The WSDOT grant agreement has been signed by both the BOCC and WSDOT. The next meeting will be this Wednesday February 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00AM. Anyone is welcome to attend. Fred will lay out the next steps for the project including scope of work, materials needed, etc. to be presented for review by Eric Temple, Dave Gray and Fred Abraham at the February 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. Some form of work needs to be underway by April 1<sup>st</sup> according to the terms of the contract. The bulk of the rehab work will hopefully be done by late Summer/early Fall.</li> <li>• Rails and Trails: Maps showing the recommended trail layout were distributed for review. A final open house will be held on February 26<sup>th</sup> at Battle Ground High School. Lisa Goorjian will attend next month's RRAB meeting to give an update on the project. There are 4-5 phases to the project. The first phase includes the area from Rye Junction to Hwy 99 via the Helen Davie trail then at the BPA property along the rail right of way, east of Hwy 99 bridge to Minnehaha. The second phase includes the Fairgrounds to the State Park in Battle Ground. Phases 3, 4 and 5 are on hold for now. We are reluctant to allow access to the area from 78<sup>th</sup> Street to Battle Ground as this has been designated as the economic development corridor. Fred has been talking to the Battle Ground Mayor and City Manager about setting aside other property for the purpose of the trail. They are looking at some options.</li> <li>• Caples Road: An MOU was given to Marty Snell today for review. Estimates have been prepared by both Cahill Inc. and West Rail. Both estimates came in at \$45-50,000 to upgrade the crossing. The crossing has been patched and repaired many times in the past and now needs a complete upgrade to make it safe for automobiles and rail cars to pass. Public Works is looking into emergency funding to do the necessary work. We don't want to use the grant funding for this as it is not a rail problem, but rather a road problem.</li> <li>• Beebe property: The oil spill has been cleaned up to the satisfaction of the County. DOE will inspect one last time and a letter should come out by the time of our next meeting.</li> <li>• Bloomquist property: The County is continuing to assess the clean up. There is nothing new to report.</li> <li>• Pierson property: The ditch has been filled in and a thank you letter was sent to the Piersons for their cooperation and restoration of the property to its original condition.</li> <li>• Railroad Resource Work Group: Property from 119<sup>th</sup> to 179<sup>th</sup> (Lagler Dairy) has been set aside by the BOCC for railroad industrial development. This group will meet to discuss zoning, codes, building design, mixed use, etc. It will be a 1-2 year process. We hope to have the meetings dates and times set by the end of this week.</li> <li>• Web Trends reports were distributed. The RR website has had lots of hits. People are taking an interest. Bill Ganley stated that the site is difficult to find and it needs new pictures, or more pictures showing the businesses along the line. This will be important as we add more shippers to the line. Fred and Mary Beth will work on this in the future.</li> <li>• Federal and State Grants: Fred stated that he was pleased with Rail Day in Olympia. We're posturing ourselves for future funding in 2009. Most legislators in our district are in favor of the railroad. Pat Boss and Sharon Wylie have been putting in time in Olympia, working on the legislators to obtain grants. Dan Weaver stated there was a favorable response by the legislators, but we can't be too hopeful of getting any funding this session as the money just isn't available. The recent State of the County address was also favorable towards the railroad, and it's had some good front page publicity lately. We are submitting a letter of request to Murray's office for a \$1M grant. If we don't get anything immediately, we are</li> </ul>	

Agenda Item	Facilitator
<p>preparing for the future. Our key focus right now is the WSDOT \$1.1M grant, keeping up with the Port of Vancouver contacts, the NACCC and the RR Resource Group/Lagler Property development.</p>	
Subcommittee Reports	Various
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Enchroachments:</b> Lloyd Lycan offered the following phone numbers as contacts for Yakima Columbia Basin Railroad: Sharon Drost 509-834-2541 and Scott Williams (Director of Development) 509-453-9166. They need to be notified for permission to gain access to the tracks.</li> <li>• <b>Community Outreach:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Allen reported that he and Fred Abraham attended a NACCC meeting on Monday, February 4<sup>th</sup>. Five members were present, including the Chair Doug Ballou and Vice Chair Art Stubbs. They spoke to the group using the bullet points from Rail Day in Olympia as topics of focus (refer to letters to legislators from meeting handouts in January). Local concerns surround the Hwy 99 railroad overpass and it's narrow width at the street level, making it difficult for pedestrians to walk there safely. An underground tunnel for pedestrian use is one option to be considered. Team 99 will be addressing this in their plans for improvement along that route. The area falls under the responsibility of the City of Vancouver.</li> <li>• Another concern is the asphalt plant in Brush Prairie. The RR Resource Work Group, which includes Sam Kim and Neil Chambers, would like to meet with Eric Temple and Pat Boss to talk about the future of the railroad and this area.</li> <li>• Doug Ballou, Chairman of NACCC, will receive RRAB meeting minutes in the future. There is a NACCC meeting tonight from 7-9:00PM, which John Allen will attend as part of our community outreach effort. NACCC is comprised of 26 neighborhood groups in Clark County. We want to develop and maintain a good relationship with these folks.</li> <li>• <b>Letters:</b> Dan Weaver needs help with the letter to Sharon Wylie. Fred Abraham will volunteer.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
Unfinished Business	Dan Weaver, Chairman
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lloyd Lycan brought up the subject of collecting for the RRAB petty cash fund, which was suggested at last month's meeting. \$50.00 was collected from the group to be put aside and used as needed for miscellaneous things such as greeting cards, meeting refreshments, etc. Mary Beth will be responsible to manage and store the fund. If you were not able to contribute at this meeting, please bring your \$5.00 to the meeting in March.</li> </ul>	
New Business	Dan Weaver, Chairman
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bill Ganley reported that the new community center in Battle Ground is under construction. He also stated that PVJR should take another look at where they have their locomotive parked in the Grace Ave. yard as it sits directly outside the fence from a baseball park and could be hit by a fly ball. Residents at the adjacent mobile home park have had broken windows in the past so this may be of concern to the safety of the locomotive. Fred agreed to talk to Tom Matson, the President of the local Little League.</li> <li>• Rodger Lance commented that we should be paying constant attention to the Columbia River Crossing project. We need to look at our rail line as a future community transit corridor, especially if light rail is brought into Clark County and comes near our rail.</li> </ul>	
Good of the Order	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Richard Hanford said in recent conversations he had with two different parties, the subject of track and rails came up and he was able to speak with some knowledge after his experience at his first RRAB meeting last month.</li> </ul>	
Round Table	
Adjournment	Dan Weaver
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The meeting was adjourned at 5:10PM.</li> </ul>	