



proud past, promising future

CLARK COUNTY  
WASHINGTON

**RAILROAD ADVISORY BOARD**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**MONDAY, JULY 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, Bill Ganley, Dave Hurt, Rodger Lance, Lloyd Lycan, Jack Melton, Tom Smith, Florence Wager, Dan Weaver, Melinda McLucas
<b>Absent Members:</b>	Bart Phillips , Richard Hanford , Scott Dalesandro ,
<b>Ex-Officio:</b>	Will Pickering <b>Unavailable:</b> Eric Temple, Pat Boss
<b>Public:</b>	Troy Pierce (CC Public Works), Lisa Goorjian (Parks & Recreation)
<b>Staff:</b>	Fred Abraham

**Agenda Item**

**Meeting called to order** at 4:05PM

**Roll Call/Introductions**

Lisa Goorjian and Troy Pierce from the Rails to Trails project were introduced.

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

- Motion to approve minutes of the meeting from June 9, 2008 by Dick Carroll, seconded by Dick Clairmont, minutes approved unanimously as circulated.

**Communications/Announcements**

- Dan Weaver distributed the letter to the BOCC regarding the State Hearings Board land use ruling. Approximately 800 acres in Brush Prairie and LaCenter were rejected for railroad industrial zoning. Clark County is appealing this ruling. However, the timing of the appeal process could run 3-5 years. Dick Clairmont asked if a letter campaign expressing support for the appeal was appropriate at this time. Fred indicated no, that the County was spearheading the appeal and was in full support of the effort

**PVJR Activities**

- No presentation at this meeting as representatives were not available in person or via phone.

**BYCX Activities**

- Will Pickering noted that ridership on this summer’s train was very good and that an extra Train Robbery excursion is scheduled for next weekend, in addition to the one scheduled for August. The damaged track at the Heisson store has been repaired. Another accident at the s-curve of the main highway resulted in minor damage, requiring only regauging to put the line back in service. New ties and rail have been received, using the grant funding. Work continues on the diesel locomotive, with two cylinder heads repaired. No recent progress on the steam engine

**Status of County Activities**

**Rails with Trails Presentation:** Troy Pierce and Lisa Goorjian presented an update of activities for this initiative. Five open houses, with a combined attendance of 250 people, were held and media coverage of the events was good, with a high level of community involvement and input. Recent steps in the process include the Planning Commission Public Hearing on June 19<sup>th</sup>, the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board presentation on June 20<sup>th</sup> and a BOCC Public Hearing on July 8<sup>th</sup>, where the plan was adopted, along with two alternative trail routes. The current version of the trails’ plan was distributed to the RRAB members. Design guidelines and routings were discussed, as well as the initial trail sections to be constructed. The first section will run to Battle Ground State Park.

### Agenda Item

Concerns were expressed that language indicating rail service priority over other uses of the right of way be included in the plan document.

**WSDOT Grant update:** Five contractors attended the pre-bid walk for the rehabilitation portion of the project. Fred distributed copies of the RFP specifications. Bids are due July 22<sup>nd</sup> and the award of the contract is scheduled for July 29<sup>th</sup>. It then goes to the BOCC for contract signatures on July 30<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup>. Project is to start on or before September 12<sup>th</sup>, with completion scheduled no later than December 15<sup>th</sup>.

The drainage portion of the project has been moved to a small projects roster to expedite the work. The plan is for completion by mid-September and could go through mid-October, weather permitting.

**72<sup>nd</sup> Avenue:** Project is approximately 50% complete. It is primarily a roads project with incidental rail work.

**Battle Ground drainage:** The lead on this issue will be taken by the City of Battle Ground, with county assistance as requested.

**3 Acre Parcel:** In a correction, it was noted that this parcel is located at 99<sup>th</sup> Street rather than highway 99. Fred distributed a map, locating four alternative routings, with alternative D being the preferred route.

**7 Acre Parcel:** The Public Works department will sell this parcel rather than lease it, with priority given to rail service bidders. The county will retain first right of refusal on any future transactions involving this parcel of land to ensure continued rail service usage.

**New Rail Emergent Grant:** The data collection effort is in process. Funding of \$2.75 million will be available for award. Unknown what percentage will be allocated to rail grants at this time.

**2009 Legislative Strategy:** Fred has met with the new lobbyist, Mike Burgess. The new lobbyist is not a federal lobbyist and that part of the work may be contracted out. The RRAB will issue a commendation and thank you letter to the outgoing lobbyist, Sharon Wylie for her efforts on behalf of the railroad.

### Sub-Committee Reports:

- **Encroachments:** Lloyd distributed photos of his recent trip with Dick and Dan on the portion of the railroad north of Battle Ground. He noted that encroachments are not as common on that segment of the line, due to accessibility issues, However, dumping and ATV incursions are a problem. He commended the BYCX members for their efforts to clean up the dump sites and police the area for trespassers. ATV users are damaging the ballast in several areas.
- **Web Page:** Rodger noted that the web site changes had been implemented, However, he received no response using the "feedback" link. Fred to refer this for investigation.
- **Community Outreach:** Neighborhood association involvement continues to be positive and the RRAB members are making personal contacts and providing information as requested

### Unfinished Business:

- **BYCX/PVJR Train Building 501C Grant:** No update presented at this meeting.
- **High Rail Trip:** Fred requested interested RRAB members contact him via email and he will coordinate the trip with Cahill. Tentatively scheduled for a Saturday.
- **Summer BBQ:** Full calendars will preclude planning a function this summer.

### Good of the Order

- The appeal for not allowing an asphalt plant on the Brush Prairie property has been denied and the potential may be for a sewage treatment facility. There is talk about a possible bio-diesel plant in Chelatchie Prairie which is in early, preliminary stages at this time.
- John shared his observation that there is disappointingly little interest in repairing vital rail lines connecting the Oregon coast communities damaged as result of weather.

### Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 5:40PM.

H:\LONG RANGE PLANNING\RAILROAD\RRAB\Meetings\08-07\_RRAB\_Minutes.doc