

## **THE FERRY COUNTY RAIL TRAIL PARTNERS**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS EMERGENCY MEETING MINUTES**

**April 30, 2009**

An Emergency Meeting of the Board of Directors for THE FERRY COUNTY RAIL TRAIL PARTNERS, was called to order at 7:00 pm, April 30, 2009, at The Old Fire Hall, Republic, WA, the place designated for such meeting. The following were present: Bob Whittaker, Melissa Rose, Sarah Spark, DiAnne Hewitt, and Judie Cribby. All agreed to short notice.

**WELCOME, CHANGES TO AGENDA:** Agenda was circulated and additions requested.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Spark requested reiteration regarding the use of proper names in our Annual Meeting Minutes. It was agreed to not identify individuals with various comments made. She will finalize and circulate with the Board for suggested edits.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** This being an emergency meeting with a specific agenda, no formal Treasurer's Report was given, although administrative "housekeeping" procedures were addressed.

**UPDATE ON COMMISSIONERS' "RECREATIONAL TRAIL COMMITTEE":** The Commissioners have seated their adv. Committee and those selected have been advised by email. Attached is a list of all who applied, and the members are identified with a bullet in the margin. Specifically:

ALOs: Bobbi Weller, Gordon Strandberg and Richard Lybarger; Small Business Owner: Jim Schumacher; Back Country Horseman: Larry Heming; Non-Motorized: Bob Whitaker; Motorized: Stan Christie; Curlew Community Assoc.: Landon Swafford; and Kettle River Adv. Board: Ed Watt. No one applied under the category of Law Enforcement, and no one was so designated.

There was much discussion regarding the make-up of the committee, its obvious bias in favor of motorized enthusiasts, and the frustration of many, ALOs included. The question debated was whether we should participate or not. To do so appears to fly in the face of our Mission Statement; to not do so could lose any possibility of being effectively involved.

The RT Advisory Committee has been provided Bylaws (copy attached), which were written by the Commissioners' Clerk at their instruction, which provides for 2-year terms for the committee's members. That they expect this committee to exist for such a long period was also discussed, with opinions given as to how to interpret that information.

Also discussed was Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle (NOVA) / ORV funding, as well as Washington Wildlife Recreation Programming (WWRP), a non motorized fund. Both NOVA and WWRP grant programs are under the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO): Per Bob's meeting w/ Jeff Lambert (a citizen on the NOVA Board), NOVA has funded 10 projects in Ferry County since 1985. The NOVA board and associated funding were dissolved by the legislature this month for 2 years. Alternately, the WWRP has just received \$70 million for the next 2 years. Consequently, another 2 years will lapse before NOVA funds are available. This information may offer insight as to the Commissioners' 2-year term for RT Adv Committee members: could it be ORV advocates are "buying time" until major motorized funding is again available.

Clearly, funds for non-motorized rail trail development will still be available thru the two main funds: WA DOT TE & WWRP. Some ATV funds are still available to motorized proponents.

Another interesting note is that the RT Advisory Committee Bylaws specify that any member not acting in good faith can be voted off the committee; to wit, someone not going along with the crowd (e.g., Bob maintaining a non-motorized stance) can be gotten rid of. Such a vacancy will then be filled by appointment from the Commissioners.

Discussed was also the need to research and determine actual number of Forest Service/public roads and trails for a total of motorized miles (52 done by Bob and Roy. The first Recreation Trail Committee task should be addressing safety and liability issues, predominately blocks around the trestle and tunnel.

We began writing an "Update", and Judie indicated that she will be writing a letter to the editor with her opinions as an AOL and FC RTP Director.

**BOARD MEMBERS:** 3 more names of possible Board members were discussed, and tasks for contacting and discussing involvement assigned.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be at 6:00 pm on May 21, 2009, at The Old Fire Hall.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00.

Respectfully submitted,

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Sarah K.W. Spark, Secretary