

ALL ABOARD WASHINGTON

Meeting Minutes

Saturday, September 9th, 2023

By Zoom and phone

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS PRESENT: Kathy Davis, Charlie Hamilton, Rocky Shay, Gary Wirt, Jim McIntosh, Bob Lawrence, Warren Yee, Hendrik de Kock

MEMBERS AND GUESTS: Dan McFarling, Marian Rhys

President Kathy Davis called the meeting and the Board of Directors to order at 1:03 p.m. Secretary Rocky Shay identified a Board quorum of seven.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: None.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Vice-President Gary Wirt said he has applied for membership on the new state Civil Aviation Coordinating Committee, to which the Governor will appoint members. He reviewed the Stampede Pass tunnel enlargement study due soon from WSU. He also discussed the statewide tourism meeting coming up in Yakima.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Secretary Rocky Shay submitted the March, April and June Meeting Minutes for approval. Mr. Wirt moved for approval of all and Mr. Shay seconded. All Board members present voted by voice to approve the three sets of minutes.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Membership Chairman Bob Lawrence mentioned efforts to call two non-renewed members and reviewed current membership totals. Discussion of Bylaw requirements for membership followed, along with a brief discussion of the upcoming October 14th AAWA Board meeting. Mr. Wirt and Mr. Shay noted that they could not attend. Mr. Hamilton then said he was ready to send a follow-up letter to expired members. Mr. Lawrence noted a donation from King County thanks to Mr. Yee through matching funds.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Hendrik de Kock reported technical difficulties in pulling up his information but said we need to do a holiday fundraiser this year. Mr. Wirt noted the Microsoft points system and his donation of 17,000 points to All Aboard Northwest. No one was sure how All Aboard Northwest qualified for the program. Discussion followed. Mr. Wirt and Mr. de Kock said they would look into it. Mr. Hamilton noted T-shirt sales efforts.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS REPORT: Co-Executive Director Charlie Hamilton and Mr. Wirt filled in for Government Affairs Director Luis Moscoso today. Mr. Hamilton went through Mr. Moscoso's report, noting the joint Washington-Oregon stakeholders meeting set for the end of October, reviewing new activity at the Washington Legislative Rail Caucus and discussing the monthly WSDOT meeting with Jason Biggs as the new Acting Director of Rail and

Freight, Ron Pate having moved on to the high-speed rail effort. Mr. Hamilton said we would not be at the upcoming tri-state trains meeting because no public comments will be taken. He then said Mr. Moscoso would attend the upcoming southwest Washington regional meeting about a new west coast train plan on September 14th, where there will be public comment.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES-2024: Mr. Hamilton showed a summary of plans for next year, including looking at who's in charge of passenger rail in Washington and Oregon. Mr. Wirt noted that Mr. Moscoso has been told that we should focus on the Amtrak Cascades and not eastern Washington at this point. Mr. McIntosh mentioned the Blaine station, but Mr. Hamilton said that's probably a federal matter rather than a Washington legislative one now.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Co-Executive Director Charlie Hamilton brought up a copy of an email he sent on the long-distance service study urging that the revived North Coast Hiawatha and some form of Pioneer be high on the priority list. Mr. Wirt noted the need for money as the reason voting is important. Mr. Hamilton then showed slides from the Boise rail summit, one of which showed one of our display boards inadvertently used as a backdrop for TV interviews of Amtrak CEO Stephen Gardner. Mr. Hamilton said a survey would go out next week to medical people in eastern Washington proposing trains as part of the study by AAWA and Physicians for Social Responsibility. Mr. Wirt discussed this as part of developing a passenger rail cost-benefit analysis. Mr. Hamilton also mentioned research on possible North Coast Hiawatha stations like Ellensburg. He then reviewed the Train Trek that followed the summits and showed more slides. He also reviewed a recent Columbia Basin meeting and looked ahead to our upcoming October meeting and our December 9th regional meeting in Centralia with numerous guest speakers and financial needs. He said we are putting together a list of possible workshops and events he wants us to help sponsor with registration expected at between \$95 and \$125 each. He said the hope is that AAWA and other northwest passenger rail and environmental groups will help sponsor and participate. Mr. Yee, Mr. Hamilton and Mr. McFarling discussed money, with Mr. Hamilton noting a need for new audio-visual equipment, probably \$500 worth, for Centralia to avoid the problems with last year's Centralia meeting. Discussion followed, especially about a mic for questions.

OTHER BUSINESS: Mr. Hamilton said AAWA and AORTA Board elections will be December 9th also. There was discussion of attendees going to Centralia the night before the meeting and staying at the Olympic Club.

President Davis adjourned the meeting and the Board at 2:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rocky Shay, Secretary