

ALL ABOARD WASHINGTON

Meeting Minutes

June 15th, 2024

By Zoom and phone

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

MEMBERS AND GUESTS: Brian Yannity, Steve Spear, Dan McFarling, Louis Musso, Barry Green, Matt Krabacker, Sean Russell, Tim Gould, Dave Jannuzzi

Today's call to order was delayed to allow for AAWA Vice President Gary Wirt's trip to Missoula, co-Executive Director Charlie Hamilton reviewed the day's agenda and showed the Federal Railroad Administration's list of long-distance routes recommended for restoration. There were discussions of the new non-Northeast Corridor Amtrak Board members, a possible restored Pioneer with separate sections for Portland via Hinkle and for Seattle via Yakima, aviation funding and the Northwest Rail Summit in Spokane in October.

With that done, the AAWA meeting and Board of Directors were called to order at 1:50 p.m. Secretary Rocky Shay identified a Board quorum of seven. Government Affairs Director Luis Moscoso was unavailable for the meeting. Kathy Davis's status was uncertain.

AVIATION WORK GROUP: Mr. Wirt is applying for a position on the Governor's Working Group on Commercial Aviation to deal with congestion at Sea-Tac Airport and the total transportation needs of Washington. There was discussion of using the Grant County and Yakima airports to help with congestion at Sea-Tac, but Grant County is probably no longer practical due to surrounding development. Yakima could have a rail connection to Seattle.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Hendrik De Kock reviewed auction results, other income and double match results despite COVID. Mr. Hamilton and Mr. De Kock discussed our subscription to Trains Magazine and to now consider adding Railway Age for \$75.00-per-year, which Mr. De Kock thought might be reasonable. Mr. De Kock also noted that he may have to move out of state and leave the Treasurer post at the end of the year. Mr. Hamilton suggested setting up a Finance Committee in the Bylaws. He, Mr. De Kock and Mr. Wirt agreed to meet later to discuss that.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Mr. Hamilton called for approval of the March meeting minutes. Mr. Wirt, though, hadn't seen them and sought a later online vote. There were no Board member objections.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Membership Chairman Bob Lawrence reviewed membership status and donations and showed his May report on Zoom.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS REPORT: No report today, but Mr. Hamilton briefly discussed the upcoming Fall event in Spokane again. Mr. De Kock said we should know in July how much we can sponsor. Mr. Hamilton also mentioned the “No on 2117” campaign. Initiative 2117 would roll back the Climate Commitment Act. Mr. Hamilton said the campaign has not asked us for money, but we should donate anyway because 2117 would cut billions from Washington’s transportation budget. He also mentioned a group working on a regional campaign to promote public transportation such as the North Coast Hiawatha. Barry Green said its idea was to raise money for the Big Sky Rail Passenger Association. He observed that Washington has far more locations for something like this and AORTA is planning something similar. Mr. Hamilton said help is available and Mr. Green will follow up.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: Mr. Hamilton said there would be no meeting in July, but the picnic was on for Lacey in August with “Chef Yee!” Mr. Hamilton told Mr. Lawrence that registration for October must cover \$40,000 dollars, but guest fees and donations plus the lack of the hotel block that forced losses on last year’s Boise meeting should help with that. Mr. Hamilton then showed a list of upcoming events on the Zoom screen and said he wanted \$150.00 to hire professionals to do audio-visual following our repeated problems, including damaging ones at the Missoula meeting and earlier ones, twice, at Centralia. Mr. Hamilton said he would talk to PBS. He said he already has been in contact with TVW in Spokane.

OTHER BUSINESS: Brian Yannity discussed a proposed regional rail service in the Kelso area, eventually to be electrified, a round-the-clock service to work with the Amtrak Cascades. He said a Kalama Cascades station should be possible. He showed pictures of the area with narration and said he plans a white paper. Mr. Hamilton urged cooperation with locals Dave Jannuzzi and Dave Rowe. He endorsed the idea and promised follow-up. Mr. De Kock then called for more AAWA Board candidates.

With no other business, Mr. Hamilton adjourned the meeting and the Board at 2:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rocky Shay, Secretary