

# ALL ABOARD WASHINGTON

## Meeting Minutes

Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021

By Zoom and phone

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS PRESENT: Charlie Hamilton, Rocky Shay, Gary Wirt, Hendrik de Kock, Patrick Carnahan, Samantha Dana, Bob Lawrence, Warren Yee, Abe Zumwalt, Jim McIntosh, Bob Krebs, Kathy Davis

MEMBERS AND GUESTS: Steve Spear

President Kathy Davis called the meeting and the Board to order at 1:02 p.m.

### OFFICER REPORTS:

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: No report.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: No report.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Hendrik de Kock discussed conflict of interest and us joining King County Giving. He then said we must now start liquidating our final annuity and moved to do so. Mr. Wirt seconded. With no further discussion, all Board members present voted by voice to approve the motion with Mr. Carnahan abstaining. Mr. de Kock and Mr. Hamilton then discussed vehicle donations, preferred methods for donation payments and the fee system. Mr. McIntosh elaborated and Mr. Hamilton thanked both him and Pat McIntosh for their work on membership. Mr. Hamilton said there had been no further pledges and urged more efforts toward them. Mr. Wirt suggested an email to the general membership. Mr. Hamilton said a lack of articles was holding up the latest newsletter, so a new pledge outreach would be separate.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Membership Chairman Bob Lawrence outlined the continued lapsed member problem and said there had been only one renewal so far this month. Mr. Hamilton said he'd help with that and the newsletter would point out the three membership categories. Mr. Zumwalt told Mr. Hamilton to look for his pledge.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE: Chairman Patrick Carnahan said work was continuing on both fundraising and the Web site, that video fundraising research was underway and an outreach to private business partners was possible. Mr. Hamilton discussed new material for those. Mr. Carnahan said Mr. Hamilton had an upcoming meeting with John Robert Smith and would be looking for new partners.

501 COMMONS: Mr. Carnahan said this year has been challenging, and 501 wants its project done by the end of this month. He said former AAWA President Bowen had completed two interviews for it.

EAST-WEST COMMITTEE: Mr. Hamilton said the focus is now on the informational video and a more-detailed budget is coming. He said he had a good conversation with Mr. Wirt and Board Member Pete

Lewis, and a one-sheet paper explains the East-West project for companies and other supporters seeking sponsorships. Mr. Carnahan displayed it. Mr. Wirt urged a list of possible station stops and possible attractions and Mr. Hamilton elaborated. Mr. Wirt urged arranging for displays at the Central Washington, Washington State and Evergreen State Fairs.

COALITIONS COMMITTEE: Mr. Hamilton discussed talks with Disability Rights Washington and their desire to work with us on a comprehensive Mobility Bill of Rights. He said we may adopt their focus on stories to push our agenda.

FRONT AND CENTER: Mr. Carnahan updated discussions with Front and Center concerning rail, including reworking our outreach and messaging strategy. He discussed a recent article on Stampede Pass developments in The Urbanist.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: Mr. Hamilton noted the new schedule of when reports are due and thanked Jim McIntosh for his newsletter article, but said more newsletter material was needed. Mr. Wirt wondered about reprinting the Stampede Pass article with permission.

TECH COMMITTEE: Mr. Hamilton said there would be no report.

EVENT PLANNING COMMITTEE: Mr. Hamilton pulled up a list of events for the rest of the year, all of which are on hold due to finances.

NORTHWEST WASHINGTON EXPANSION COMMITTEE: Mr. Hamilton said that committee, dealing largely with the Blaine stop, had not yet met, but several people have picked up on the idea of Cascades service between Seattle and Blaine until the Canadian border reopens.

#### CONTRACTOR REPORTS:

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS: Government Affairs Director Luis Moscoso said we've done well, given the pandemic. His report was then interrupted by a connection problem, so we moved on temporarily.

CHCS: Mr. Hamilton said the focus was now on fundraising now that the Legislature was done, and that had been discussed earlier. He said CHCS was continuing to work on current events and with rail commissions and refocusing of our message to point out the economic benefits of passenger trains. He noted a positive meeting with Congresswoman Jaime Herrera-Beutler and meetings with other members of Congress, including Senators Murray and Cantwell, and with local lawmakers who serve on transportation committees. He noted good conversations with regional organizations and RPA.

BACK TO GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS: With Mr. Moscoso's connection restored, he said things went well during the Legislative session and a re-do of the Cascades development plan is coming and we want the same for Eastern Washington. He said we must do more on these items for next year's Legislature. He said a planned whistle stop was postponed and added that the state Transportation Commission wants to do more with rail and Director Reema Griffith wants to do more with us. He said Bruce Agnew wants a joint rail advocacy group presentation on rail issues with passenger and freight rail panels. Mr.

Moscoso also discussed sending one of us to Big Sky, Montana and added that Mr. Agnew wants a donation for post-session hospitality. Mr. Moscoso also described a meeting with the Office of Equity and how we could argue for expanding passenger rail around Washington as an equity issue. He noted the upcoming PNWR and answered a question about its fees.

President Davis recessed the meeting at 2:23 p.m., then reconvened it at 2:29.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

MONTANA FISCAL AGENCY: No report.

INTERSTATE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT: Report coming later.

EASTERN WASHINGTON VIDEO: Mr. Carnahan reviewed our earlier discussion on that and possible grants. Mr. Hamilton said speed of arrival of money was an issue. He noted donations and thanked people for them. He also called for more.

AORTA TRIP: Mr. Carnahan said he was working on dropping on an additional load of AAWA material at the AORTA office, including things from Retired AAWA Executive Director Lloyd Flem. An unrelated discussion of transportation funding followed. Mr. McIntosh said Mr. Krebs had information on COVID relief. Mr. Krebs said payback may be needed.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

WEB SITE: Mr. Hamilton said reworking of the AAWA Web site wasn't yet complete, but its new focus would be on economic benefit, the environment and equity. He said there would also be clearer volunteer and donation "asks" and generally more simplification, plus more information on what we do and what we have done. He added that CHCS is donating time for the re-do. He told Mr. Lawrence he has created a spreadsheet for current Cascades schedules, which are hard to reach on the Amtrak website. Mr. Hamilton sought help on the website revamp.

INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE REPLACEMENT: Mr. Carnahan said he, Mr. Hamilton and AORTA are working on a possible joint position saying we want an economic, environmental and equity approach to the project and that the current replacement plan is misleading and mentions none of those things. Mr. Hamilton said the AORTA Common Sense Alternative was better than a huge freeway with no trains or transit. He sought a motion on this and guidance. Mr. de Kock so moved and Mr. Zumwalt seconded. Mr. Zumwalt said our DOT is going back to being a Department of Highways. President Davis called for a vote. All Board members present voted by voice to approve the motion. Mr. Moscoso praised our DOT's advisory program for things like this. He said he would track the Interstate Bridge through our Legislature.

#### OTHER BUSINESS:

HIGH SPEED RAIL AND CASCADIA: President Davis said we have been asked by Paige Mallott of Cascadia to sign onto the high speed rail plan, though the request is actually from the Teamsters Union. Mr. Carnahan said the lack of inclusion of regional passenger rail and of other groups should prevent our signing on for now. Mr. Wirt agreed. A long discussion on what to do followed. There was no Board vote.

INTERSTATE RAIL COMPACT: Mr. Hamilton suggested a press release after months of discussion and probably rolling the compact into the federal infrastructure bill. The release would say that rail compacts would help conventional rail that's now needed in areas not served by high speed rail. He suggested a press release and open letter combination, possibly with short- and long-term visions together. Mr. Moscoso and Mr. Hamilton speculated about participation from Northwest members of Congress. Mr. Hamilton thanked the Board for direction and promised to move forward.

OREGON CASCADES SERVICE: Mr. Wirt asked Mr. Krebs about Oregon's service development plan for the Cascades. Mr. Krebs promised to check. Mr. Moscoso said he'd look for the same thing from Washington.

WASHINGTON CASCADES RETURNS: President Davis sought comments from former AAWA member and Secretary Steve Spear, who asked for a report on the Cascades recovery from COVID. Mr. Shay outlined schedules returning on May 24<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Hamilton said more would come when the Point Defiance Bypass reopens. Mr. Krebs expressed concern about no publicity and marketing for the restored Cascades trains.

President Davis then moved to adjourn and Vice President Wirt seconded. All Board members present voted by voice to adjourn the Board and the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rocky Shay, Secretary

Edited,

Jeremy Bowen , Assistant Secretary