

ALL ABOARD WASHINGTON

Meeting Minutes

Saturday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022

By Zoom and phone

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Patrick Carnahan, Rocky Shay, Gary Wirt, Kathy Davis, Bob Lawrence, Warren Yee, Hendrik De Kock

OFFICERS PRESENT: Luis Moscoso, Charlie Hamilton

MEMBERS AND GUESTS: Lloyd Flem

Executive Director Charlie Hamilton called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. The Board was not convened for lack of a quorum. Mr. Hamilton reviewed the meeting agenda and suggested taking up concerns about the attendance of Board members Jeremy Bowen and Brian Bundridge soon. He then reviewed Board member pledges and praised all who've followed through. Mr. Yee discussed his pledge.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Membership Chairman Bob Lawrence reviewed our membership status and pledges we've received, along with recent fundraising efforts. Mr. De Kock mentioned a Google contribution for his work with us. Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Lawrence and Mr. DeKock added detail. Mr. Hamilton thanked Mr. Flem for sending more renewal letters.

POLICY STATEMENT: Mr. Wirt and Mr. Moscoso reviewed work on a rail policy statement with several other transportation groups. Our Board must still approve this work, but Mr. Hamilton said only a sense of the Board would be needed to continue rather than a formal vote. Mr. De Kock suggested an email vote. President Davis suggested that Board member Abe Zumwalt, Mr. Moscoso and Mr. Flem work on this. Mr. Wirt urged seeking Board opinions by email. If none came in, the assumption would be to proceed. All Board members present informally agreed.

WASHINGTON FUTUREWISE: Mr. Hamilton said we had signed onto Washington FutureWise for the current legislative session.

MONTANA SUMMIT: Mr. Hamilton said Montanans have letters of support for a North Coast Hiawatha revival from all Northwest U.S. Senators except Senators Murray and Cantwell and we would continue to approach them. He also said Montanans want a summer summit in Billings with President Biden invited. Discussions are also underway about chartering a train for the summit.

PNWR SUMMIT: The PNWR summit is still planned for July and was very successful last year.

LOCAL PRESENTATIONS: Mr. Hamilton discussed the planned presentation to the Spokane Rotary Club.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION GOALS: Mr. Hamilton said this would be merged into the Policy Statement and Mr. Moscoso agreed. Mr. Moscoso said we are trying to avoid confrontation and get lawmakers to work with us on a state plan.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS REPORT: Government Affairs Director Luis Moscoso explained our strategy regarding the upcoming legislative session and was optimistic about the change from pro-highway Steve Hobbs to pro-rail Marco Lias as Senate Transportation Chairman, but he said the WSDOT is late with a long-range plan and that even with federal money available, there's no mention of the Amtrak Cascades in Governor Inslee's proposed transportation budget, only high speed rail, and nothing new from ODOT. He discussed how we've been paying attention to reports on high-speed rail, transportation-efficient communities, electric vehicles and the State Rail Crossing Plan that Mr. Wirt recently updated. Mr. Moscoso reviewed work with organizations already discussed and described the state budget process coming up and the roles of our Whistle Stops and federal money.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Mr. Hamilton said there would be no report this time due to his recent illness. He did say that David Jannuzi is now the AORTA representative on our Board and that we have applied to form a 501-C-4 organization. He added that there's no new newsletter editor yet and nothing new on the Columbia River Bridge replacement.

OTHER BUSINESS: Mr. Moscoso said our work is making good things more possible, but it's time consuming and volunteers are needed. He added that groups like Physicians for Social Responsibility want to learn more about us and we should all spread the word.

Mr. Hamilton then adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Rocky Shay, Secretary