

# Rail Advisory Committee (RAC)

Wednesday, May 18th, 2022

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

## Meeting Minutes

Attendees, *RAC Members*

*Bruce Carswell, Chair*

*Aaron Hunt*

*Robert Eaton*

*Johan Hellman*

*Ivo Trummer*

*Chris Myron*

*Paul Langner*

### Introductions and Committee Business

- Discuss Permanent Membership and Term Limits.
- Goal would be to fill the proposed permanent seats before the next meeting.

### RAC Membership Refresh and Recruitment – Jennifer Sellers and Bruce Carswell

- Class Is – two seats, BNSF and UPRR (self-appoint)
- G&W – one seat (self-appoint)
  - Owns and operates three shortlines and has more track miles than BNSF in Oregon.
- Shortlines – three seats
  - Geographical diversity desired
  - Chair Carswell has reached out to Toby Van Altvorst, with the Goose Lake Railway. Mr. Van Altvorst is interested in serving on the RAC.
  - There will need to be additional discussion to determine the recruitment process for the shortlines.
- Amtrak – one seat (self-appoint)
  - Chase Kitchen has been hired to fill Rob Eaton's old position and will be assuming the Amtrak position on the RAC.
- Intercity and long distance passenger rail, commuter and transit user representation – one seat
  - Details for candidacy would be to provide the user perspective
  - Karyn Criswell advocated for a consistent and transparent method for evaluation of all candidates.
  - Robert Eaton suggested Transit Passenger solicitation should seek the ability to represent on a state wide level, with emphasis leaning toward intercity city representation.
- Ports and industries representatives – two seats
  - Oregon Public Ports Association to appoint one permanent seat. (self-appoint)
  - The industry user should be a freight rail shipper/receiver.
- Rail labor unions – two seats
  - Discussed whether to allocate one or two permanent seats.
  - Position would be open to any labor representative for rail or transit.
  - The position would have a dual role: to advise the committee as well as report back to the unions they represent with committee plans and developments.
- Local government – one seat (self-appoint)
  - League of Oregon Cities (LOC) and Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) will alternate representation. AOC will be provide the first representative.

- Karyn proposed developing a list of attributes that AOC and LOC would endeavor to select. These attributes would be embedded in the charter.
- Total number of seats
  - UPRR, BNSF, G&W, Amtrak, and OPAA, LOC/AOC will self-appoint within their organizations. LOC/AOC will self-appoint with guidance from the RAC regarding social equity.
  - Bruce requested a motion to finalize the number of permanent seats at 12 or 13.
  - Specific attributes of seat members will be part of the RAC Charter.
  - Ivo Trummer made motion to finalize total of 13 seats.
  - Johan Hellman seconded.
  - Motion carried, none opposed.
- Term Limits
  - UPRR, BNSF, G&W, Amtrak have no term limits.
  - Two – four year terms (eight years maximum) for all other seats
  - Ivo made motion to approve no term limits for UPRR, BNSF, G&W and Amtrak and two - four year terms for remaining seats.
  - Chris Meyer seconded.
  - Motion carried, all in favor, none opposed.

#### Rail Needs Inventory (RNI) Scoring Proposal – Bob Melbo

- David Evans & Assoc. is developing a strategy for scoring projects in the RNI
- Bob Melbo shared overview of comments received on the RNI and the Factors and Evaluation Criteria.
  - Few comments received so far.
  - Requests included a few specific expansions of light rail
  - Other requests included desires for faster intercity rail, more ease of use
- Move to adjourn carried at 1:58 pm