

Railroad Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

June 11, 2009

Peter Davis called to order the meeting of the Railroad Advisory Board at 7:30 a.m., June 11, 2009 at the Water and Light Administration Utility Services Conference Room, 105 East Ash Street, Columbia, MO

The following persons were present:

Peter Davis, Chairperson

Greg Eiffert, Vice-Chair

Tom Ogden, Member

Jack Blaylock, Member

Kee Groshong, Member

Bryan Ross, Member

“Doc” Wulff, Member

J. Kraig Kahler, Water and Light Director

Jim Windsor, Rates/Fiscal Manager

Christian Johanningmeier, Engineer II

Tad Johnsen, Power Production Superintendent

Dave Sprague, Railroad Operations Supervisor

Marilyn Thorpe, Administrative Support Supervisor

Lynn Behrns, Centralia City Administrator

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: On a motion by Kee Groshong and second by Greg Eiffert, the minutes of March 12, 2009 were approved as distributed with a unanimous vote.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT: Kraig Kahler referred to the letter that had been forwarded to the Board from Vaughn Prost, Manager/Operator of Intermodal Facility, LLC. Mr. Kahler said that Alternative Distribution Systems LLC (ADS) had defaulted in their monthly rental payments to Intermodal Facility, LLC. Mr. Prost is asking that the City honor their part of the contract. Under default, the City takes immediate possession of the property and operates it until another operator is found. During the default period the City is requested to make the monthly payments. Payments for April and May are \$32,500 per month. Mr. Prost suggested that the City help ADS through these difficult times and keep them operating the facility. Staff is preparing a Request for Proposal to find someone else to operate the facility. If no one is found, the City will have to buy the facility at an estimated two million dollars. Funds to pay for monthly rent will come out of the electric retained earnings. The Board will be notified of any changes.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Jim Windsor said that the COLT is operating at a loss due to decline in traffic.

TRAFFIC REPORT: Christian Johanningmeier told the Board that as of the end of May there had been a total of 780 cars for the year. He said all traffic was down except for rubber. He said the only customer that has been lost is MiTek, as they are relocating.

MARKETING: Tina Worley said she was continuing to talk to prospective customers but things were incredibly slow right now.

Bryan Ross asked if it would be possible to offer lower electric and water rates to businesses that might want to locate in Columbia. Mr. Kahler said that typically we do not offer reductions.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Johannmeier introduced Lynn Behrns, City Administrator from Centralia, Missouri. The City of Centralia had previously requested permission to place an eight foot concrete sidewalk on the COLT right-of-way. The Board, at the time of the request sent a letter to Mr. Behrns, agreeing to allow a sidewalk with the following conditions:

- 1) A chain link fence with a minimum height of six feet shall be constructed east of the sidewalk to serve as a barrier between the track and the sidewalk. The sidewalk shall be continuous throughout the length of the project except for at high-rail-or pedestrian crossings.
- 2) The construction and maintenance of both the sidewalk and fence shall be at the expense of the City of Centralia.
- 3) The existing Simms Street highway-rail crossing shall be vacated and closed to vehicular traffic. A pedestrian crossing may be maintained at Simms Street.

The letter also stated that the City of Columbia and the City of Centralia would enter into an agreement to cover the project which would need to be approved by both governing bodies.

Mr. Behrns said the City of Centralia had received a \$248,000 grant for the sidewalk/trail project to run alongside the Colt right-of-way from Singleton Street down to Lakeview. The original request from Centralia was to build an eight foot concrete sidewalk on our right of way but has been changed to six feet. Mr. Behrns said in the original agreement one of the conditions from the City of Columbia was that the existing Simms Street highway-rail crossing be vacated and closed to vehicular traffic. He said Centralia would like to leave the crossing open for the time being. They would like to see how the traffic patterns develop after the trail project is finished. The Board discussed the options and felt now might be the better time to close the crossing so the public would not have to keep adapting to traffic pattern changes. Jack Blaylock made a motion that Peter Davis, Kee Groshong, Christian Joahnnmeier and Kraig Kahler form a committee to discuss the terms of the agreement and make a recommendation to Council on whether to close Simms Street to vehicular traffic. "Doc" Wulff made a second to the motion. Motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS: Highway 63 Bridge Crossing Update: Christian said the US 63 Bridge project was advertised for bids on June 8th, with a scheduled bid opening date of July 1st. He had a copy of the bid package. After bids are received and an award recommendation is made, the award will have to be approved by MoDOT. It is expected that A Notice to Proceed would be issued in the first half of August. Christian said the project should be completed by the end of October 2010. He said the delivery of the structural steel would likely determine how long it takes to build the bridge. He said the rail will be out of use for the COLT for up to 10 days.

Dave Sprague, Railroad Operations Supervisor, told the Board about a possible way to create additional revenue for the COLT. He said he has been contacted by several rail companies asking if we had room to store cars. He said in addition to the daily fee there was also a \$75 switching in and out fee. He said the revenue created would, in a short time, pay for the storage track that would need to be built. Peter Davis suggested that staff look into the feasibility of building a storage track.

Tina Worley said there would be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the railroad bridge crossing. The Board will be informed on the date and time when it is determined.

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting is July 9 at 7:30 am.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 a.m.