

**MINUTES OF THE OHIO RAIL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR BIMONTHLY MEETING
SEPTEMBER 14, 2006**

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Ohio Rail Development Commission was called to order by Chairman James Betts at 10:10 a.m.

Members present included: Barbara Bennett, James Hartung, Eric Neff, Larry Sowers, Tom McOwen, Herk Wolfe, Solomon Jackson, Dan Roberts, Howard Wood, Senator Larry Mumper and Chairman Betts.

Members absent included: Senator Hagan and Representatives Stephen Buehrer and Allan Sayre.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JULY MEETING

Chairman Betts asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2006 Commission meeting. Commissioner Wolfe moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner Sowers seconded the motion. The minutes are approved as presented.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

The commissioners adjourned to Executive Session at 10:20 a.m. for the purpose of discussing the replacement of the Executive Director. Roll call was taken with ten votes in the affirmative.

RECONVENE FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session concluded at 10:30 a.m.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - Resolution 06-12

Chairman Betts asked for a motion to approve Resolution 06-12 appointing Matthew Dietrich as Acting Executive Director, Commissioner McOwen moved to approve the motion and Commissioner Sowers seconded. Roll call was taken with ten votes in the affirmative.

FINANCE REPORT

Matthew Dietrich reported that the RRIF loan application was submitted to the FRA. Staff is waiting on financial information from the railroads and staff is finalizing environmental clearance documents to finalize the submission.

Carload Express has declined the \$1 million loan approved at the May commission meeting. The company determined they can move forward with the yard rehabilitation portion without the loan assistance of the Rail Commission. These funds will now be available for other projects.

ORDC's budget submission for fiscal years 2008-2009 is due October 2, 2006 to OBM. A draft copy of the Director's summary of FY 2008-2009 submission was provided to Commissioners for their comment.

As there is no executive director's report, section reports as well as news regarding rail projects have been included in the finance report for the Commissioners' review.

Commissioner Jackson asked what is the general state of the economy in Ohio. Senator Mumper replied that state revenues have been exceeding projections, and from that perspective, things are looking very well.

PROJECTS

Crane Plastics Company, LLC/Vinyl Vision – Approved Project Briefing

Beverly Lee reported Crane Plastics, a subsidiary of Vinyl Vision, has requested a \$80,000 grant. Vinyl Vision plans to move to Mason, Ohio to retain 100 jobs, create 30 new jobs and have up to 125 carloads on the I&O Mason line. Mr. Charles Boster from Crane Plastics was present. Mr. Boster thanked the ORDC for the grant and their assistance in this project.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Brush Cutting and Appraisal/ORDC Disposition of the Glass Rock Branch – Briefing

Mr. Lou Jannazo, ORDC's Chief of Project Development reported that the ORDC sold the line south of Zanesville to New Lexington to the Ohio Southern, but the Glass Rock Branch was not included in that purchase. This 14.8 miles of track remains in ORDC ownership with no apparent use for rail. The line is overgrown with trees. Mr. Jannazo suggested ORDC should clear the corridor to enhance the value, get it appraised and attract rail usage. The briefing outlines the options for this line: Recreational rail use, tourist rail, bike trail or rail banking.

Commissioner McOwen stated he was in favor of the asset preservation of the line.

Recognition for Retirement of Jim Seney

Chairman Betts asked Jim and Dawn Seney to approach the Commission. Chairman Betts formally thanked Mr. Seney, on behalf of the Commission for his work as Executive Director. Chairman Betts then read a Proclamation from the Governors office, congratulating Mr. Seney on his retirement after 38 years of public service at the local and state level.

Senator Larry Mumper read a similar Proclamation from Ohio House of Representatives to recognize Mr. Seney's public service.

Mr. Seney thanked and recognized several individuals, the railroads and FHWA for their assistance during his tenure. Additionally, he thanked staff and the Commissioners for supporting him and letting the Rail Commission do its job to make Ohio railways safer and more efficient and to advance projects like the Ohio Hub rail plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Andrew Bremer read a letter from All Aboard Ohio President Bill Hutchison to Jim Seney to express All Aboard Ohio's gratitude for Mr. Seney's hard work on the Ohio Hub.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Betts adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.