

**MINUTES FROM THE OHIO RAIL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
REGULAR BI-MONTHLY MEETING  
January 16, 2019**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Ohio Rail Development Commission was called to order by Chairman Policinski at 11:01 a.m. on Wednesday, January 16, 2019.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Chairman Mark Policinski, Commissioners Solomon Jackson, Eric Richter, Johann Klein, Thomas Zitter, Mark Johnson, Dean Hempfling, Rachel Near, Bill Lozier and Tony Reams were in attendance. Representative Sheehy was represented. Commissioner Maphet was unable to attend. There were 10 voting members present, therefore a quorum was obtained.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING**

Chairman Policinski asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2018 meeting. Commissioner Reams moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with 10 votes in the affirmative.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director Dietrich presented his report to the Commissioners, which can be found on page 5 of the packet. In addition to what is found in the packet, Mr. Dietrich welcomed the new Directors of Transportation and Development Services and their representatives, Johann Klein and Rachel Near. Additionally, Executive Director Dietrich welcomed Ron Garczewski from FHWA, who was in attendance.

Executive Director Dietrich pointed out the blocked crossing study on the ODOT programmatic, found on page 13, and elaborated on the premise of the study. Additionally, Mr. Dietrich elaborated on the budget submission and the Director's Letter found on page 7. He also discussed the 1-page summary sheet handed out to the Commissioners that covers ORDC budget challenges. In line with the conversation around the budget, ORDC produced and released the new Annual Report, available at the Commissioner's seats and online.

Lastly, Executive Director Dietrich noted some of the new materials ORDC will be using for upcoming outreach efforts.

Commissioner Lozier asked for clarification on the budget process. Executive Director Dietrich explained both the GRF and ODOT-based funding requests have been submitted. Those cover grant and loan funding, as well as operational funding, federal program funding, and any other funds ORDC requires to run its programs. Commissioner Lozier made note of ORDC's need and efforts to flex funding these past two years to maintain funding levels despite budget cuts. He also asked for clarification on the legislative process. Executive Director Dietrich explained the DeWine administration will introduce the budget bill and that will be taken up by legislators and eventually be passed. Commissioner Lozier asked when ORDC and Commissioners can and should advocate for a budget increase. Chairman Policinski advised Commissioners should work with the new administration to tell our story, which is a good one, to advocate for their

support on increasing the ORDC budget and he will provide guidance as we move through the process.

There were no additional questions.

#### FINANCE REPORT

Megan McClory, Secretary-Treasurer, presented the Finance Report to the Commissioners, which can be found on page 15 of the packet. Ms. McClory noted we have 8 loans in repayment, all in good standing, with the Cleveland Commercial Railroad having fully repaid their loan on schedule in December.

There were no questions.

#### RESOLUTION 19-01 – Menard, Inc. Jeffersonville, Ohio

ORDC staff member Tom Burns presented to the Commissioners the briefing on page 26 of the commission packet. Mr. Burns provided the background information found in the packet and introduced Nick Brenner from the company to further discuss the project. Mr. Brenner provided a brief history of the search for a new distribution site in SW Ohio for Menards. He also elaborated on the project as described in the packet. As this site is rail served and will serve as a large transload facility, Menards is looking for grant funding assistance for the rail portion.

Commissioner Johnson asked when they will begin work. Mr. Brenner said they are pushing for a construction start date this spring and being fully operational in 2020. Commissioner Jackson asked for information about the NW Ohio facility and how that affects this project. Mr. Brenner said that location is nearing capacity and jobs and service will not be impacted by this project.

Chairman Policinski asked how far off I-71 the facility will be. Mr. Brenner said approximately 1 mile. Commissioner Zitter asked how many carloads they are expecting. Mr. Brenner estimated 600-1000 carloads that will increase over time.

There were no additional questions.

Commissioner Richter made a motion to approve Resolution 19-01 and Commissioner Johnson seconded it. Roll Call was taken and the resolution was approved as presented with 10 votes in the affirmative.

#### RESOLUTION 19-02 – Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway Crawford Siding

ORDC staff member Tom Burns presented to the Commissioners the briefing on page 31 of the commission packet. Mr. Burns provided the background information found in the packet and introduced Kasey O'Connor from the railroad to further discuss the project. Mr. O'Connor explained the stone business is increasing every year and the capacity and efficiency of operations continues to be a challenge. The line only has one siding and due to multiple bottleneck points they are inefficiently running trains, resulting in empty railcars unable to get to

their customers. This siding will open up operations, allowing the railroad to serve customers despite trains waiting to get into CSX Willard Yard.

Commissioner Zitter asked about the stone runs they are making; are they multiple short runs. Mr. O'Connor said much of the movements are regional, something like 80-100 miles. The Martins Ferry move is a significant portion of stone movements and the railroad anticipates a continued increase of demand. Commissioner Zitter commended the Wheeling on going after these shorter moves and doing well with getting that business from Class I railroads who might not bother with them.

There were no additional questions.

Commissioner Zitter made a motion to approve Resolution 19-02 and Commissioner Reams seconded it. Roll Call was taken and the resolution was approved as presented with 10 votes in the affirmative.

#### PROJECT BRIEFING – Central Maine & Quebec Railway OMAL Yard Connections

ORDC staff member Tom Burns presented to the Commissioners the briefing on page 36 of the commission packet. Mr. Burns provided the background information found in the packet and introduced Ryan Ratledge from the railroad to further discuss the project. Mr. Ratledge explained the operational setup by CMQ with Long Ridge Energy in Omal and opened the discussion for questions.

There were no questions.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Zitter explained the committee received a briefing on the State Rail Plan update, specifically the public comments that were received and how they were addressed in the plan. He noted the federal shutdown is delaying the submission to the FRA and the committee moved to forward the plan to the full Commission for next steps.

Commissioner Zitter made a motion to accept the draft State Rail Plan and allow staff to take the necessary next steps for submission to the appropriate authorities and Commissioner Jackson seconded it. Roll Call was taken and the motion was approved as presented with 10 votes in the affirmative.

There were no questions.

The Administrative Committee attended the Policy Committee to hear the discussion on the state rail plan update.

#### OLD BUSINESS

There is no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

There is no new business.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURN

Chairman Policinski adjourned the meeting at 11:35 am.