

**MINUTES FROM THE OHIO RAIL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR BI-MONTHLY MEETING
MARCH 10, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Scott Corbitt called the meeting of the Ohio Rail Development Commission to order at 11:03 a.m. on Wednesday, March 10, 2021. The meeting was held virtually via GoToWebinar. Chairman Corbitt introduced Jacque Annarino from ODOT's Office of Environmental Services who was present to moderate the meeting. Ms. Annarino provided the Commissioners and members of the public with an overview of instructions on how to participate in the webinar.

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA GOTOWEBINAR

Chairman Corbitt, Commissioners Allen Biehl, Solomon Jackson, Frederick Lampe, Bill Lozier, Director Jack Marchbanks (ODOT), Jonathan Gormley (DSA), Eric Richter, and Tom Zitter were present via GoToWebinar. Roll call was taken. There were nine voting members present, therefore a quorum was obtained. Commissioner Bobby Dinkins joined the meeting immediately following the approval of the January 20, 2021 meeting minutes. Senator Vernon Sykes was also in attendance.

Commissioner Bill Canady was unable to attend. Representative Jim Hoops, Representative Michael Sheehy and Senator Bill Reineke were also unable to attend.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY MEETING

Chairman Corbitt asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Richter moved to approve the motion and Director Marchbanks seconded. Roll call was taken. The minutes of the January 20, 2021 Commission meeting were approved with eight votes in the affirmative; Commissioner Lampe recused.

WELCOME TO NEW COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Corbitt welcomed two new commissioners, William Canady and Frederick Lampe, who were both appointed by Governor DeWine earlier in the week. Commissioner Canady will represent the interests of manufacturers and Commissioner Lampe will represent the interests of organized labor.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Dietrich presented his report to the Commissioners, which can be found on pages 9 and 10 of the Commission packet. Executive Director Dietrich welcomed newly appointed Senator Bill Reineke who was also recently appointed to the Commission by Senate President Matt Huffman. Executive Director Dietrich reported he met with Senator Reineke and stated we look forward to working with him on the Commission.

Executive Director Dietrich reported the budget has been the focus for staff over the past several weeks. He reported Chairman Corbitt did an outstanding job testifying before the House. Executive Director Dietrich also thanked the commissioners who volunteered to meet with legislative members on ORDC's behalf, noting that we are aware the role of Commissioner is a

volunteer position and the efforts made to speak to the General Assembly members on our behalf are very much appreciated.

Executive Director Dietrich reported an offer has been made, and the candidate has accepted, for the Grade Crossing Safety Manager position. Due to the candidate needing to notify their current employer, Executive Director Dietrich reported he is not able to name the final candidate but will make formal introductions at the May Commission meeting.

There has been a lot of movement at the national level with the proposed transportation bill, as well as with the new Administration. Executive Director Dietrich reported he has had the opportunity to take part in a lot of the AASHTO meetings with legislative members and staff with regard to issues affecting railroads and Ohio's programs. He stated his focus is on the Grade Crossing Safety Program's Section 130 funds. AASHTO Policies are asking for three things: 1) to codify that obsolete warning devices are eligible for Section 130 programs; 2) to raise what we can provide to communities for grade crossing closures up from \$7500 to \$100,000 with a 1:1 match. That \$7500, he stated, was put into federal code by Governor DeWine when the Governor was in the U.S. Senate. Lastly, Executive Director Dietrich reported, is a change to federal eligibility from 90 percent to 100 percent of grade crossing safety funds. This change will match with the rest of the FHWA-administered highway safety fund programming.

Executive Director Dietrich thanked the Commissioners for the comments he has received on our meeting packets. For clarification, he stated that transload projects are treated more like intermodal or rail yard projects when staff evaluates them for assistance. This is as opposed to a company that is making a direct investment and has job creation. Executive Director Dietrich reported these projects are a little bit more challenging for staff as the impacts are different from traditional projects and require a different evaluation method.

Chairman Corbitt asked if there were any questions for Executive Director Dietrich. There were no questions asked.

FINANCE REPORT

Secretary-Treasurer Megan McClory presented the Finance Report to the Commissioners. The report can be found on page 11 of the commission packet. Secretary-Treasurer McClory reported as we approach the final quarter of the year staff expects to have full utilization of the funds available for both the Development and Grade Crossing Safety programs.

Secretary-Treasurer McClory stated a freeze on discretionary spending and budget controls remains as does the statewide limitation on hiring.

Finally, Secretary-Treasurer McClory reported staff will continue to monitor the '22/'23 budget process as it develops.

RESOLUTION 21-04 – Mountaineer Products, Inc. dba MPR Supply Chain

ORDC staff member Tom Burns presented Resolution 21-04 to the Commissioners. Mr. Burns reported the briefing and related information can be found on page 21 of the commission packet. Mr. Burns stated this project was brought to the ORDC from JobsOhio and introduced Natalie Brown, President of MPR Supply Chain, who was present to report on the project.

Ms. Brown reported the company is primarily a transloading facility with barging operations but they have successfully partnered with Wheeling and Lake Erie Railway on projects in the past. She stated the company recently purchased 50 acres of property in Belmont County which has rail frontage served by both Wheeling and Lake Erie Railway and Norfolk Southern and the company sees this as an opportunity to expand its offering of services. The intent of this project is to construct a rail spur to hold a unit train on the property for transloading of several different commodities.

Ms. Brown reported the company plans to complete this project by mid-2022.

Commissioner Jackson reported he did not realize this project could potentially be NS-served and therefore recused himself from discussion of the MPR project at 11:21 a.m.

Chairman Corbitt asked for a motion to approve Resolution 21-04. Commissioner Marchbanks moved to approve the motion and Commissioner Biehl seconded the motion.

Chairman Corbitt asked if anyone had additional questions. There were no further questions. Roll call was taken with eight votes in the affirmative, one recused. Resolution 21-04 is approved.

Note: Commissioner Zitter lost audio during this portion of the meeting. Commissioner Zitter could hear the projects as they were presented but his vote could not be recorded. Commissioner Zitter provided ORDC written documentation of his votes on the projects.

Commissioner Jackson returned to the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

RESOLUTION 21-05 – NGL Supply Company, dba Sycamore Terminal Company

ORDC staff member Tom Burns presented Resolution 21-05 to the Commissioners. Mr. Burns reported the briefing and related information can be found on page 26 of the commission packet. Mr. Burns stated this project was brought to the ORDC by Greg Moon, Executive Director, Wyandot County Office of Economic Development, and he introduced Webster Mundy, President, and John Blyzniuk, VP, Engineering Services, who were present to report on their project.

Mr. Mundy reported NGL Supply will construct a new wholesale facility in Sycamore, Ohio. He stated the company plans to bring reliable, economical propane supply to the area with the assistance from ORDC and Wheeling and Lake Railway.

John Blyzniuk provided additional details of their project and stated the company will be able to store twelve railcars on-site and trucks will not have to line up for loading as they will have two

truck loading stations with state-of-the-art loading capability. The facility will have controlled access and automated fuel management at the site. Mr. Blyzniuk stated this facility will meet the highest standards in safety and reported one of the company's core values is to be a good corporate citizen so the company will utilize local contractors as much as possible. The company plans to invest approximately \$5.5 million in this facility with the hope to achieve 1000 rail cars per year which should improve rates for other area companies as a result.

Chairman Corbitt asked if anyone had additional questions or comments. Commissioner Marchbanks commented that he recently heard Ohio is third in trade with Alberta after Ontario and Quebec and stated he is happy to see more trade coming to the Buckeye state from Alberta. There were no further comments.

Chairman Corbitt asked for a motion to approve Resolution 21-05. Commissioner Biehl moved to approve the motion and Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with nine votes in the affirmative. Resolution 21-05 is approved.

PROJECT BRIEFING – Trucent Renewable Chemicals

ORDC staff member Tom Burns introduced the Trucent Renewable Chemicals project which can be found on page 31 of the meeting packet. Mr. Burns reported staff worked with RGP in Toledo, specifically Andy Lorenz, on this project.

Mr. Burns introduced James Bleyer, Director of Trucent Renewable Chemicals, who was present to discuss the project. Mr. Bleyer stated he appreciated the opportunity to present their project to the Commission. He reported this is a result of a greater than yearlong search for a facility and the company is happy to be locating in Van Wert, Ohio. Mr. Bleyer gave a brief history on the company of how the founder saw an opportunity to clean up industrial fluids and recycle/repurpose the fluids for other uses. The company now has expanded with a new technology of extracting oils and will utilize this new technology at its Van Wert facility. He reported the company will partner with local farmers and growers in this endeavor. The company plans to distribute to several areas of the country including Florida and Texas and will invest approximately \$15 million at the Van Wert site as well as create 21 new positions. They plan to use 10-12 railcars per month once the facility is operational.

Chairman Corbitt asked if there were any questions for Mr. Bleyer. There were none.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The committees did not meet so there are no reports.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Corbitt reported there was one item for Old Business that Executive Director would provide the briefing for; Resolution 20-06 – Ohio Department of Transportation Conservation Easement.

Executive Director Dietrich reported Resolution 20-06's purpose was to erect gates on Tunnel 8 located on Panhandle Rail property to preserve bat hibernacula. There were conflicts with this easement at that time so the Resolution was tabled. Since then, ODOT has found suitable habitat for its preservation efforts with the bats and has submitted a request to withdraw the Resolution from consideration. In working with counsel, Executive Director Dietrich reported it was his understanding that no formal action is required by the Commission other than notification to the Commissioners of recent events.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Jackson asked to make a comment about the briefings that are provided by the staff for the commission packets. Commissioner Jackson stated the briefings and write-ups are well-written and stated that all his questions are answered as he is reviewing the information. Commissioner Jackson stated he is very appreciative of the level of detail provided as well as the location maps identifying the projects.

Chairman Corbitt echoed Commissioner Jackson's comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Corbitt requested Jacque Annarino remind the attendees of the meeting of how to ask questions. Ms. Annarino reviewed the instructions.

Ms. Annarino stated there was one question in the chat about resolutions that cities are passing in support of rail expansion and inquired whether ORDC has seen any of those resolutions. Executive Director Dietrich responded that staff has not seen any of the resolutions.

Webster Mundy, President of Sycamore Terminal, thanked the Commissioners again for their time and stated the company is excited to get started on their project.

Ms. Annarino reiterated how to contact ORDC (via email to Wende Jourdan) should there be any questions after the meeting adjourns.

ADJOURN

Chairman Corbitt adjourned the meeting of the Ohio Rail Development Commission at 11:43 a.m.