



ProRail Nebraska News

Volume XVIII

March 2009

ProRail Nebraska Membership Meeting Scheduled May 2

The session, which also is our organization's annual meeting, will be held at the Ashland Country Club (see directions to get there at bottom of page) on May 2. Coffee and breakfast baked items will be available at 9 a.m., (no charge to attendees), and the meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m.

There is no registration fee (no room charge to our organization), the charge for a cafeteria style luncheon is \$10, which can be given to treasurer Ralph Hayden upon arrival at the meeting. Because of the anticipated arrival of the featured speaker around noon, lunch break will begin at 1 p.m., with the meeting over by 2 p.m.

The number of meeting attendees must be reported to the Country Club on April 29. If you plan to attend, please e-mail or call one of the following PRN board members: Ralph Hayden, Lincoln, rmhayden@windstream.net Phone: (402) 489-9229, or Clyde Anderson, ClydeLAnderson@Cox.net Phone: (402) 932-7225, Omaha.

Regarding the annual business meeting: the following slate of officers (all incumbents) will be presented for formal action: President—Dave Purdy; Treasurer—Ralph Hayden; Directors: District #1 – Robert Kuzelka of Lincoln; District 3 – Roger Clark, Grand Island. Nominations for other individuals may be made from the floor, if they are willing to serve.

Also, at the date of the annual meeting, ProRail Nebraska yearly dues expire. For those to whom this applies, please bring your check to pay the treasurer \$20 for 2009-2010.

The featured speaker is **Laura Kliewer**, Director of Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission, a component of the Council of State Governments. Nebraska sends delegates to MIPRC meetings.

Other scheduled presentations:

---Nebraska Initiative Zone Commission, by **Kathy McKillip**, presentation on the Lincoln/Omaha Corridor.

---Discussion regarding the establishment of a Kansas City/Omaha/Lincoln passenger rail route, in cooperation with passenger rail advocates in Missouri and Kansas, **Ray Lineweber**.

---Board member **Bob Kuzelka** will attend the NARP Region 10 meeting in Cheyenne, Wyo., and will send a written report to the PRN meeting. At the Cheyenne meeting, the possibility of restoring **Pioneer** rail passenger service to the Pacific Northwest will be discussed.

---Board members **Roger Clark** of Grand Island and **Dan Lutz** of Lincoln, will have attended the Natl. Assn. of Railroad Passengers (NARP) annual meeting in Washington, D.C. in mid-April. One or both will report on significant developments at the meeting.

---The board endorsed support by ProRail Nebraska of Earth Day events in Omaha April 18, Lincoln, April 19 and event sponsored by UNL on April 24. Presence of PRN representatives at these events would help to make citizens aware of the energy efficiencies of passenger rail travel.

10:30 a.m. **Kathy McKillip**, Executive Director, Nebraska Innovative Zone Commission, will describe its activities, including Phase I Study—NIZC Regional Comprehensive Plan. She will emphasize transportation aspects of the plan, including references to proposed Omaha-Lincoln commuter rail service—a longtime goal of ProRail Nebraska.

10:50 a.m. **John Pesce** (not mentioned in front page story), Vice President-Development for the Seldin Co. (real estate and development), will discuss plans for the Seven Hills I-80 Development Park (located near the proposed Pflug Road/I-80 interchange). He will reveal that this development plan shows a “future commuter rail station,” just east of the proposed development on Highway 6.

11:20 a.m. **Laura Kliewer**, Director, Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission (MIPRC), will discuss the organization’s recent activities related to the federal Stimulus package. She also will offer an update on likely federal dollars for passenger rail studies, such as the Kansas City-St. Joseph, Mo.-Omaha-Lincoln route, strongly supported by ProRail Nebraska. Her presentation will be followed at 12:20 p.m. with discussion of the K.C. St. Joe-Omaha-Lincoln concept.

Directions to reach Ashland Country Club, 16119 Highway 6

If you choose to drive from either Lincoln or Omaha on Highway 6, the venue is located 1 ¾ miles west of Ashland of four miles east of Greenwood.

Via Interstate 80: from Omaha, head west, Exit 420 and go north (right) on Highway 63 for three miles, on Highway 6, turn southwest (left), and proceed 7/10 of a mile.

From Lincoln: Take I-80 east, Exit 420 and go north (left), on State Highway 63 for three miles, on Highway 6, turn southwest (left), and go 7/10 of a mile.

As you can see, there are a multitude of important issues on the meeting agenda. Make every effort to attend and invite guests who need to know more about the need for additional rail passenger service!