

Rail Service Competition Council  
Ports/Intermodal Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

July 17, 2014

11:00-11:30 a.m.

**Attendees**

Chairman Walt Ainsworth

Representative Ryan Lynch

Kathy Fasso, Port of Montana

Chris Dorrington, MDT

Diane Myers, MDT

Melissa Lewis, RSCC Administrator

**Excused**

John Rogers, Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED)

Dan Lloyd, GOED

Andy Shirliff, GOED

**Meeting Summary**

The RSCC Ports/Intermodal Subcommittee (1) discussed the July 14 meeting at the Port of Montana in Butte and (2) determined action items related to the Montana World Trade Center (MWTC) report presented at the June 11 RSCC meeting.

(1) July 14 Port of Montana Meeting

The original intent of the meeting in Butte was to discuss opportunities through the Port of Montana and connect some type of freight movement. Russ Hobbs indicated he would like to see a case study, although one has not materialized yet.

*Port Strengths*

The Port does a good job of taking advantage of opportunities that come along. The Port can accommodate various load types and quantities and can meet sub unit train volumes and satisfy handling requirements.

*Port Opportunities*

The Port would benefit from a more robust truck to train connection, a "tool kit" to link producers with relevant parties and regional resources, a case study, and an improved shippers' voice or the development of a Montana Shippers' Association.

The principal challenge facing the Port of Montana is the requirement of 250 containers per train per week noted in the MWTC report. An improved Montana shippers' voice or the establishment of a Montana Shippers' Association could help Montana ports meet such volume requirements. Shippers Associations are a means by which shippers can obtain economies of scale by pooling their volumes. Mature freight states have Shippers' Associations to help make domestic and international arrangements for the movement of members' cargo.

GOED will look into the possibility of having a "tool kit" developed for shippers. It would link shippers/producers with key parties and resources. It could include contact information for trucking companies, rail service providers and port facilities. It is possible that the tool kit could be developed by the RSCC or an RSCC Subcommittee and maintained by GOED.

Kathy Fasso accepted an action item to review the MWTC synthesis and the base report that Nicole Miller developed to assess the data and identify potential opportunities for the Port to pursue. Kathy will review the synthesis and the report to see what is being moved and how it is being moved, to see if it is possible to piece together enough volume to support a weekly container train.

(2) Action Items

- o Kathy Fasso will review the Montana World Trade Center report and assess the data to determine if opportunities exist for the Port to pursue
- o Walt Ainsworth will contact Russ Hobbs to discuss the possibility of consolidating the Ports/Intermodal Subcommittee and the Economic Development Subcommittee since they are on a parallel course
- o Russ Hobbs will research relevant case studies for the Port of Montana
- o Chris Dorrington will identify example Shipper Association models

**Next Meeting**

Chairman Walt Ainsworth noted his Subcommittee may meet once more prior to the September 18 RSCC meeting in Shelby.

**Contact**

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