

EO-2020



AB-1107X: Proposed Rail Line Abandonment
David Navecky to: boomerazo

01/16/2013 09:25 AM

Ms. Christenson:

I'm following up on our phone conversation yesterday concerning the proposed rail line abandonment in Van Buren County, MI. Here are some resources you may find useful:

The contact for the railroad is:

Daniel A Lakemper
General Counsel
West Michigan Railroad Co.
1318 S. Johanson Road
Peoria, IL 61607
(no phone number provided)

The attorneys representing the railroad before the Surface Transportation Board are:

William Mullen
Robert Wimbush
Baker & Miller PLLC
2401 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20037
202-663-7823

The following link will take you to a full copy of the railroad's request to abandon the subject rail line:

[http://www.stb.dot.gov/filings/all.nsf/ba7f93537688b8e5852573210004b318/da96bb0b1c9f318985257aed006fde53/\\$FILE/233657.PDF](http://www.stb.dot.gov/filings/all.nsf/ba7f93537688b8e5852573210004b318/da96bb0b1c9f318985257aed006fde53/$FILE/233657.PDF)

The following link will take to a page on our website that provides additional explanation of the Trails Act process:

http://www.stb.dot.gov/stb/public/resources_railtrails.html

I have also attached a letter from the party that is expressing an interest in potential trails use.

I don't have an email address for Tracy Wilson. Please feel free to forward this email to her.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Thanks,

Dave Navecky
Environmental Protection Specialist
202-245-0294



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FRIENDS OF THE KAL-HAVEN TRAIL
P.O. Box 156
Lawrence, MI 49064



January 4, 2013

William A. Mullins
BAKER & MILLER PLLC
Pennsylvania Ave. N.W. #300
Washington, DC 20037

Surface Transportation Board
395 East Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

West Michigan Railroad Company
1318 South Johanson Road
Peoria, Illinois 61607

Re: Notice of Intent to Abandon Rail Service STB Docket No. AB-1107X

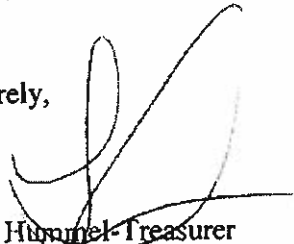
Mr. William A. Mullins,

The Friends of the Kal-Haven Trail are a 501(c) 3 organization that serves to ensure that the Kal-Haven and Van Buren rail trails are trails that can be used for the enjoyment by the public.

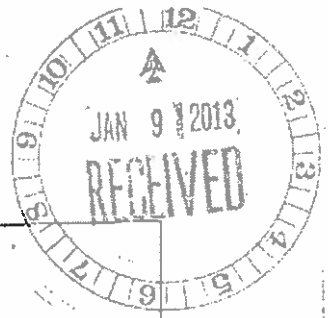
The Friends were made aware of the Notice of Intent to Abandon 10.67 miles of rail line located in Van Buren County, MI extending from milepost 19.88 to milepost 30.55. The Friends along with representatives from the Van Buren County Road Commission, Van Buren County Office of Economic Development, Village of Paw Paw, Village of Lawrence, Lawrence Township, the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study, and the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission are interested in reviewing this potential reutilization of the corridor for public use, with one option being a new rail trail in southwest Michigan. Formal support resolutions will be gathered over the next several weeks to show formal support of this concept.

This connection could provide an opportunity for southwest Michigan to add to the existing trail system in Michigan and provide a needed West to East connect in Van Buren County.

Sincerely,


Larry Hummel-Treasurer
Friends of the Kal-Haven Trail

Enclosure: Village of Paw Paw support letter



Village of Paw Paw

Larry Nielsen, Village Manager

111 East Michigan Avenue, PO Box 179; Paw Paw, MI 49079

Phone: 269-657-3148 // Fax: 269-657-7544

Website: <http://www.pawpaw.net> // Email: l.nielsen@pawpaw.net

January 4, 2013

Mr. Ronald Stolk, Vice-President
Friends of Kal-Haven Trail
PO Box 156
Lawrence, MI 49064

Mr. Larry Hummel, Engineer/Manager
Van Buren County Road Commission
PO Box 156
Lawrence, MI 49064

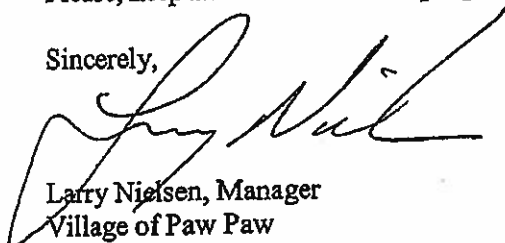
Dear Mr. Stolk and Mr. Hummel,

I write on behalf of the Village of Paw Paw and its sub-entities in support of the concept to develop the 10.67 miles of the WMI railroad right-of-way as a trail. This includes the Village Council, Planning Commission, Downtown Development Authority, Economic Development Committee and the Parks and Recreation Committee.

The abandonment of the railroad presents a unique opportunity to develop the right-of-way as a trail. This opportunity fits very nicely with the Village's 2010 Master Plan, the Downtown Development Authority's development plan, and a recent community visioning plan developed with in conjunction with the EPA's Technical Assistance for Brownfields program. The east end of this trail would be in our DDA district and close to our commercial strip and downtown. The trail would have a great trailhead right in the heart of Paw Paw. The potential for this trail is great.

Please, keep me informed of the progress in pursuit of this concept.

Sincerely,



Larry Nielsen, Manager
Village of Paw Paw