

**Feather River Rail Society  
Board of Directors Meeting – June 6, 2020 – 1:00 PM  
Conference Call due to COVID-19 Shelter Protocols**

President Greg Elems called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM. All attendance by phone.

**Attendance**

**The following Directors were present:**

Kerry Cochran	Charlie Spikes	Janet Steeper – arrived 2:25P
Bob Sims	Greg Elems	
Steve Habeck	Eugene Vicknair	

6 directors present at meeting start – Quorum achieved.

**Guests present:**

Matt Shuman – Election Committee  
Debbie Shuman – Election Committee  
Ann Morningstar – Election Committee  
Bil Jackson  
Frank Brehm

Guests of honor – Rod McClure, John Buberniak, Ron Huey, Eric Stephens

**Correspondence**

- *Habeck* – Donation of Headlight Magazines received.
- *Vicknair* – We received a couple 5 star reviews online, even with lock down closure.

**Consent Calendar**

Approval of the minutes of the May 2020 Regular Meeting.

Noted that Ann Cary's name was corrected in the minutes.

Motion 20-06-01

Approve the minutes of the May 2020 Regular Meeting as corrected.

Vicknair / Spikes. Aye – 6, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion carries.

**Old Business**

**Event Changes / Delays Due to COVID-19**

Review upcoming events and revise calendar, including crew training.

- Discussion about current status of Plumas County entering Stage 2 COVID protocols.
- Supplemental information provided.
- Board received checklist on COVID planning.
- Plumas County has released notice that Stage 3 will start on June 12, 2020.
- Washoe County has been experiencing a spike and a lot of Washoe folks are coming into Plumas County. Estimated half of vehicles around community have Nevada plates. They are heading to the lakes, towns and fishing spots. This brings concerns that Plumas County may start seeing cases again.
- Kerry Cochran sent our Word doc with reopening plan. Recommending we need to modify it. Noted that we need to have a plan in place before we can reopen. The plan needs to be readily available to be presented to county if requested.
- Concerns about issues with reopening RAL and Museum Store. Currently we do not plan on opening.

- Cannot find PPE and disinfecting agents yet. Still having problems getting toilet paper.
- Discussion about having RAL and visits by appointment when we reopen. Discussion about how to handle time cycling, sanitizing, etc.
- Eugene Vicknair suggested that we start putting plan in place for how to handle allowing people on the property and keeping things clean.
- Charlie Spikes asked if we should even open this year. Should we consider just staying closed.
- Steve Habeck noted that due to lack of visitors, utilities and running costs have been half or lower.
- Frank Brehm has noticed in Sacramento that almost every store has one of those plastic dividers to protect store personnel. Noted that all our RAL engineers are in "At Risk" category. Noted that we cannot get a shield into RAL locomotive cab.
- Greg Elems agreed and discussed issues with cab size and RAL safety.
- Eugene Vicknair and Steve Habeck discussed that RAL locomotive cabs cannot be set up to maintain 6 ft distance.
- Reported that Bil Jackson has been discussing RAL concerns with Loren Ross.
- Greg Elems expressed opinion that this may be a lost season. Agreed with Frank's concern about having shield between RAL engineer / instructor and operator.
- Eugene Vicknair expressed concerns about maintaining distances in RAL and caboose trains.
- Charlie Spikes recommends that we declare this season closed.
- Ann Morningstar noted that family groups can isolate together. Expressed opinion that museum right now is probably safe. Directors noted that concern is someone coming in from outside region that are carrying infections.

#### Motion 20-06-02

Declare that museum public season is closed through Labor Day 2020, barring any change in circumstances with virus situation. Specific visits by groups will be handled on case by case basis.

Cochran / Spikes. Aye – 6, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion carries.

- Charlie Spikes noted that next year we should have a major advertising push for 2021 season.
- Greg Elems said we need to continue posting work and progress that is in motion even though we are closed to the public. Post things on Facebook and other locations.

### **New Business**

#### **Mail Out Fundraiser**

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Review fundraising mailer and proposal.

- Written report and samples provided.
- Eugene Vicknair summarized fundraiser.
- Greg Elems asked if we can hold off on timing, maybe do closer to Labor Day.
- Steve Habeck mentioned that with businesses closed, may be bad time to send. May not need to wait until Labor Day, but may need to wait a little while.
- Kerry Cochran suggested we get everything prepped and ready to go and make decision at July meeting.
- Consensus direction for Eugene to proceed with set up and final go / no go at July meeting.

#### **SBA Disaster Assistance Loan**

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Review terms and proposal for approved loan.

- Written report provided.
- Kerry Cochran feels this is an opportunity that we should not overlook. Noted that Eugene is suggesting we set a large of the amount of money aside to cover repayment and winter shutdown. Feels we may shoot ourselves in the foot if we do not accept.
- Steve Habeck has concerns about making payments, but feels it may be a benefit to us.
- Greg Elems agrees with setting sizable chunk aside for repayment.

#### Motion 20-06-03

Accept the full amount of \$107,300 offered by SBA. Pay off Plumas Loan as outlined and set aside \$45,000 in account for repayment. Plans for balance to be determined at July meeting as per report recommendation. Cochran / Vicknair. Aye – 6, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion carries.

- Bob Sims has concerns. Noted that we have \$70,000 in Plumas Bank account. Concerned that we may overspend and not have money to cover expenses and bills. Thinks we may need this money to survive into next season and feels that we should set off more than \$45,000.
- Directors agree this needs to be considered. Eugene noted that this is why spending decision will be made in July so we have time to consider options.

#### Motion 20-06-04

Authorize Eugene Vicknair to complete loan application with SBA on behalf of FRRS. Cochran / Habeck. Aye – 5, Nay – 0, Abstain – 1. Motion carries. Vicknair abstains.

### **Good of the Order**

#### **President's Report**

- Written report provided.
- Kerry Cochran offers thanks to David and Serena Dodds and their family for bringing donated Strapac books to museum, helping with inventory and doing a lot of cleaning.

#### **Financial Reports**

- Reports provided.
- Bob Sims still planning to put out spreadsheet on Convention budget for audit with Susan. Eugene will take that and work with Susan.

#### **Director's Reports**

- *Vicknair* – written report provided.
  - Discussed some advanced fundraising discussions being held with our government offices.
  - Bob Sims asked about listing Strapac book on eBay. Eugene planning to work on getting part of on-line store reopened.
  - Greg Elems noted that we had discussed using them as donation gifts. Discussion around appropriate donation levels.
  - Steve Habeck expressed concerns about having “the usual” volunteers at the museum handling mailing of gifts. Discussion about using resources outside the usual volunteers. Bob Sims offered to handle mailing of the books.

Janet Steeper joined meeting at 2:25 PM

- Eugene Vicknair asked about how to set up levels.
  - Kerry Cochran suggested \$200 for Strapac book, \$100 for Norm's My WP Book, \$50 for Track Chart.
  - Ann Morningstar suggested \$500 for all. Eugene noted that we have 22 copies of WP Final Decade in stock. Steve said that some may be autographed and will check that.
  - Eugene, Steve, Greg and Bob will coordinate this off-line before Bob heads home later in week.
- *Habeck* – written report provided.
    - Lot of delays getting new battery for electric forklift. Hoping to have it end of next week.
    - Thanks to Roger Stabler and steam crew they got the Yale forklift back in service.
    - Susan Scarlett is to be congratulated. Thanks to her we saved some money on caboose fire payment. She saw that we only needed to pay fire department a \$5,000 deductible out of the money we received from the insurance company.

- Kerry Cochran asked who reoriented webcam. David Elems used the telehandler to reorient the camera with help from Ethan Doty, as well as replacing LED lights in shop and removing damaged flagpoles. Steve noted that camera mounting bracket is on its last legs.
- Kerry has additional brackets to replace damaged ones. Eugene Vicknair asked if we can easily add 3<sup>rd</sup> camera pointing north at same location. Kerry noted that he has material to add several cameras.
- Steve is going to suggest ordering fuel with SBA loan proceeds. About \$2.40 a gallon right now. Tank car holds 10,000 gallons.
- Cecelia Reynolds wants to help with fundraising and retreats. Lives in Rock House at Keddie. Asked for info on bridges being built.
- Discussion about phone lines. Main phone line is completely out. We must have the system rewired. Kerry is 99% certain issues are inside the building.
- Steve just received call. Eric McKay is in town and has some stuff he wanted to drop off with us. Asked for someone to call and let him in the gate.

### Event Reports

- *Historical Convention*
  - Native American casinos cleared to reopen. Expecting to hear from Casino soon. Have calls in.
  - Received email from Casino during the meeting asking if dates Sept 17-19, 2020 still works for rescheduled convention. Greg and Kerry will check with speaker and presenters to see if those dates work for them.

### Department Reports

- *General Superintendent* – written report provided.
- *Historical / Archives* – written report provided.
- *Webmaster* – written report provided.
- *Train Sheet* – written report provided.
- *Funding* – written report provided.
  - Discussion about Payroll Protection Program.
- *Mechanical* – written report provided.

### Committee Reports

- *Election 2020* – written report provided. Announce election results.
  - Had 281 envelopes received with 328 ballots received that qualified. 2 received after deadline. 13 spoiled ballots.
  - Results: Greg Elems – 319 votes, Charlie Spikes – 319 votes, David Epling received 42 votes, Kerry Cochran received 301 votes. 3 write-ins: Craig Simmons, Debbie Baer and James Mason. Incumbents are re-elected.
  - Results have been emailed to Secretary Eugene Vicknair by the committee. Including evidence that personal protection measures were followed.
  - The Board thanks the Election Committee and Bart Hansen for getting the count done under these conditions.
  - Matt Shuman will box up materials and keep secure until it can be handed off to the Secretary.

### Legal / Insurance Report

none

### Status of Surplus Property Report

none

### Safety Report

- Written report provided.

### Public Comments

- *Bob Sims* – Assuming we all get vaccinated over the winter, suggested that Board schedule a Board Meeting Retreat at the Rock House in spring 2021.

**Notices**

none

**Closed Session**

none

**Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at: 3:56 PM (Vicknair / Cochran)

Next Meeting: June 6, 2020 – 4:30 PM

Location: Conference Call – COVID-19 Protocols

Respectfully Submitted, Eugene Vicknair – FRRS Secretary

PRELIMINARY