

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

February 2022

Not a lot got done at the museum this last month. Between getting exposed to Covid-19 and weather being so cold, trips to the museum were minimal since the last board meeting. I did test negative, as did my wife. So with warm weather and feeling better I've made a few trips to the museum this last week. Ice melting has caused some major puddling in the shop and north side. We're still dealing with ice and snow in the shady areas. Doing a drive around and inspection from the roads it looks like the local trespassers haven't been around. This year a concerted effort to get the fencing finished needs to happen.

This last month has seen progress on the Western Pacific Historical Convention. Clinics and banquet speaker has been taken care of. We are tying up details on what else will be part of the convention, see the convention report for details. As of now, Nevada has relaxed the mandates related to Covid-19 and we are planning on moving forward. I hope to see you there.

On the equipment side, Fritz has been working on Big White the forklift as time permits. Between all the snow removal and water clean up, mechanical projects have taken a back seat.

We were informed that the Central California Traction GP18 may be available. It is now owned privately and a discussion is on going on that unit. David Epling let me know the status on that engine had changed. It would be a nice addition to the roster, since we have the CCT caboose #24. At the moment the issue with it is a wheel set needs to be changed before it can travel. The California Air Resources Board has stated that it cannot work in revenue service in the state of CA. We're not sure about how that would play out as a museum piece. As I understand it, it could operate on the caboose train and in RAL service since we are classified as non revenue operations.

Also we were contacted by a gentleman in Indiana with a 1910 Pullman coach that was on the WP at the start of the railroad. He and his partner are getting up in age and were wondering if we were interested in it. They asked that we inspect it, beyond what the pictures they provided. So we're in the process of working up a list of truckers for pricing a move. Director Vicknair will be able to inspect it later this month during a business trip he is taking to Chicago.

So, as I stated in my last report, WP and WP related equipment is becoming available. Some will have to be purchased and all will have to have transportation paid for. Sadly decisions will have to be made on this that won't be popular. I don't want to turn down items that add to our collection for the telling of the WP story, but we can't save it all. We have ongoing projects that need to be taken care of to protect what we already have, i.e. the fence project.

Bottom line, budget limitations will be a key factor again this year.

Greg Elems
FRRS/WPRM President