

**Feather River Rail Society  
Board of Directors Meeting – January 14, 2023 – 1:00 PM  
Western Pacific Railroad Museum Meeting Room – WPRM, Portola, CA**

President Greg Elems called the meeting to order at 13:26.

**Attendance**

**The following Directors were present:**

Bob Sims - phone  
Greg Elems  
Steve Habeck

Kerry Cochran - phone  
Charlie Spikes - phone  
Matt Elems

Eugene Vicknair – phone  
Roger Stabler = phone

8 directors present at meeting start – Quorum achieved.

**Visitors:**

Bart Hansen – Treasurer – phone  
Matt Shuman – Election Chair - ph  
David Elems – Asst. CMO, Safety Officer  
Armando Epifani – phone

**Correspondence**

*Habeck*

- Letter from Liberty Energy that they are going to start tree-trimming around our lines.
- \$116.84 donation for Q3 2022 from Amazon Smile.
- About 35 donations from mail out fundraiser. Nothing large.
- Last month's electric bill was over \$2,000. Covers all but last night of Santa Train. Rates going up and we were using a lot of heaters during Santa Train.

*Cochran*

- We received some emails concerning equipment for a possible rebuilding of McCloud River Railway.

*G. Elems*

- We received an email that Tony Azevedo of Double-T ranch has some spare passenger car parts.

**Consent Calendar**

- Minutes – Minutes of the December 2022 BOD Regular Meeting.

Motion 23-01-01

Approve the December 2022 BOD Regular Meeting Minutes  
Cochran / Spikes. Aye – 7, Nay – 0, Abstain – 1. Motion carries.

Bob Sims made comment about revisiting the budget. We will get that on meeting February 2023.

Bart Hansen and Eugene Vicknair will review budget later this month.

**Request to move items earlier in agenda.**

- Election Committee Report
- New Business 3 – Private Locomotive

Consensus given.

## **Old Business**

### **2023 Caboose Trains**

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Discuss plans for 2023 Caboose Trains.

- Written information and reports provided.
- Additional info sent.
- Would like direction from Board so we can advertise things and get schedule nailed down.
- Heard from three people in response to eblast asking for crew sign up. Everyone who message was sent to opened the message, but only 3 have responded so far.
- Roger suggested we send to general membership and request more volunteers.
- Roger wants to keep the same schedule and run as planned.
- Eugene agrees.
- Greg asked about his suggestion about Sunday operations. Suggestion that we put on website operations are subject to crew availability. Stated that some Sundays no one wants to ride and we don't fire up locomotive.
- Consensus is to continue with normal caboose schedule.

## **New Business**

### **2022 Operating Department Report**

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Review 2022 report from the Operating Department.

- Written report provided.
- Report shows total operating
- Some pages of report missing, will be sent later.

### **Kalmbach Advertising**

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Review Kalmbach magazine advertising purchase.

- We have committed to Kalmbach Classic Trains ad buy for Spring issue. Wants to know if Board approves commitment for Summer and Fall 2023 and June-October Trains Magazine ad buy.
- Classic Trains ad buy is about \$869. Get discount if we pay immediately. Trains Magazine is about \$250 for 5 months.
- Electronic email blast to Kalmbach email list. Greg does not have cost. This would go to advertisers and magazine subscribers. We turned down in past due to COVID.
- Would be charged under budget item.
- No changes to ad aside from date alteration.
- Consensus direction given to proceed as outlined.

### **WPRM Use of Private Locomotive**

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Offer from member to allow WPRM to use small locomotive.

- Written report provided.
- Moved up in agenda.
- Owns a caboose at museum, SP 1060.
- Has been looking for small, 2 axle switching locomotive.

- Found one in Petaluma at a disbanding museum. Looking to put together a new organization to preserve Petaluma and Santa Rosa trestle.
- This group has a nice, running GE 25 tonner for sale.
- Wanted to find something to own and put on loan to WPRM for use by the museum.
- Museum has interest in having something we can run in winter using anti-freeze, small loco to run on cabooses train and use as a budget RAL engine.
- Armando acknowledged he is aware of past issues with private equipment and wants to avoid this issue.
- Would like feeling of Board before he gets more serious about negotiations.
- Greg Elems had question about legal title and making sure it is clear and firm. Armando talked with a remaining director. Said when he gets offer, he will confirm legally and accept offer. This person has their name on bill of sale and he has all the receipts.
- Armando agrees with Greg and is confirming all will be legal.
- Timeline is probably sooner the better.
- Armando has a shipper identified.

Matt Shuman left meeting: 1:48 PM

- Armando has looked at other 25 tonners. They do not have train air and would cost more to ship.
- Wants to get Board opinion on whether this would be helpful to museum and if we are comfortable with the proposal. Will do any paperwork needed.
- Locomotive will be fired up and operated before sale is complete to confirm operation.
- Armando is aware of new private equipment policy and is aware of past issues.
- Discussion about policy implications.
- Wants to see locomotive used and not sitting around.
- Asked if Board sees a use in cabooses train, winter train and budget RAL.
- Bart Hansen expressed approval for these things, especially budget RAL.
- Roger Stabler wants to see the two cabooses under standard storage agreement with offset on use. Wants to see us do a lease agreement on the locomotive. Points out that this will be easier and cleaner way to do it.
- Armando likes this idea. Wants to get certified to operate the locomotive under our rules and process.
- Eugene Vicknair approves of lease idea. Greg Elems agrees. Feels this would make things easier legally and with insurance.
- Roger recommends that Armando join RPCA and get insurance through them.
- Steve Habeck points out that our insurance will require a lease and would not approve of using a private locomotive unless we have a lease.
- Armando would want to be able to operate it himself at times, according to our rules and requirements.
- Kerry Cochran has spoken with Armando about rule requirements and Armando is aware and agrees.
- Armando wants to spend a lot of time fixing SP 1060 cabooses.
- Armando asked what term we would like to see on a lease agreement. Roger wants lease before it operates. Greg agrees and states we can have on property under storage agreement but we need lease before it operates.
- No objections and everyone sees a lot of benefits. Small engine we can fire up quickly would be very useful.
- Eugene proposes giving consensus direction to approve the idea and then draft up a lease for next meeting.
- Kerry feels we need to take a formal vote.

Motion 23-01-02

Approve the concept of leasing the 25 ton locomotive from Armando Epifani under the terms discussed in this item. Formal lease to be negotiated and approved by the Board before operation.

Vicknair / Habeck. Aye – 8, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion carries.

- Does not want advertising to identify him as owner. Only in legal / formal museum documents as required.

Armando left meeting at 2:27 PM.

## **Good of the Order**

### **President's Report**

- Verbal report given.
- Spent some time at museum lately, mostly shoveling snow.
- Discussions with David Elems and Steve Habeck on locomotive availability.
- We may want to consider doing a Rotary Run if snow continues.
- Uncle died on 31<sup>st</sup> of December. Has to deal with Uncle's estate and remains of Father's estate.
- Hoping to make more time to be at museum.

### **Financial Reports**

- *Written reports provided.*
- Bart and Eugene will finalize budget this month.
- Bob Sims asked about expenses on lounge car for \$3,500. This was for cleaning crew on Silver Plate. Second expense was pumpkins for Pumpkin Patch train. Silver Plate charge was charged to Lounge Car because that was most appropriate line item for reporting.
- Bob Sims also asked about bank service charge. This is cost for using credit card.

### **Director's Reports**

- *Vicknair* – written report provided.
  - Discussion about proposed WP 402 joint exhibit idea.
  - Consensus to discuss with CSRM.

### **Event Reports**

- *2023 Convention*
  - Eugene and Kerry have been working with PCR.
  - Another meeting of committee is coming up.
  - Kerry working with scheduler on clinics.
  - Eugene sending vendor and contest room layout.

### **Department Reports**

- *Webmaster* – written report provided.
  - Roger commented how many people want to chat on Facebook.
- *Train Sheet* – written report provided.
- *General Superintendent* – written report provided.
- *Archives / Historical* – written report provided.
  - Thank you to Kerry for taking on the Archives and getting them back on the right track.
- *Volunteer Hour Reports* – written reports provided.
- *Mechanical* – verbal report given.
  - From end of December. We made it through Santa Trains without too many issues.

- Starting WP SW1500 1503 when very cold was doable but a bi difficult. Oil was thick.
- Has high output oil pump on order. Meant for pumping thick oils and should be useful for pre-lubing locomotives. Going to test it and if it works will install on other locomotives.
- Rotary set close to serviced. Having issues getting in due to snow and work schedule.
- Backhoe: gear case is leaking. Cooler for transmission has problems. Had to put 3 quarts in backhoe transmission yesterday. Needed right now to clear snow. In spring, we need to replace or rebuild.
- Facilities – verbal report given.
  - Snow!
  - Sandbagging to building is holding. Flooding not as bad as in past years. Some water in kitchen and store, most from display room.
  - Paint in Men’s room deteriorating due to standing water.
  - East end outside lights damaged by wind.
  - We ran out of propane on north tank yesterday. Got emergency delivery 1 hour after we ran out. Got pilot lights relit.
  - Due to cold temps, we are running through propane fast.
  - Fuel truck showed up for WP 1503.
  - Noted that when group photo of Santa Train crew was taken on final night the temperature was 7 degrees F and wind was blowing.
  - UP 105, Clover Plot and WP 302 (first) have roof leaks.

### **Committee Reports**

- *2023 Election* – written report provided.
  - Moved up in agenda.
  - So far only Cochran and Spikes have been nominated.
  - Eugene Vicknair nominated Greg Elems via email.

### **Legal / Insurance Report**

- Noted that D&O insurance renewed and is paid and up to date.
- Liability Insurance renews soon. Steve Habeck worked on updated application and got that to Vivian for new liability policy.

### **Status of Surplus Property Report**

none

### **Safety Committee**

- Death at Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum. Volunteer stepped onto a fiberglass light panel in roof and he fell through to the ground.
- Discussion about adding some cables for fall protection to shop ceiling.
- David would like to have a structural engineer assess securing locations.
- Discussion about fall arrest systems and implementation.

### **Public Comments**

None

### **Notices**

- Roger discussed a leak he just developed in his new motorhome. Took 2 cans of flex seal and stopped the leak. Noted we need a whole new clerestory roof on WP 302.

Break – 3:39 PM – 3:48 PM

**Closed Session** – requested by Director Eugene Vicknair – 3:48 PM – 4:25 PM  
- Property Item – Museum Property

The Board heard a report on a Property Issue – Museum Property. No reportable action taken.  
The Board heard a report on a Financial Issue – Preliminary Grant Report. No reportable action taken.

The Board heard a report on a Collection Issue – Review of Potential Acquisitions. Consensus direction given. No reportable action taken.

**Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at:16:26 (Habeck / Vicknair)

Next Meeting: February 11, 2023 – 1:00 PM  
Location: WPRM Meeting Room, Portola

Respectfully Submitted  
Eugene Vicknair – FRRS Secretary