

**Feather River Rail Society  
Board of Directors Meeting – December 9, 2023 – 1:00 PM  
Western Pacific Railroad Museum Meeting Room – WPRM, Portola, CA**

President Greg Elems called the meeting to order at 13:04.

**Attendance**

**The following Directors were present:**

Bob Sims – phone

Greg Elems

Steve Habeck – arrived 1:25 PM

Kerry Cochran - phone

Charlie Spikes

Roger Stabler - phone

Matt Elems

Janet Steeper

Eugene Vicknair - phone

9 directors present at meeting start – Quorum achieved.

**Visitors:**

David Elems – CMO, Safety Officer

Matt Shuman – Election chair – phone

Nick Manos

**Correspondence**

*G. Elems*

- Has email with lady from United Kingdom working on documentary on the Pacific Fruit Express Company. Was going to come next weekend, now postponed to May 2024.
- Heard from Victor at Paradise Museum. Looking for floor plans for their Santa Fe caboose. Greg working on this. Bob Sims has scanned more material to help them.

**Consent Calendar**

- Minutes – Minutes of the November 2023 BOD Regular Meeting.

Discussion about Kerry's request for contact with Peter Arnold. Kerry still working on contact. Bob Sims suggested contacting Morning Sun Books and Greg Elems saw recent post on Facebook.

In October, the Board was going to appoint an RAL committee. Noted that we need to appoint committee.

Motion 23-12-01

Approve the November 2023 BOD Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.

Cochran / Spikes. Aye – 8, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion carries.

**Old Business**

**Proposed Lake Oroville Railroad Book**

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Expansion of Jim Lekas book proposal.

- Written report provided.
- Noted that Jim Lekas has passed away.
- Greg Elems going to talk to Paul Lanyi about his hikes into Lake Oroville at low water.

## **2024 FRRS Events Calendar**

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Review and approve calendar.

- Draft calendar sent.
- Discussion of Celebration of Life for Norman and Barbara Holmes May 25 after close of regular day.
- Changed Election Payment day from 2/13 to 2/12.
- Volunteer Breakfast removed.

Steve Habeck arrived 1:25 PM

Motion 23-12-02

Approve the 2024 Calendar as amended.

Vicknair / Cochran. Aye – 9, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion carries.

## **New Business**

### **Policy Update**

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Change to Mission, Vision and Goals Policy.

- Written report provided.
- Nomenclature change to Historical / Archives naming.

Motion 23-12-03

Approve the report and changes as outlined.

Vicknair / Spikes. Aye – 9, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion carries.

### **Norman Holmes Celebration of Life**

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Discuss proposed May 25, 2024 event for Norman Holmes.

- Already discussed in Calendar item.
- Greg Elems to follow up with Holmes family.

### **2024 Roof Work**

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Discuss expectations and needs for roof work on museum buildings next year.

- Greg Elems to meet with roofing company on Wednesday.
- Would like Board input on where on roof to address.
- Noted we need to seal leaks on lean-to and North side.
- Discussion about sealing roof on Archives car. David Elems believes volunteers can do Archive car in 2 days. Will look at doing with volunteers in 2024.
- Greg will talk to roofer about Diesel Shop only.
- Noted that we also need to seal roof on Chester boxcar when we do Archives car. Also suggested we do roof on "Clover Plot".

## **Good of the Order**

### **President's Report**

- Verbal report provided.
- Had good turnout last Saturday, decent turnout last night. Working on getting ready for tonight.
- After Santa Trains will be staging for possible rotary operation.
- Discussion about possible rotary operations during the winter.

## Financial Reports

- Financial reports provided.
- Reviewed financials.
- Discussion about fundraisers.
- Will be doing budget for January 2024 Meeting.

## Director's Reports

- Vicknair – written report provided
  - *Correction*: signals from SLO to be unloaded today.
  - Kerry Cochran thanked everyone who went down to SLO to get the signals.
  - Discussion about assistance to other museums including San Luis Obispo RR Museum.

## Event Reports

- *2024 Convention* – written report provided.
  - Need more presenters and banquet speaker. Discussion about presenter and speaker options.
  - Bob Sims will have database ready this coming week.
- *Pumpkin Patch Express*
  - Suggestion to address recommendations in February.

## Department Reports

- *Webmaster* – written report provided.
  - Member and former Director Ed Wagner wanted to thank Paul Finnegan for his work on the website and Train Sheet.
- *Train Sheet* – written report provided.
  - Final articles being worked on. Eugene, Greg Elems and David Elems working on articles.
- *General Superintendent* – written report provided.
- *Historical / Archives* – written report provided.
  - Noted Dale Sanders has been a huge help to us.
  - Janet and Tim think they can be up next weekend to work on Archive car, weather depending.
  - Greg Elems took a trailer to Norm Holmes' house and got the remaining stuff Norm wanted to donate. Trailer back at museum.
- *Museum Store* – written report provided.
  - Reviewed HVAC issues.
- *Mechanical- verbal report given*
  - Has not been able to do much due to work schedule.
  - Has been rolling elastomeric on roof of UP biz car 105.
  - Will be working on the rotary prep for possible winter operations.
  - For spring: first locomotive work is injectors for WP GP7 707 and get injectors for Quincy TR6A 1100. Getting price quote closer to spring. Aiming for April – May. WP SW1500 1503 needs a semi-annual. SP GP9 2873 will need an annual inspection. Looking at how to fit in work on WP FP7 805-A.
  - Has been talking to Nick Manos about forklift work. Nick has been reviewing the forklifts.
- *Facilities – verbal report given*
  - Propane heater in women's restroom is completely dead. Heater is now turned off and a small electric oil heater in place.
  - Looking at purchasing 16,000 BTU heater to replace.
  - Discussion about how to handle heater for women's restroom.
  - David and Steve to work with Heat Transfer on getting updated quote.

- After end of Santa Trains, going to ask that folks stay away from museum during the winter.
- Roger Stabler and team replaced 17 ties in RIP and junction switches. Still have more work to do in the spring. Need to do 8 to 10 more ties that must be replaced. We did emergency repairs to 3 switches this year and leveled and tamped the balloon.

### **Committee Reports**

- *Election* – written report provided.
  - Reviewed directors up for reelection.

### **Legal / Insurance Report**

- Still have \$598 credit.
- Noted that DRGW caboose is still under insurance with old owner until February 2024.

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

none

### **Safety Committee**

- Once museum is closed for winter, will not be accommodating visitors and non-essential personnel. Cold and snow will be a safety issue.
- Authorized staff only during the winter.

### **Public Comments**

- *Bob Sims* – Someone on eBay sold a steam whistle off McCloud 15 went for \$2,750.
- *Steve Habeck* – Sierra Booster came out last Saturday with Santa Train info from Friday and photo of Santa in the baggage car. We also received some Christmas cards.
- *Nick Manos* – Questions about Pumpkin Train accounting. Still need to gather cost of locomotive operation and light plants, plus utilities estimate. For pumpkin trains, locomotives had 30 hours of operations. Locomotives use 10 gallons an hour between the two. \$3.63 a gallon at last purchase.

### **Notices**

Santa Trains are operating.

### **Closed Session** – none requested

### **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 15:28 (G. Elems / Vicknair)

Next Meeting: January 13, 2022 – 1:00 PM  
Location: WPRM Meeting Room, Portola

Respectfully Submitted  
Eugene Vicknair – FRRS Secretary