

**Feather River Rail Society  
Board of Directors Meeting – August 12, 2023 – 4:30 PM  
Western Pacific Railroad Museum Meeting Room – WPRM, Portola, CA**

President Greg Elems called the meeting to order at 16:37.

**Attendance**

**The following Directors were present:**

Bob Sims – phone  
Greg Elems  
Steve Habeck  
Kerry Cochran

Charlie Spikes  
Matt Elems - phone  
Eugene Vicknair - phone

7 directors present at meeting start – Quorum achieved.

**Visitors:**

David Elems – CMO / Safety Officer  
Nick Mannus  
Matt Shuman – Election Chair, arrived at 4:44 PM

**Election of Officers**

Nominations open for President  
Spikes nominates Greg Elems, Steeper seconds.  
Call for further nominations.  
Cochran moves to close nominations, Vicknair seconds.  
Greg Elems remains President

Nominations open for Vice-President  
Spikes nominates Steve Habeck, G. Elems seconds  
Call for further nominations  
Cochran moves to close nominations, G. Elems seconds  
Steve Habeck remains Vice-President

Nominations open for Secretary  
Cochran nominates Eugene Vicknair, G. Elems seconds  
Call for further nominations  
Spikes moves to close nominations, G. Elems seconds  
Eugene Vicknair remains Secretary

Matt Shuman joined meeting at 4:44 PM

Nominations open for Treasurer  
Steeper nominates Bart Hansen, Vicknair seconds  
Call for further nominations  
G. Elems moves to close nominations, Cochran seconds  
Bart Hansen remains Treasurer

## **Appointment of Department Managers and Committee Heads**

David Elems affirmed as Chief Mechanical Officer  
All other positions remain the same  
Kerry Cochran will update and resend manager list

## **Correspondence**

### *Vicknair*

- North Coast Limited is doing a run of brass WP wood cabooses. Offered help on colors for WP 403. NCL thanked us and is planning to donate a caboose from the order.

### *M. Elems*

- Facebook received a message as to whether we will be open first week of October. Noted that we have an item on the agenda that would impact this.

### *G. Elems*

- Museum in Paradise, California seeking information on restoring interior of Santa Fe caboose. Both depot and caboose survived the fire. Were looking for estimate on restoration work. Has good walls, floor and ceiling, no interior. Should be similar to our CCT 24. Greg taking photos to send to them.

### *Cochran*

- A lady from London has been contacting Kerry to gain access to our PFE 11454 reefer. Doing a documentary production on reefers and we are going to coordinate access in October.

### *D. Elems*

- Has been reaching out to tool manufacturers for tools to service prime movers. Hank Stiles has tools he is willing to let us borrow. Need to create a loan agreement. Greg Elems has been talking to Matt Monson about using a compressor.

### *Habeck*

- P.O. Box renewal has been paid.
- Had an issue with Directors and Officers Insurance but it was fixed with help from Vivian.
- Vic Neves contacted Steve Habeck and has some concerns about SP 1060 caboose. He has not yet been paid for the caboose. We have no documentation concerning the sale.
- Discussion about caboose and related issues.
- Suggestion we follow up on open issues and report back at future meeting.

## **Consent Calendar**

- Minutes – Minutes of the June and July 2023 BOD Regular Meeting.

Several questions about items in the minutes. Question about WP 301 builder plate. Plate has arrived. Question about grant to Nevada State Railroad Museum. Question about UP property department visit. UP team visited and reviewed the property.

Motion 23-08-01

Approve the June and July 2023 BOD Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.

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

## **Old Business**

none

## **New Business**

### **Revision to Restricted Accounts**

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Suggested changes to Restricted Accounts.

- Written report provided.
- Discussion about accounts.
- Suggestion to retire Hospital fund and Silver Debris fund. Noted we need funds for the Troop Sleeper.
- Suggestion that we note reason for negatives.
- General discussion. Questions about certain events.

Motion 23-08-02

Accept the recommendations of the report and implement with addition of removing line items 40500 – Hospital and 40592 – Silver Debris.

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

### **Revision to Archive / Historical Accounts in Budget**

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Suggestion to revise and improve Archives related account line items.

- Written report provided.
- Noted we need to also add income line for sales of deacquired and duplicate materials. Suggestion use existing income line 40409.
- Noted that 58100 code is an expense code for Archives Facility.

Motion 23-08-03

Accept the recommendations of the report and implement with bookkeeper. Will involve renumbering some existing Archives accounts to keep them together in new category.

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

### **Proposed Motorcar Event**

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Offer to have motorcars operate at museum on Sunday, October 8.

- Written report provided.
- Discussion if we open as special event only on Sunday, October 8 or remain open all week.
- Suggestion we advertise as a special event day.
- Discussion about how to manage the event. Ann may be available to run store. Janet will check and see if she would be available.
- Opinion is to have as a single day special event.
- Discussion about admission.
- Only operations would be the motorcars.
- Question about insurance coverage.

Motion 23-08-04

Approve opening for special speeder event on Sunday, October 8. Charge regular admission for the day to include motorcar rides.

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

### **Portola Railroad Days Event**

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Update on proposed Portola Railroad Days revival.

- Lost Sierra Chamber of Commerce in Blairsden has a new person as an event director. They asked her to look at feasibility of restarting Portola Railroad Days. Came in and talked to Ann. Steve Habeck went to her office last Wednesday to talk with her about it.
- Steve went over history of event with her.
- Want to do Railroad Days on second weekend in October, move from August.
- Want to do just one day for now. Do an exploratory event.
- Discussion about timing, events and calendar.
- Consensus that October is too soon for planning and set up.
- Consensus direction for Steve Habeck to tell them we are open to something next year.

Break 6:12 PM – 6:23 PM

## **Good of the Order**

### **President's Report**

- Verbal report provided.
- We had two Boy Scout Troops come in since last meeting, July 10 and yesterday. Both were very appreciative and generous in the Museum Store. Carson City Troop that donated Troop Sleeper mattresses stayed overnight and got to use the car. They helped clear up sleeper and area. Last night the kids were very exuberant.
- We have had some people comment our freight equipment has started looking shabby. Greg did a survey and identified some cars that would be easy to clean up. List includes 2 tank cars with blue domes, SN covered hopper, Rock Island caboose, SN 1642 caboose. Looking to clean up, touch up paint and finish painting equipment on the list. Are items folks can take on as projects.
- Greg has been talking to Matt Monson. Is currently scrapping 3 GP9s back east and has offered us some radiators. We would need to pay for transportation. Has some other parts we need for various projects.
- A letter was sent out to Union Pacific about WP freight cars still on UP and coming up for retirement. Some would be used for Whitman Building storage. Greg was contacted by lead UP PR person in Sacramento. She wants to have a meeting to discuss.
- Greg also received contact to reach out to with A&K Salvage in Stockton for track parts.
- Discussion about parts from GP9s and how to move.

### **Financial Reports**

- Financial reports provided.
- A few questions on financials.

### **Director's Reports**

none

### **Event Reports**

- *2023 Convention* – PCR final report
- *2024 Convention* – update, discussion of status

### **Department Reports**

- *Webmaster* – written report provided.
- *Tour.WPLives.org* – written report provided.
- *General Superintendent* – written report provided.
- *Historical / Archives* – written report provided. Noted David Elems also donated \$100 to WP 2-8-2 301 builders plate purchase

- *Mechanical*
  - Recognize new member Nick Manos who has been working with Charlie Spikes on Model T. T in better condition than ever. Nick has given a recommendation on doing project with the T. Nick has also been helping on SP GP9 2873.
  - New member Brian Waller is looking to help with welding and metalwork. Has been talking with David. Hoping to get some projects get done that needs welding.
  - SP 2873 in holding pattern on radiators waiting for corrected radiators to come in. Will call Monday morning.
  - Has been working on issues with Quincy 1100. Been on caboose train last 5 weeks. Last 3 weeks it has been puking oil. Currently trying to trace down the issue. After September 23, Quincy 1100 will be pulled from service and issues addressed.
  - Also having some brake issues with UP CA-5 caboose 25283. Interior is having some issues.
    - Car has been in use for 40 years. Has mostly wood interior that is nailed in place. Trims and panels are coming down. Conduits that carry marker light power and some bare romex are being compromised by riders hanging from it. Steve Habeck plans to remove romex with wire in conduit and reroute to avoid rider areas. Going to get some volunteers working on repairing / resecuring wood trim and panels. Need to replace floor under the conductor's desk. Plywood has rotted and linoleum is holding it together. David, Phil Schmierer and Steve Habeck have been working on car. Needs some paint touch up.
  - Lots of stuff going on. Things coming in and out of the shop.
  - Looking for tools to improve our repair capabilities. Has been pricing out some tools and looking for deals and availability.
  - Has been spending some time working on paint formulations.
  - Review of repairs on the Model T. Need to keep T covered and indoors to keep it running.
- *Facilities*
  - Looking to buy more LED tube lights.

## **Committee Reports**

- *Election* – written report provided.
  - Reviewing notes to see about updates / modifications to election process.
  - Asking us to confirm if we want committee to continue for 2024.
  - Would like input on improvements / enhancements to election process.
  - Consensus of the Board to reappoint committee for 2024 Election.

Matt Shuman left meeting at 7:25 PM

## **Legal / Insurance Report**

- We still have a \$598 credit with our attorneys.
- D&O Insurance renewal has been approved and in service. \$3,071 is the premium amount.

## **Status of Surplus Property Report**

- WP caboose that burned and we agreed to donate to Oroville group has new info. We have learned that they may be planning to sell it. We did not offer to donate for them to sell it. If that is their plan, then we may rescind donation.
- WP depressed center flats 1601 and 1602 are new on TTX company. They are approaching their 50 year life time. Do we want to pursue possible acquisition? Board consensus to proceed.

## **Safety Committee**

- Looking at revamping the safety committee. Talking to potential new members.
- Looking at doing another batch of fire extinguishers next month.

## **Public Comments**

*Bob Sims* – Asked if the Board Meeting in September is at 1:00 PM. Confirmed that it is.

*Nick Manos* – Discussed donations and responses to year end fundraiser. Wants to share reasons he has not donated to museum in the past. Fundamentally he feels that the fundraiser letter does not reach to the members with message as to why they should donate. Notes that we need to tell a story about 2-3 things we want to get done in the next year and then show next year that we accomplished those things. If it is a big project, you select doable chunks. Show members the dream and the project, then show them progress and what we achieved. Encourages the Board to pick some projects that are targeted and achievable. Tie funding requests to experiences.

- Discussion about how members who are not regularly around museum see messages and communications. One example is the accomplishments list. Nick stated he felt that list is a start, but it needs to be tied to the dream of WP preservation. Should state why things are important and relevant and done in a way that people can identify and relate to. Tie things back to how they advance the museum, experiences of the members and how it related to preserving the WP.

## **Notices**

none

**Closed Session** – none requested

## **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 19:58 (Vicknair / Cochran)

Next Meeting: September 9, 2023 – 1:00 PM  
Location: WPRM Meeting Room, Portola

Respectfully Submitted  
Eugene Vicknair – FRRS Secretary