

**Feather River Rail Society
Board of Directors Meeting
December 3, 2005 – 1:00 PM
Volunteer Lounge, Portola Railroad Museum
Portola, California**

Originally scheduled meeting time was postponed and President Rod McClure called the meeting to order at 2 p.m. The following directors were present:

Kerry Cochran	Steve Habeck	Norm Holmes	Wayne Monger
Matt Parker	Hank Stiles	Eugene Vicknair	

Director Gail McClure was unable to attend.

Staff present: John Walker (arrived during RAL discussion)

Visitors present: David Epling, Rick Edwards (arrived approximately 2:46 p.m.)

Correspondence

A check from received for \$500 from the student film group that used the museum for their project a few months ago. This covered fuel and incurred expenses by the Society. A thank you letter has been sent to them.

A letter was received from Jeff Asay concerning the status of his book.

Consent Calendar

1. Minutes – Tabled until January 2006 Board of Directors Meeting.
2. Financial Reports – Profit and Loss / Balance Sheet through 12-02-05.

Motion # 05-12-01 – Approval of Consent Calendar as presented. Motion made by Director Vicknair, seconded by Director Holmes. All Directors present voted in favor. Motion carried.

Old Business

Train Sheet Format and Expenses

Director Vicknair reviewed the Agenda Report presented to the Board with regard to this subject which included a review of process and expenses. The report also included a proposal to institute an “opt-in” downloadable PDF version of The Train Sheet to eliminate printing and mailing cost as well as inclusion of advertising to assist with the offset of expenses.

Motion # 05-12-02 – Acceptance of report as presented and adoption of changes to The Train Sheet publication process as recommended. Motion made by Director Stiles, seconded by Director Monger. All Directors present voted in favor. Motion carried.

FRRS Vision and Goals Statement

Director Cochran advised the Board he had received no additional commentary since the last meeting when this issue was discussed. He advised it was now up to the Board to decide how to proceed.

Motion # 05-12-03 – Acceptance of Vision Statement as revised at the November Board meeting. Motion made by Director Vicknair, seconded by Director Monger. All Directors present voted in favor. Motion carried.

New Business

New RAL Requirements

President McClure briefed the Board in preparation of presentation of proposed changes to the RAL Program by Director Cochran in his capacity as Director of Operations. These changes reflect the organization's continued commitment to safety as well as a proactive approach to demonstrated insurance industry concerns. Director Cochran informed the Board that the changes would be in effect as of 01-01-06 if adopted. Highlights include: All participating visitors will be required to sign a general liability release prior to their RAL and placed with Kerry for record preservation without exception; A safety briefing including a handout will be given to each RAL engineer and participant; no one under the age of 18 will be allowed to run unassisted; RALs will not be run at the same time as any other train movement.

Additional discussion regarding how best to implement changes was had once John Walker, Museum Manager, was able to be present for the discussion.

Motion # 05-12-04 -- Acceptance of New RAL Requirement Report and recommended program changes. Motion made by Director Vicknair, seconded by Director Habeck. All Directors present voted in favor. Motion carried.

Storage Bins/Pallets Donation

Director Stiles reported to the Board that Greg McLeod, the gentleman who previously offered to provide collapsible storage pallets for partial donation and partial purchase, has now decided to donate the entire lot along with several halide lighting fixtures for the shop and several sections of gorilla racking, in exchange for an RAL for him and his family. Director Stiles asked that the Board consider giving the gentleman and his family a one-year membership in recognition of Mr. McLeod's generosity.

Motion # 05-12-05 -- Agreement to offer the McLeod family a one year comp membership in recognition of their support of the organization. Motion made by Director Stiles, seconded by Director Cochran. All Directors present voted in favor. Motion carried.

Membership Drive

Director Vicknair directed the Board to a report provided at the time of presentation of the Agenda regarding current membership levels and possible ways to increase them.

Highlights included renewal/upgrade incentives, discount incentives for new members, gift memberships, advertising in current publications. Changes in the fee/level structure were also recommended. President McClure asked that Director Vicknair provide a written proposal of changes and implementation schedule, as well as possible cost impact, for presentation at a future meeting for action.

Museum Name Change

President McClure advised he had not received a final interpretation back from his inquiries to the Union Pacific Railroad, but did not anticipate any issues with the change of museum name to The Western Pacific Railroad Museum in one of several proposed iterations. There was extended discussion of the proposed change including some concern regarding removal of “Portola” from the name, refinement of organizational goals, and possible expansion opportunities. All Policies and Procedures will need to be revised to reflect this change if adopted and effective date would be 01-01-06.

Motion # 05-12-06 – Agreement as to campus name change from Portola Railroad Museum to The Western Pacific Railroad Museum at Portola. Motion made by Director Stiles, seconded by Director Vicknair. All Directors present voted in favor. Motion carried.

Good of the Order

President’s Report

President McClure reported donation of a heavy-duty gas powered cement mixer. He also reported that the local merchants have stepped up and provided donations toward Santa Trains. The Board expressed their appreciation for the support. Special thanks given to John Walker for his personal attention to this matter.

President McClure advised that he has created a new position – Manager, Steam Equipment. He has appointed Mr. Chris Allen from Historic Railway Consultants and who will be initially responsible for managing any work and/or restorations on the WP 165 upon its arrival. His credentials include certifications in Steam Welding and Boilermaking. He will answer directly to the President and the Board of Directors. Director Vicknair requested that a brief Bio for Mr. Allen be provided for the next issue of The Train Sheet.

Museum Manager Report

Museum Manager John Walker provided a general facilities update with the main concern being numerous roof leaks. He also advised that due to mention of repair of a fire hydrant in The Train Sheet, an unnamed individual once again highlighted the passage and on this occasion, gave it to the Supervisor of the City of Portola Corporation Yard for follow up. They are insisting that a water meter be put onto the property. Mr. Walker advised them they would likely have to take it up with Union Pacific as owners of the property.

Mr. Walker further advised that most items on the “Fall Fix-up List” have been addressed completely or have received attention of some kind. Good weather contributed to these efforts. Lack of storage space was mentioned as a concern and he

will continue to work on cataloguing items that can be disposed of as surplus. Revenue for November was up well over same time last year.

Director's Reports

Director Monger advised that Members Ken and Cheryl Meeker donated three large display cases from their business, Roundhouse Hobbies and Antiques of Stockton, CA for use in the display room. Director Monger requested information on the pending CCT 24 caboose trade proposed at a previous meeting. Member David Epling advised that Dave Buccolo, Superintendent for the CCT, had indicated a willingness to proceed with the proposed trade and we were awaiting the results of a single car air test before proceeding. Member Tom Carter will approach Mr. Buccolo to see if allowing us to work on the caboose before it leaves Stockton will be possible.

Director Vicknair reported that the current issue of The Train Sheet is currently at the printer and should be out week following the meeting. He also reported that the WP 470 caboose is still available and but the owner has not budged on his requested purchase price.

Department Reports

None

Committee Reports

Railroad Days Committee – John Walker, Museum Manager, requested consensus direction regarding his proposed events schedule for Portola Railroad Days.

Election Committee – Member David Epling, Election Committee Chairman, advised that the appointed Election Committee includes himself, Member Victoria Epling, Member Tom Carter and Russell Johnson. The committee will likely not take any further action until approximately March or April 2006 and will report again at that time.

Legal Counsel Report

None

Status of Surplus Property Report

None

Safety Report

Director Cochran reminded everyone to keep an eye out for safety concerns, particularly tripping hazards, when the public is on property for Santa Trains. President McClure advised that at his request, Sierra Pacific Power came and removed the pole and wires running between the WP Portola Hospital and the east end of the property as the pole was ready to fall and the wires were low hanging.

Public Comments

Member David Epling advised that the computer network has been installed with the exception of the Operations Office which should be completed the following day. Conduit will be installed to the Silver Debris in the spring. He further asked that people be attentive to the possible need to reboot the webcam computer in the event of power surges or failures to assure it is working properly.

Notices

February 2006 Board Meeting will be held at the ACE Depot in Stockton, CA
BREAK: 3:28 p.m. – 3:42 p.m.

Closed Session

Adjourned to closed session at 3:43 p.m. and reconvened in open session at 4:00 p.m. President McClure reported out of closed session that four separate items regarding proprietary business and equipment issues were discussed. No reportable action was taken.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 4:01 p.m.
Next meeting: Saturday, January 7, 2006
Location: Portola Railroad Museum, Volunteer Lounge
Portola, CA

Respectively Submitted
Gail A. McClure (based on tape recorded minutes of meeting)