

Feather River Rail Society
Board of Directors Meeting – September 9, 2017 – 4:00 PM
WPRM Meeting Room – Portola, CA

President Steve Habeck called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM.

The following Directors were present

Charlie Spikes	Steve Habeck
Rick Gruninger	Kerry Cochran
Greg Elems	Roger Stabler

Attendance

Paul Finnegan – webmaster	Patty Clawson – Big Fish Creations
David Elems – Asst. CMO	Janet Steeper
Bil Jackson – CMO	Gloria Stabler
Bart Hansen – Treasurer	

Correspondence

- *Habeck* – Gave an update on Beet Gondolas: Two beet gondolas going to Arizona. Arizona State Railroad Museum sent two copies of contract, Arizona Railway Museum sent one copy. SP 359247 will go to Arizona Railway Museum Chandler, AZ and SP 358262 will go to Arizona State Railroad Museum in Williams, AZ. They plan to send two UP flat cars. UP seems confused about interchange spot, Steve will follow up with UP to clarify. Contract states they will pay switching charges (\$100 /hr.), and be responsible for crane, tie downs and move. Plan is to load on east lead to minimize the impact on us. ETA – next spring. But could happen tomorrow. They decided not to use a trucking firm for the move. Expect to use Bragg Crane of Reno for the loading. Steve plans to sign contracts and return to them.
 - Steve reported he has the usual bills to pay, repairs, etc.
- James Riley Festus of Missouri sent a letter of possible items of interest to us: gyro lights available (new), flyer for them as a unique piece of RR equipment at \$895 plus shipping. No action planned.
- *G. Elems* – The Antique Engine club will send a thank you letter for invitation to RR Days.

Consent Calendar

Approval of the minutes of the August 2017 BOD Meeting.

Motion 09-17-01

Approve the minutes of the August 2017 BOD Meeting as presented.

Cochran / Spikes. Aye – 6, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion carries.

Old Business

OB1 – Bridge Loan Allocation

Discuss priorities for bridge loan and status of FEMA applications.

- Funds have been received (just under \$50,000) and deposited.
- Need to establish priorities for distribution of funds.
- The credit card balance will be fully paid off (~\$11,000) in the next credit card payment.
- This will leave ~ \$38,000 available.
- Steve suggested:
 - Two light plants to support night events and night work at the museum. Used units circa 2012 (with ~2500-6000 hrs usage) and available for less than \$5,000 each. They usually have power outlets as part of the unit.
 - Two sets of locomotive batteries.
- Mechanical suggested:

- Remanufactured injectors for WP 707 and WP 2001 (will be able to trade in old cores). This should be considered a long term investment. Gaskets/seal leak and are causing fuel contamination in the oil system. Details in mechanical report submitted for the meeting. Injectors are about \$2,600 per engine plus about \$200 for one-time tool purchase. We really need this to keep the RAL engines in service. After repair is completed, should revisit putting WP 707 and WP 2001 back in the RAL fleet (probable premium for 2001.)
 - Four barrels of locomotive oil (\$3,600)
- Kerry Cochran pointed out this is about \$28,000 which is a large portion of the available loan proceeds.
- The point was raised that the Pumpkin and Santa Trains must be run in such a way that they cover the cost of the events.
- Rick Gruninger observed over time the F units have been 2-3x the other units in RAL. He is not sure that has continued to be true this year.
- Greg Elems suggested doing the injectors on WP 2001 this year, then as a second project do the WP 707 next year.
- Steve Habeck supported that suggestion since WP 2001 is already in shop and available for mechanical to work on it.
- David Elems suggested getting only two barrels of oil now rather than four. He stated that WP 501 is almost ready to return to operation, but needs oil. Perhaps the WP 707 injectors could be rebuilt in-house or at his community college. We have the filters and seals to do the rebuild in-stock.
- Kerry Cochran brought up the need for roof repair over Museum Store and Display Room. Either repair the roof or bin inventory up and store in storage container for protection from the winter elements.
- Steve Habeck shared that Duane VanderVeen had inspected the roof and estimated it would take \$30,000~\$38,000 to fix roof over Museum Store and Display Room. Idea is to also install HVAC in old kitchen to service these areas, but the roof must be fixed first. This is too expensive to consider with the current loan project.
- Charlie Spikes indicated we should look into acquiring enough storage bins for store inventory.
- Steve Habeck shared we have some inventory already in bins, can gather up the rest and bin for the winter.
- Greg Elems suggested we get the focus back to the loan discussion. Because of the great work the volunteer track crew has completed, he is removing the earlier suggestion of some money going to a track contractor. Requested we be sure the FEMA money is used for track work when it is eventually received. We need to seriously consider how to spend this money.
- Steve Habeck raised the topic of a payment on our new building.
- Greg Elems supported Steve's suggestion of a payment on the new building.
- Steve Habeck stressed it would do us a world of good to make a good faith payment of \$10,000 for the new building.
- Steve summarized the discussion to date:
 - Two light plants
 - One set of injectors and tools
 - Two barrels of oil
 - \$10,000 building payment
- Roger Stabler suggested we change the approach to:
 - \$6,000 for Mechanical Department
 - \$12,000 for two light plants
 - \$10,000 for building payment
- Kerry Cochran estimated the total cost we are talking about is about \$32,000
- Steve Habeck commented that would leave sufficient funds to get the museum through the winter.
- Rick Gruninger asked about funding needs for Steam Dinner event.
- Patty Clawson reported that two tickets have been sold. She distributed a poster and ten tickets to most of the people present at the Board Meeting with instructions to go sell them, take the money to the Museum Store and then get more tickets to sell. If we pre-sell enough tickets we can reduce the expense of the marketing for the event.
- Fund Raiser dinner discussion continued and the importance of documenting the "meal cost" and the "tax deductible" portions of the ticket.
- It was decided since this was spending money, a motion needed to be made to close discussion on this topic.

Motion 09-17-02

Direct the museum to procure: • Two Light Plants, • One set of injectors for the WP 2001, • One set of tools required for installation of the injectors and • Make a \$10,000 building payment

Greg Elems / Spikes. Aye – 6, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion carries.

New Business

none

Good of the Order

President's Report

- Written report provided.
- Sponsorships renewals: Chris Skow has signed up.
 - Noted we need a system to communicate sponsorship updates to webmaster and Train Sheet editor.
- RR Days revenue was down:
 - 2017 Gross \$5,300
 - 2016 was ~ \$7,000
- For two years in a row, the fire department has failed to staff the people mover as committed. Thanks to David Epling's son-in-law, Kris Kumanchik, who has run the tram previously, he showed his parents (Darryl and Karla Kumanchik) how it's done, and they enjoyed doing it for us; to the point that they will be back next year to run it.
- UP called on Tuesday and wanted to know why the heritage units were not released. Steve is not happy about how the FRRS employee was treated and has:
 - Written a report of the conversation from Jean in the Museum Store
 - Shared the recorded message left on the answering machine
- Steve will escalate this issue in UP. Units were really released 19:30 on Sunday. We are a UP customer and should be treated better than this interaction.
- Chris Skow brought a tour group to the museum.
- Bob Gray, of V&T wants to buy our vista flats. Someone approached Bob Gray about buying the Oroville turntable that we own (currently stored at V&T), but he told them it wasn't his to sell. Maybe we should sell them? Will be referred to A&D Committee.

Financial Reports

- Financial reports provided.
- Bart Hansen summarized written report.
 - He thinks hot weather has impacted attendance.
 - Memberships down ~ \$3,000
 - RAL down ~ \$6,000
 - Tickets and special events are up
- Question about have we priced ourselves out of the market?
- Patty Clawson suggested we utilize KC in the Museum Store to follow-up and close on RALs. Patty had created a script and a marketing plan for RALs. We should execute it.
- Bart added that he believes one of our best years was the year we had the billboard and participated in the air races and Hot August Nights in Reno.
- Steve Habeck added the billboard was effective.
- Janet Steeper suggested targeting a billboard near V&T since you already have rail fans drawn there.
- Bart offered he does not think the museum (or Plumas County for that matter!) is known in Reno.
- Patty suggested we re-assess our media plan. Patty explained the current marketing and possible future campaigns.
- Greg Elems & others suggested maybe we should revisit the billboard idea.
- Patty continued:
 - can do email campaign at low cost
 - people are not leaving emails in visitor's book: discussed how to encourage visitors to leave emails (maybe a monthly give away?)
 - push winter / Christmas Santa Train promotion
 - can look at media for Reno market

Director's Reports

none

Event Reports

none

Department Reports

- *Webmaster* – written report provided. Paul Finnegan encouraged everyone to read the written report. He expressed his thanks and appreciation to all the people who sent him photos and updates on the events and projects at the museum this season. Without their support the web site could not contain as much current event and news item information. He also asked if anyone could help him create a Collection Page for the Weed Burner. Bil Jackson indicated there are two former WP employees in town that used it and he will contact them and try and get some information. Lastly Paul highlighted the new Minutes & Reports web page on the Members pull-down menu. Greg Elems added his satisfaction with the 2017 Track Work news item that has followed his track work project. He had asked Paul how many people had viewed the item. Paul reported it was the 23rd most popular web site during the period May 23rd to September 8th. Paul gave an estimated page views of “400 and something” (post meeting update: actual number was 452.)
- *Roadmaster* – written report provided. Big news on 8/15/17 opened balloon track to RAL and caboose train operations with lots of help. 400 feet of track repaired. It is now a very smooth ride. David Dodds was a great help around RR Days. Roger Stabler got the tamper working again! Maybe we can start staging rail around balloon for next season. Sierra Northern donated parts for tamper. Future track work – next spring start work on switches. As weather permits we will continue Wednesday 9 AM track work parties
- *Archives / Historical* – written report provided. Lots of material has been donated this season. Diane Remick and son traveled from San Diego today for Sweetwood rededication and brought original silver service from Sweetwood, some original photographs and original “as built” drawing of car and donated them to the museum.
- *Advertising* – Copy of work report provided. Will continue to publish the report and email to board, treasurer and webmaster. Steve Habeck expressed he thinks we are getting our money’s worth from the use of Big Fish Creations to publicize the museum.
- *Mechanical* – written report provided. Most items discussed during loan discussion earlier in meeting. Discussed details on WP 707 and WP 2001 – see written report. Rotary event next Saturday. Need to install batteries. The UK film crew seems very excited about event. Plan to fully test this week before event on Saturday. Plan for Pumpkin train (from Steve Habeck):
 - Consist will be:
 - power (undetermined at this time)
 - CZ diner WP 841 Silver Plate
 - caboose SN 1642
 - baggage car FRRX 5653
 - caboose UP 25283
 - caboose MP 13878

The MoPac caboose will carry the generator and backup light, and will probably not carry passengers. The other cabooses are placed to provide access to the passenger cars, since they have openings in the end platform railings, and also have interior lights for night runs, as do the passenger cars. Discussed trying one night pumpkin train the first weekend to see how it works. Discussed logistics of Pumpkin Express event this year. Repair of jacks continues. Oil samples have been taken. Expect results by next board meeting.

Committee Reports

none

Legal / Insurance Report

none

Status of Surplus Property Report

none

Safety Report

- Written report provided.

- Crossings at west end of shop are getting really bad. Pedestrian crossing is becoming a trip hazard.
- If you use a power tool, check the ground pin!
- Fire extinguishers need service. Plan to do shop soon, engines in the spring.
 - David Elems will get total count (need two per locomotive.)
- Smoking around the shop continues to be an issue.
- Visitor tripped during RR Days. Have not heard anything more from the visitor. Medical help was offered and declined. Incident report was properly filled out and incident documented.
- Reminder to everyone if there is an incident; proper procedure must always be followed. Including offering medical help.

Public Comments

- *Bil Jackson* – Questions about WP 165 fund raiser dinner. Patty Clawson addressed and said more details would become available and would be posted on web site as event gets closer. Many details are still being resolved.
- *Greg Elems* – Stated that although Matt Elems was unable to attend this meeting, Matt reports that our detractors are still detracting. They are using the bridge loan as “proof” that we will be closed in a year. It is important we continue to demonstrate the progress we are making at the museum.

Notices

none

Closed Session – Requested by President Habeck – 6:50 PM – 7:10 PM

- *Personnel Item* – Museum Store
- *Personnel Item* – Volunteer Recognition

The Board heard a report on a Personnel Item – Museum Store. Consensus direction given, no reportable action taken.

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Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at: 7:22 PM
 Next meeting: October 14, 2017 – 11:00 AM
 Location: WPRM Meeting Room – Portola, CA

Respectfully Submitted, Paul Finnegan – Life Member, FRRS and Eugene Vicknair -- Secretary, FRRS