

Feather River Rail Society
Board of Directors Meeting – February 14, 2026 – 1:00 PM
Western Pacific Railroad Museum Meeting Room – WPRM, Portola, CA

President Greg Elems called the meeting to order at 1:07 PM.

Attendance

The following Directors were present:

Kerry Cochran - phone	Charlie Spikes - phone	Janet Steeper – ph
Greg Elems - phone	Bob Sims – phone	Eugene Vicknair - phone
Matt Elems - phone	Tom Hervey - phone	

8 directors present at meeting start – Quorum achieved.

Visitors:

Matt Shuman – Elections Chair - phone	Ethan Doty – phone
Nick Manos – CMO – phone	

Correspondence

G. Elems

- From Nevada Northern. Greg talked to head of archives, Con Trumbull. They have information on a former Western Pacific employee who came to the NN and was integral to saving NN 40. They have given us an achievement award and medallion given to this person for us to put on display.
- Mr. Trumbull is looking forward to working with us on future projects. They have paint diagrams and numbers for our Kennecott RS-2 and RS-3.

Cochran

- Received message Adam Michalsky at Nevada State Railroad Museum. They have wiring schematics for WP GP35s 3011 and 3012. Asked if we would like them. Response was yes.

Consent Calendar

Minutes of the January 202 BOD Regular and Special Meetings.

Consent motion in Jan 10 minutes had wrong number. Corrected.

Motion 26-02-01

Approve the minutes for the January 2026 Regular Meeting as amended.
Vicknair / Cochran. Aye – 8, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion carries.

Motion 26-02-02

Approve the minutes for the January 2026 Special Meeting as presented.
Vicknair / Spikes. Aye – 8, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion carries.

New Business

Motorcar Safety Device Rule

Review recommendation for motorcar safety device.

- Written report provided.
- Discussed background and incidents related with turntables and reason for this recommendation.

Motion 26-02-03

Approve the recommendation for turntable interlocks and amend FRRS rules and policies to be in compliance with recommendation that all motorcars operating on FRRS track have interlocks as described. Rules and policies will allow for possible equivalent hardware.
Vicknair / Hervey. Aye – 8, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion carries.

- Discussions about specific hardware listed and whether alternatives can be used.

Western Pacific 0-6-0 165 Update

Report on Western Pacific 0-6-0 165 status.

- Update on status of WP 0-6-0 165.
- Roger Stabler brought a number of documents to the museum, including paper and digital files. All paper now scanned and a directory structure made.
- Two main things need to be addressed: FRA concern that tubes were only seam welded. We sent letters as to this and felt we are in good position on this. Also some concern on rivet repairs and must report on Form 19. Concerns qualifications of welder and weld quality. FRA found an area they do not have a Form 19 for. Going to talk to FRA and determine what they would like to see.
- Don Nelson and Nick Manos have some other items they want to check and work on. When they can get back in the shop, they will document and start working up details on repairs they want to work on.
- Feels pretty positive as to where we are at in terms of process and repairs.
- We need manpower and money.
- Engine needs a 5 year inspection which will be done.
- Looking at sale of the Unimog. Someone is interested in buying with all accessories. Have one person interested in Dodge pickup. Hoping to use funds for WP 165.
- Discussion about Wasatch Railroad Contractors.
- Noted that three Form 19s for welding work show Wasatch as doing work and notices on website discuss Wasatch.
- Request that we stop discussing Wasatch in terms of no work on WP 165.
- We will be reinspecting locomotive to ensure safety and correct repairs were done.

FRRS Policy Approval and Updates

Review and approve new policy and policies for renewal / update.

- Written report and policies provided.
- A new policy is included clarifying Proper Authority.

Motion 26-02-04

Accept the policies and written, updated and amended.

Spikes / Vicknair. Aye – 7, Nay – 0, Abstain – 1. Motion carries.

- Question as to what system we use for document tracking. System is internal designation set up by Kerry Cochran.
- Discussion about reinforcing / clarifying alcohol policy. Some concern over past issues.
- Noted that even when approved, any policy can be revisited and reevaluated. All are working documents and can be changed if the Board decides.

Online Payments for FRRS Bills

Approve instruction to bookkeeper to use online payment options when appropriate.

- Written report provided.
- Will not include autopayments, but bookkeeper wants to have permission to pay online.
- Postal service has gotten so bad that we are getting bills too close to or past due.

Motion 26-02-05

Accept the recommendation and allow the bookkeeper to use online payments when appropriate and secure.

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

Union Pacific Foundation Grant and UP 6946 Stairs

Discuss status and review quotes for IBC rated stairs.

- Written report provided.

- Concerns about rushing before April event and that we should hold off until donation secured.
- Trying to contact member who offered to donate difference in cost.
- Consensus decision is to not rush order and installation and to secure remaining funds before proceeding.

Old Business

2026 Western Pacific Convention Date Change

Approve revised dates for the 2026 Western Pacific Convention.

- Written report provided.
- Recommended dates are September 10-13, 2026 in Oroville and hold it at the Feather Falls Casino and Resort.
- Consensus approval to proceed with those dates and location.

Good of the Order

President's Report

- Has surgery on February 19.
- Will be "out of service" Monday, Feb 16 until healed.
- Still planning to work Great Train Show in Sacramento starting February 28.

Financial Reports

- Financial reports provided.
- Discussion about Eugene Vicknair as Acting Treasurer and actions proposed.
- Reviewed accounts. Fundraiser has brought in about \$3,000. Received \$500 for WP 165 from online donation.
- Issues with USPS on delivering fundraising letters.
- Bill Wisneski paid his rent for dining car.
- Matt and Debbie Shuman are going to donate \$1,000 toward April event.
- Discussion about possible Unimog sale.

Director's Reports

- *Vicknair* – written report provided.
 - Alan Barrett may be able to help at Sacramento show.
 - Tom Hervey reported he is still getting positive comments on talk Eugene gave to Vietnam Veterans group about Charles O. Sweetwood car.

Event Reports

none

Department Reports

- *General Superintendent* – written report provided.
 - Asked that we remind members that we have policies and safety rules. We have these rules and requirements for health and safety of members and public.
 - Going to make a point of this in crew training.
- *Historical / Archives* – written report provided.
 - Already receiving archive donations this year. Thank you to Greg and Ethan for their help.
 - Eugene Vicknair to donate Keddie pattern china plate and creamer.
- *Webmaster* – written report provided.
 - We need to review and revise Operating Department rule book and then we need to print more.
- *Mechanical*
 - On WP 165, one of the first things will be removing boiler cover. Will depend on when Don and crew are available. May not be available for public viewing. Will not know until right before April event.

- WP SW1500 1503: will be bringing 1503 back online before event with minimum work. Will be ready by noon on Monday, April 6. After event, will come back into shop and go through its annual inspection.
- Have been purchasing all parts and supplies for work on 1503 and its annual.
- Also acquired some shop supplies.
- We purchased fuel for 1503 and now have plenty in the engine for the entire year.
- We will need to buy fuel for SP GP9 2873 later.
- Talked about getting a small air compressor for small air jobs. Donating a brand new air compressor. Building a crane rig for pulling engine heads and liners.
- Nick has a new tenant and they do industrial coatings. Does tractors, ships, bridges. Has not done a locomotive. Is discussing this with the person. Will update the Board.
- National Motorcar Safety Committee meeting tomorrow, February 15 at 1 PM via Zoom.
- *Facilities*
 - Question if the handicapped drinking fountain was winterized.
 - Ethan confirmed feed line was shut off and blown down.
 - Eugene will be at museum next weekend working on Shop clean up.

Committee Reports

- *Election* – written report provided.
 - Printer is ready to go with ballots and mailings.
 - Noted that the Election Committee will be retiring after this election due to outside requirements on their time.
 - Noted there are some items that should be looked at in the future, including suggestion by Bob Sims to explore electronic voting.
 - Matt Shuman states the committee wants the Society to know it has been a privilege and an honor to serve. The committee is Matt and Debbie Shuman and Ann Morningstar.
 - Bob Sims discussed about electronic voting system he is having experience with. We currently have emails for about 32% of members. Bob given approval to research further.

Legal / Insurance Report

- Steve Habeck confirmed that liability policy has been renewed. Did have some issues with USPS mailing. Kerry has received the updated policies.

Safety Committee

- No reportable incidents or accidents.

Notices

- Great Train Show booth in Sacramento, Feb 28 – March 1

Public Comments

Charlie Spikes – Asked if consideration has been made to selling the Plumas ambulance. Yes, we had someone interested, but Greg needs to follow up.

Nick Manos – Asked about all electronic notice for the Train Sheet. Michael Coen needs to address that.

Closed Session – requested by President Greg Elems, Director Eugene Vicknair and Director Charlie Spikes – 3:53 PM – 5:14 PM

Election Chair Matt Shuman is joining for first item. – left the meeting at 4:20 PM

- *Legal Item* – Elections Question
- *Personnel Items* – Discussion on various items
- *Business Item* – Museum Event

Janet Steeper left the meeting at 4:43 PM

The Board heard a report on a Legal Item – Elections Question. Consensus direction given. No reportable action taken.

The Board heard a report on Personnel Items – Discussion on various personnel issues. Consensus direction given. No reportable action taken.

The Board heard a report on a Business Item – Museum Event. No reportable action taken.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM

Next Meeting: March 14, 2026 – 1:00 PM

Location: WPRM Meeting Room, Portola

Respectfully Submitted – Eugene Vicknair - Secretary

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