

Feather River Rail Society
Board of Directors Meeting – July 12, 2025 – 4:30 PM
Western Pacific Railroad Museum Meeting Room – WPRM, Portola, CA

President Greg Elems called the meeting to order at 4:39 PM.

Attendance

The following Directors were present:

Greg Elems	Tom Hervey - phone	Charlie Spikes
Michael Coen – ph – arr. 4:42 PM	Kerry Cochran	Eugene Vicknair - phone
Bob Sims – phone	Matt Elems	

7 directors present at meeting start – Quorum achieved.

Visitors:

Nicholas Manos – CMO - ph	Paul Finnegan
Chris Skow	Steve Habeck
Gus Paoli	

Installation of 2025-2026 Board of Directors

No changes from 2024-2025 Board – all directors carry over

Correspondence

Habeck

- Received report from Steve Habeck about UP 105, including lighting issues and repairs and visitor interactions with car.

Coen

- We received a donated HO scale brass model of Sacramento Northern 1632 from North Bank Lines. Thank you to NBL owner Ed Austin.
- Chris Skow gave the museum a packet of photos and information on the Charles O. Sweetwood.

Consent Calendar

1. Minutes – Minutes of the June 2025 BOD Regular Meeting and June 29, 2025 Special Meeting.

Tom Hervey noted typo in June 7 minutes. Corrected.

Motion 25-07-01

Approve the minutes for the June 2025 Regular Meeting and the June 29 Special Meeting as amended. Vicknair / Coen. Aye – 6, Nay – 0, Abstain – 2. Motion carries.

New Business

Department Reorganization

Merge the steam program into the Mechanical Department.

- Written report provided.
- After discussion with CMO and President, Kerry Cochran has decided as General Superintendent that this is an appropriate point to fold the Steam Department fully under the CMO and the Mechanical Department.
- Consensus approval given to the change.

2025 Pumpkin Patch Express

Begin planning the Pumpkin Patch event.

- Written report provided.

- Discussion about people needed for event.
- Michael Coen willing to contact groups about Haunted Railcar operation. Eugene and Patty to get contact info to Michael.
- Charlie Spikes will handle ordering pumpkins.
- Hansen family to be contacted about hauling pumpkins.
- Face painter is interested in Pumpkin Trains and Railroad Days.
- Eugene to contact Armando about his decorations.
- Eugene and Nick Manos to discuss shop decorations off-line.
- Matt Elems asking about how Pumpkin Patch set up is organized.
- Bob Sims asked about sasquatch actor. Patty Clawson's brother will be doing it again.
- Greg Elems asked about food truck and noted we need to deal with county permits now. Discussion about new permit requirements. No charge, but we need to notify county.
- Anyone else wanting to help can contact Eugene outside of meeting.

Headlight Production

Discuss future Headlight production.

- Written report provided.
- Wants to get a Headlight out before the Convention. Would like Board approval.
- Dale Sanders has an issue ready to go.
- Cost will be about \$9,000 for full publication issue.
- We expect to print about 25 extra copies and offer for sale at the convention.

Motion 25-07-02

Approve the report and proceed with Headlight production as outlined.
Hervey / Coen. Aye – 8, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion carries.

Open Days in September - October

Review changing open days during the week in September until end of regular season.

- Discussion about having museum open Thursday and Friday.
- Suggestion is to close on Thursdays during September through end of season. Still open 12 noon - 4 PM on Fridays and 10 AM – 5 PM on Saturdays and Sundays.
- Ann reports Thursdays in September are dead and no reason to be open.
- Noted this will not impact RAL reservations. They will still be available any day.
- Operating season ends September 1. This will take effect September 4.
- Need to modify calendar and gate sign.

Motion 25-07-03

Modify open hours to remove Thursdays as open days following end of operating season. This does NOT affect RAL scheduling or reservations.
Vicknair / G. Elems. Aye – 8, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion carries.

Upcoming Community Events

Proposal for cross-promotion and some docent events at the museum during upcoming events..

- Written report provided.
- Horseless carriage will be there between 1:30 PM and 3:30 PM and August 2.
- Noted some corrections on the posters.
- For August 2 we will need extra people due to size of group.
- No extra events.
- Gus willing to do guided docent tours July 19-20 and August 2-3. Times will be 11 AM, 1 PM, 3 PM.
- Go with the flyers.
- There will also be a free banner ad on Graeagle.com.
- Consensus direction to proceed with flyers.
- Brian going to work on getting conduit to the Troop Sleeper.

Old Business

FRRS Fares Policy

Review new policy and provide approval.

- Tabled from last meeting.
- Goal is to track policy and renew / review.
- Would be review of all fees and fares: membership, train rides, etc.
- Next review date would be September 2025.

Motion 25-07-04

Create the policy as outlined covering fares for annual Board review in September, starting in September 2025.

Vicknair / M. Elems. Aye – 7, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion carries.

Noted Charlie Spikes stepped out of meeting and did not vote.

Good of the Order

President's Report

- Verbal report provided.
- Has items for closed session.
- Railroad Day committee have not had any meetings.
- Still working on getting volunteers for Railroad Day. No food truck at museum.
- Paul Finnegan asked if we are going to run caboose trains on Railroad Day. Will be standard 11 AM to 2 PM operations.

Financial Reports

- Financial reports provided.
- Reviewed financials.
- Eugene is personally looking for full time Treasurer to take over.
- Bob Sims had some questions on transactions. These were new checks and lids for trash cans.
- Discussion about Schwab for investments instead of RBC. We left some funds in Schwab to keep account open for use.
- Revisit Schwab discussion in October or November.

Director's Reports

- *Vicknair* – written report provided.
 - AED acquisition
 - Holiday pay – Board reaffirms and provides consensus to pay the holiday pay to store personnel for 2024. Kerry to set this up as formal policy.

Motion 25-07-05

Board reaffirms that full holiday pay will be provided to store personnel for hours worked the following qualified holidays during operating season, those being Labor, Memorial and Independence Days.

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

- *Cochran* – written report provided.
 - Had several discussions with member Bob Keene about museum and California Zephyr equipment.
 - Wanted to make the Board aware of this and point out that several members do not have computers and still rely on mail. Also reinforce that we need to make sure our members get taken care of.
 - Paul noted that he has been adding Diane Remmick to the mailed Train Sheets. She had some confusion on the Headlight and Train Sheet. Diane is now upgraded to Active and will be on regular mailing list.

Event Reports

- *2025 WP / DRGW Convention* – written report provided.
 - Another registration come in today.
 - More convention car purchases as well.
 - Michael Coen has confirmed Dave Houston will be open for layout tours. Another person in Folsom will also have their layout open. They also asked about ops sessions.
 - Kerry was also contacted by Donovan Cameron.
 - Eugene also talked to Phil about a Lionel ops layout at the convention
- *Motorcar Operations* – written report provided.
 - Thank you to Matt Parker, Gail McClure and Steve Hart
 - Had many people come just to ride the motorcars.

Department Reports

- *Webmaster* – written report provided.
- *General Superintendent* – written report provided.
- *Historical / Archives* – written report provided.
- *Mechanical* – written report provided.
- *Facilities*
 - Armando has offered to buy a small container and this would be where he stores his decorations which are used for Pumpkin Trains and Santa Trains. Greg suggests we put some switch ties down behind the weed burner and put the container there. Would give one central spot for storing these materials.
 - We will request a written agreement with Armando on this and have access to it in case of emergency.
 - Have water running again in lounge and shower car. We need a pressure regulator in the line as pressure is now too high. Brian Waller is working with Greg Elems to get this solved.
 - Discussion about water pressure issues around the property.

Committee Reports

- *Ad Hoc Business* – written report provided.
 - Discussion about boxcar inventory and not storing member personal property in boxcars.
- *Funding* – written report provided.
 - Fundraiser donations have started coming in.
 - Discussed Safe Streets Grant and what that might be useful for.

Legal / Insurance Report

- Annual volunteer policy renewal was made.
- Need to discuss private materials on property.
- Eugene will be sending out the new contracts and letters for the new Private Equipment Policy.

Safety Committee

- Hot weather protocols. We had a visitor in the Troop Sleeper on July 6 with docent tour led by Eugene Vicknair. Visitor passed out and fell inside the car, was injured. Eugene gave first aid care and called 9-1-1. Visitor's group was impressed with rapid reaction to the visitor distress. Written incident reports were submitted by Eugene and Greg Elems along with photos by Tom Hervey and Eugene.
- Greg needs to get hold of Alpine and get our fire extinguishers serviced.
- Discussion about status of Safety Committee. Charlie Spikes offered to handle the fire extinguisher servicing.

Notices

Next Meeting:

- Appointment of Committees & Election of Officers
- Set budget / work priorities

Public Comments

Chris Skow

- California Zephyr posters donated to the FRRS by Chris Skow.

- Former WP advertising manager Paul Gordenev passed away a few months ago. His friend Steve Ferrari was clearing out his apartment and Steve found many CZ posters that were in the apartment. Steve contacted Chris Skow and gave them to Chris to filter into the WPRM as an item to sell. There are 2 posters. One was printed in 1949 and a stack had been stored in the WP headquarters until the building was cleared out. Paul Gordenev took them.
- Chris has 8 rolled up for Museum Store sale of one of the posters. We need to decide what price will be. Other such posters have sold via auction at \$1,800 for first and second 3 months later went for \$500. Suggested that we include a sheet about their history.
- Chris is donating all the posters to raise funds for the museum. Chris has about 12 more of poster 1.
- There is also a smaller poster printed in 1949. Less valuable. We have 10 in the store now. Thinking about \$20 to \$25 sale price for poster. Chris still has over 150 of this poster. All proceeds go to the museum.
- Chris and Ethan Doty have been redoing the display room.
- Chris also donated several plastic tubs of photos for sale in the Museum Store.
- Chris was on the phone with Mark Bassett this morning. Mark is GM of Nevada Northern. Chris is doing a charter on NN in October 19-20 with 2 steam locomotives. Asking if we would publish notice in Train Sheet with \$100 donation back to FRRS for each member who signs up.

Nick Manos

- Nick has written 8 different articles for the Train Sheet previously. He stopped as it appeared that the publication date got moved up 2 weeks at some point and it prevented him from making the deadline.
- In regard to not seeing a lot of progress in restoration, noted we are not seeing a lot of help from members on scheduled work days. We need the people to make this happen. Nick and his son have been doing a lot of the work.
- We need a hotsy for the museum in a bad way. Desperately need a new one. Will be \$4,000 to \$5,000 for a new hotsy. Low pressure steam cleaner.
- Nick will be in Portola Monday and Tuesday. Will be able to handle RAL on Tuesday if needed.

Closed Session – requested by President Greg Elems and Director Eugene Vicknair

7:30 PM – 7:54 PM

- *Business / Equipment Item* – Equipment Loan
- *Property Item* – Property Improvements

The Board heard a report on a Business / Equipment Item – Equipment Loan. Consensus direction given. No reportable action was taken.

The Board heard a report on a Property Item – Property Improvements. Consensus direction given. No reportable action was taken.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM

Next Meeting: August 9, 2025 – 4:30 PM
 Location: WPRM Meeting Room, Portola

Respectfully Submitted – Eugene Vicknair - Secretary