

**Feather River Rail Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting – November 8, 2025 – 1:00 PM**  
**Western Pacific Railroad Museum Meeting Room – WPRM, Portola, CA**

President Greg Elems called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM.

**Attendance**

**The following Directors were present:**

Greg Elems - phone	Michael Coen – phone	Tom Hervey - phone
Matt Elems – phone	Charlie Spikes – ph – arr. 1:25 PM	Eugene Vicknair - phone
Kerry Cochran - phone	Bob Sims – phone	

8 directors present at meeting start – Quorum achieved.

**Visitors:**

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

**Correspondence**

*Michael Coen*

- John Rysckowski is working with City of Gerlach to help them acquire a caboose. Discussion about caboose.

*Greg Elems*

- Received thank you letter from EPCAN for first weekend Pumpkin Train food donations.
- Due to Norfolk Southern proposed merger, the Big Boy west coast trip dates have been changed and will not happen in spring. Updated details coming in future.

*Ethan Doty*

- Received a couple boxes with some relays for WP 805-A dynamic brakes from John Rysckowski via Larry Hanlon.
- Ethan offered to work with his mother on her helping managing Big Boy event when it is rescheduled.

**Consent Calendar**

Minutes of the August, September and October 2025 BOD Regular Meetings.

Motion 25-11-01

Approve the minutes for the August and September 2025 Regular Meetings as presented.  
Vicknair / Coen. Aye – 7, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion carries.

Motion 25-11-02

Approve the minutes for the October 2025 Regular Meeting as presented.  
Vicknair / G. Elems. Aye – 5, Nay – 0, Abstain – 2. Motion carries.

**New Business**

**Train Sheet Publication**

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Discuss decision on going electronic or continue paper printing of Train Sheet.

- Written report provided.
- Discussion about benefit and members who can't get electronic copy.
- Some organizations use logins to download from website.
- Suggestion that Dropbox or other service could be used for delivery.
- Suggested we put notice in the Train Sheet and an eBlast that we are looking at this.
- Could we go back to every two months if we go all digital?

- As of September, 410 printed and 218 emailed.
- Some people are getting both mailed and emailed.
- Suggestion we no longer offer mailed Train Sheet to new members only digital.
- Michael Coen and Eugene Vicknair will write an article for the Train Sheet and eBlast outlining the situation. Outline lowering costs, avoid raising costs, possibly going back to higher frequency.
- Consensus to proceed given.

### **Review Fares Policy**

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Review current policy for possible updates.

- Written report provided.
- Discussion of corrections and changes.
- Question about developing a scout rate and covering cost on sleeper. Opinion that we should and charge for Troop Sleeper to cover cleaning, insurance and repair.
- Review of Rio Grande M&HS and NCO Ry group membership rates.

Motion 25-11-03

Update the policy to capture the spelling error, fix cab ride pricing and add new bullet point for Scouting groups.

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

### **Social Media Sponsorship and Promotion**

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Discuss becoming a sponsor of TSG Multimedia and increasing online / social media promotion.

- Verbal report from Michael Coen.
- Michael has been talking to John Abatacola of TSG Multimedia about museum promotion and social media.
- John was asking if Society would be open to being a sponsor of his monthly podcast. Covers real and model railroading. Features sponsors logo, reports on current events relating to sponsor, promotes them. Also does daily railfan / rail news videos.
- He has over 70,000 followers. On his YouTube channel and website. Some podcasts get around 40,000 views. 90% viewers are male. Get significant non-subscriber viewers as well. Most of his followers are in western US.
- John also wants to do videos and podcasts on the museum and WP history itself. Do special reports on what we are doing.
- Sponsorship is \$100 / month. This is about 1/10 of what we used to spend on Kalmbach.
- Michael feels this is a step we need to take.
- Discussion about how his sponsorship and memberships are set up. Offers special access to members.
- Several FRRS members and directors are already members of TSG.
- Noted we used to spend a lot more for Kalmbach / FireCrown media promotions.
- They want to do news and historical items on the WP and Society / Museum.
- Eugene Vicknair is willing to donate \$25 a month toward the sponsorship cost.

Motion 25-11-04

Approve the sponsorship with TSG Multimedia for cost of \$1,200 per year with cost to be taken from 67010 - Advertising.

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

### **2026 Event Calendar**

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Review proposed 2026 Event Calendar.

- Draft calendar provided.
- Corrections and revisions given.
- Suggestion we close Thursday and Friday after end of operations season.
- Suggestion we discuss Thursday / Friday issue next meeting. Consensus agreement.

Motion 25-11-05

Approve the 2026 calendar as amended.

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

## **2026 Budget**

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Review proposed 2026 Operating Budget.

- Error in send, did not go out.
- Being sent and will be considered next meeting.

## **Updates and Revisions to Account Coding**

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Approve changing / updating accounting codes with Susan Scarlett.

- Written report provided.
- Reviewed need for updating account codes.
- Question about if we have Santa Train account codes. Yes we do.
- Once corrected, send updated account code list to all directors, committee heads and managers.

Motion 25-11-06

Accept and approve the report and authorize Director Vicknair to work with Susan Scarlett on account code changes.

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

## **Great American Train Shows**

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Review proposal to attend upcoming GATShows in Pleasanton and Sacramento.

- Written report provided.
- Tom Hervey willing to help in Pleasanton. Greg Elems will help with both.
- Looking for some folks to help with the events.

Motion 25-11-07

Accept and approve the report to attend GATS in Pleasanton and Sacramento with a max budget of \$800 total (\$400 in 2025 budget and \$400 in 2026) to be taken from Expense Line Item 53035 – OffSite Shows.

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

**Old Business** - none.

## **Good of the Order**

### **President's Report**

- Verbal report given.
- Had a meeting with a couple folks from Hines, Oregon concerning the Oregon and Northwestern caboose currently owned by Wayne Monger. Hines wants to display caboose in a town park. If town council approves, they will get donation from Monger and then work out transportation to Hines with us. They would put it on their insurance as soon as deal is approved. Proposal is we would not charge them storage unless movement time extends beyond 6-8 months.
- Event with UP 4014 Big Boy has had some changes. Has been in contact with UP Steam Crew. Event is no longer in spring 2026 and likely moved to fall.

### **Financial Reports**

- Financial reports provided.
- Questions about some transactions. Items are for insurance payments.
- Noted that postal service in Plumas County is causing issues with timely bill payment due to delays in bills arriving and checks going out.
- Recent event transactions still being reconciled.

### **Director's Reports**

- *Vicknair* – written report provided.
  - Fundraising letter will be rewritten. Plan is to send by December 1.

## Event Reports

- *2026 WP Convention* – start planning and appoint committee.
  - Vicknair, Cochran, G. Elems, Coen
  - Noted PCR convention April 30-May 3, 2026
- *Pumpkin Patch Express* – written report provided.
  - Need to add in the remote credit card machines.
  - Pumpkin cost shown is what Greg Elems donated to Society. \$209 was actual cost to museum.
- *Santa Trains*
  - Train is all cleaned up from Pumpkin Train stuff.
  - Most stuff is in museum store. Eugene coming up next weekend to finish clean up.
  - Steve Habeck has worked on the electrical in the gate house.
  - Ethan and Steve working on train. 3-4 done on inside. Has some more lights on order.
  - Need more people to help with event operations in baggage car.
  - Greg Elems looking at doing switching to get baggage car into shop. Wednesday November 19 after 1 PM.
  - Looking at making some space to have tables for folks to sit at. Will sit between WP 0-6-0 165 and SP GP9 2873.
  - Need space for WP SW1500 1503 in shop at end of night. Will have SP 2873 in shop between baggage car and WP 1503.
  - Will need temporary Santa for December 6. We may need a new Santa suit.
  - Ethan checking supplies for drinks.

## Department Reports

- *Webmaster* – written report provided
- *Mechanical* – written report provided
  - Reviewed plan for firing up WP GP7 707. Work will start 8:30 AM on date in report.
- *Facilities*
  - Lounge car plumbing needs repair. Brian Waller working on it.
  - Some electrical repairs in building. Eric McKay looking at his schedule.
  - Need window repaired in shop section.
- *Museum Store* – written report provided.
  - Greg Elems donated 1,000 bags for T-shirts.

## Committee Reports

- *Election* – written report provided.
  - Board thanks Matt Shuman for his work on the elections.

## Legal / Insurance Report

- Insurance being taken care of.
- Payments up to date.
- Colorado Railroad Museum has taken ownership of “Silver Rifle” from Golden Gate Railroad Museum. They are currently working to get us required insurances.

## Safety Committee

- Crews that operated for Pumpkin Patch Express did a very good job.
- President Elems appreciates the professionalism they showed.

## Notices

- Santa Train promotion has started

## Public Comments

- Bob Sims noted there are ads running on TV in Bakersfield for luxury passenger train called “Canyon Spirit” from Salt Lake City to Moab to Denver.
- Nick Manos is willing to be on Big Boy planning committee when it is formed.

Motion 25-11-08

Add item of urgency to Closed Session – Facility Item – Grounds Security.  
Vicknair / Coen. Aye – 8, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion carries.

**BREAK 3:50 – 4:01 PM**

**Closed Session** – requested by President Greg Elems and Director Eugene Vicknair – 4:02 PM – 5:28 PM

- *Business Item* – Union Pacific discussions
- *Event Item* – UP Big Boy visit
- *Facility Item* – Grounds Security

Kerry Cochran left meeting at 5:10 PM

The Board heard a report on a Business Item – Union Pacific discussions. Consensus direction given. No reportable action was taken.

The Board heard a report on an Event Item – UP Big Boy Visit. Consensus direction given. No reportable action was taken.

The Board heard a report on a Facility Item – Grounds Security. Consensus direction given. No reportable action was taken.

**Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 5:29 PM

Next Meeting: January 13, 2025 – 1:00 PM  
Location: WPRM Meeting Room, Portola

Respectfully Submitted – Eugene Vicknair - Secretary