Feather River Rail Society
Board of Directors Meeting – July 11, 2026 – 4:30 PM
Western Pacific Railroad Museum Meeting Room – WPRM, Portola, CA

President Greg Elems called the meeting to order at 4:35 PM.

Attendance

The following Directors were present:

Kerry Cochran	Matt Elems	Tom Hervey - conf
Michael Coen - conf	Charlie Spikes	Janet Steeper – ph – arrived 5:18 PM
Greg Elems - conf	Bob Sims – phone	Eugene Vicknair - conf

8 directors present at meeting start – Quorum achieved.

Visitors:
Nick Manos - CMO
Steve Habeck – arrived 4:53 PM

Correspondence
Greg Elems

- Was contacted by a gentleman who has a 1965 Ford F-100 that is purported to be an original Western Pacific MOW truck. Asking $8,000. Board had questions. Consensus is to look further at the truck and get more information. $8,000 is felt to be a bit high on cost. Nick, Greg and Eugene will look into this more.
- Christopher Abundo from TSA wants to come see the museum soon. Does not have date yet. Going to introduce Greg to his replacement. Discussion about visit. He has visited before.

Consent Calendar
Minutes of the June 2026 BOD Regular Meeting.

Motion 26-07-01
Approve the minutes for the June 2026 Regular Meeting as presented.
Cochran / M. Elems. Aye – 7, Nay – 0, Abstain – 1. Motion carries.

New Business

Locomotive Painting Quote
Review quote for painting Quincy TR6A 1100..
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- Quotes sent as images.
- Discussion about presented quote from painter in Quincy.
- Michael has some concerns about the painter. Timeline is long, about 2 to 2-1/2 months.
- Michael and Nick are looking at alternatives that would be less cost.
- Michael recommends that we table the discussion and tell painter the cost is too high.
- The Board concurs. Michael will let him know that we do not want to proceed.
- Noted that Quincy 1100 needs some mechanical work and it is scheduled for that work. Paint is lower priority.

Locomotive Painting Fundraiser
Discuss fundraising proposal for locomotive painting.
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- Written proposal sent.
- Tabled to future meeting.

PRELIMINARY

Union Pacific 6946 Stairs

Review quote for new public compliant stairs and discuss transport options.

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- Written report sent.
- Discussed funding and options for shipping as shipping quoted is very expensive.
- Discussion about shipping.
- Suggestion that we start the order and discuss shipping later.

Motion 26-07-02
Authorize purchase of the stairs with the manufacturer. Shipping option to be determined when stairs are ready to ship. Expense to come from Union Pacific Foundation grant ($5,000), donations from members ($300) and balance from line item - 70031 . Grounds Improvement.
Coen / Steeper. Aye – 9, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion carries.

Old Business

none

Good of the Order

President's Report

- Andrew Dorin, a new member, is a sign painter out of Carson City. Greg showed him the Troop Sleeper and Andrew got excited. Last Monday, Greg and Andrew washed the Troop Sleeper and Andrew is repainting the lettering donating his labor. Purchased the paint supplies in Sacramento for $132 and Greg is going to reimburse the society for this cost. Work is about 85% complete. Greg working on article for the *Train Sheet*. Noted that Andrew did a wonderful job on the lettering. Going to come back in early August to do the south side.
- Discussion about having him do some billboard tarps for us to advertise the museum. Also speculation on him doing some freight car lettering.
- Waiting to hear back from Matt Monson. Going to discuss SD trucks with him as well as other items.

Financial Reports

- Financial reports provided.
- Gave verbal Treasurer's Report. Working on taxes and policy changes with Susan. Working on credit card processor info.
- Bob Sims has some questions.
    - Question on credit card balance and payment
    - Noted income is down. Discussion about how we had a brief flurry of RALs then everything dropped.
    - Discussion about possible impact of gas prices which are all over the place.
- Discussion about July 4. Was slow. Noted Graeagle was packed based on reports.
- Tom Hervey did an event in Loyalton then in Graeagle. Noted Loyalton had good crowds.
- Noted that Duane Vander Veen had a museum sign promoting the WPRM on the truck his daughter was driving in Graeagle. Board thanks Duane for this.

Director's Reports

- *Vicknair* – written report provided.
    - Most of the new members we received are part of an Explorer group staying at the museum

Event Reports

- *2026 Western Pacific Historical Convention* – written report provided.
    - Paul will up posting web page on Monday. Registration is open.
    - TSG Multimedia already dialed in.
    - Bob Sims questions on some operation items. Handling of checks. Question on HO car.
    - Bob has the database ready to go.
- *Western Pacific History Day* – September 26, Saturday

PRELIMINARY

    - Discussion about cancellation of Portola Railroad Days.
    - Lost Sierra Chamber also lost 2 board members. They are looking for people to take over Railroad Days. So event is currently up in the air.
    - Greg going to talk to Chamber about WP History Day.
    - Looking to have cab docents and tours of the collection. Also looking at having motorcar rides.
    - Discussing some display items with the Union Pacific.
- *Pumpkin Patch Express and Santa Train*
    - Charlie is in contact with Winco still.
- *Heritage Rail Alliance Annual Convention*
    - Convention is in York, PA. Eugene Vicknair is willing to represent FRRS at the event.
    - Discussion on cost next meeting.
    - Question on benefits from HRA.

Department Reports

- *Webmaster* – written report provided.
    - Paul has notes about missing Conductor's Report for June 14. Website was being attacked and there were 30,000 attacks. Website rejected everything to protect itself.
    - If report does not work, instruction was to wait a while and try again. If that does not work, contact Paul.
- *Train Sheet* – written report provided.
- *Mechanical* – written report provided.
- *Restoration* – verbal report provided.
    - SP GP9 2873
        - David Elems is still working on it. Both battery boxes were rusted out and David is rebuilding them. Steel all cut.
        - In process of doing that, we has found rusted out cab floor in nose. Does not feel that will impact painting but should be addressed soon.
        - Found one traction motor blower is being held up by one bolt. Evaluating that.
        - Thinks that it can get painted and go back into RAL in near future.
        - Should not be used for switching or caboose train until traction motor blower fixed.
        - Nick Manos will look and discuss with David Elems on how to handle repairs.
    - Michael and Ethan Doty worked on roof issues with Archives Car. Got major work done and working on some other smaller items.
    - Michael and Eugene discussing some future plans.

Committee Reports

- *Election* – written report provided.

Legal / Insurance Report

- Accident Policy has been renewed.
- Bill coming, premium is $300 for the year.

Safety Committee

- No reportable incidents or accidents.

Notices

none

Public Comments

- *Cochran* – Our membership to Heritage Rail Alliance is due. Susan instructed to pay.
- *Gus Paoli*
    - Asked about 100th anniversary for the SP MW208 rotary.
- *Steve Habeck*
    - Has been working with Tom Mueller on loading scrap steel for Sims Metal. Loaded 3 gondolas and 2 flat beds. 2 more flat beds and 1 gondola over next 2 weeks. Thanks to Nick the big white forklift has been running. Saw a lot of use loading the scrap steel.

PRELIMINARY

    - Put in radiator water and hydraulic fluid into forklift. Forklift has been handling well.
    - MOP caboose had air issue. Has now been fixed.
    - Has concern about weight of motor that has mount issue on SP 2873. Can see where it can go wobbling around. Is a 3 phase AC motor 260 volt. Concerned about electrical issues with the motor were to make electrical contact.
    - Today is Steve's 45th wedding anniversary.
- *Nick Manos*
    - Crew has been catching people climbing on WP 0-6-0 165. Caught someone climbing on it twice and they were checking out the whistle the second time.
    - Wants to put the WP 165 in the east end closer to the museum store. Would put the engine in closer view. Swap Charles Sweetwood and the WP 165.
    - Suggestion to also barricade the far side better.
- *Vicknai*r – Discussion about visitor who is interested in Sweetwood.

Closed Session – requested by President Greg Elems – 6:37 PM – 6:58 PM

- *Personnel Item* – Volunteer Actions

The Board heard a report on a Personnel Item – Volunteer Actions. No reportable action taken.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 6:59 PM

Next Meeting: August 8, 2026 – 4:30 PM
Location: WPRM Meeting Room, Portola

Respectfully Submitted – Eugene Vicknair - Secretary

PRELIMINARY

This file (BOD_Meeting_07-11-26_preliminary_rev_b.pdf) was posted to
WPLives.org at Fri Aug 7 02:25:37 PM PDT 2026