Feather River Rail Society
Board of Directors Meeting – September 12, 2026 – 1:00 PM
Western Pacific Railroad Museum Meeting Room – WPRM, Portola, CA

President Greg Elems called the meeting to order at 1:04 PM.

Attendance

The following Directors were present:

Kerry Cochran	Matt Elems - conf	Janet Steeper – conf
Michael Coen	Charlie Spikes – phone – 1:15 PM	Tom Hervey - conf
Greg Elems	Bob Sims – phone	Eugene Vicknair - conf

8 directors present at meeting start – Quorum achieved.

Visitors:
Nick Manos – CMO – conf

Noted that meetings are now using a new agenda format.

Adoption of Agenda
- Note any required changes to Agenda
  - Agenda Calendar missing Convention
  - Closed Session Business Item discussing 2026-2027 Events
- Note any Tabled or Continued Items not present in Agenda
- Disclosure of any conflicts or needs for recusal from Business Items
- Adopt Agenda by Motion

Motion 26-09-01
Approve the agenda as amended.
Vicknair / Hervey. Aye – 8, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion carries.

Correspondence
Michael Coen
- Received email from friend that runs rail tours. Doing a rail tour to Switzerland. He has offered to give members a $150 discount and he will donate $100 to the museum per member if we post and promote the trip. Holly MacLean is the friend and he is former director with CSRM. Tour will include behinds the scenes / shop tours.
- We can post on Facebook, website and MailTrain.

Greg Elems
- Greg still following up on the SoCal letter about saving WP units.
- Received letter from Kyle, General Manager of Empire Gypsum, concerning USGypsum GE 70 tonner 501. Noted that they will not scrap, are still deciding what to do with it.

Charlie Spikes arrived – 1:15 PM

- In open to an inspection and documentation of the locomotive.
- History on the locomotive given. Built for USG 1954, switched cars to the WP.

Consent Calendar
Minutes of the August 2026 BOD Regular Meeting.

Noted some typos in names at beginning of minutes.
Footer wrong. All corrected.
Question about city notice. Being handled, we got extended time.

PRELIMINARY

Motion 26-09-02
Approve the minutes for the August 2026 Regular Meeting as amended.
Vicknair / Coen. Aye – 9, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion carries.

Financial / Treasurer Report

- Reports and Financials Provided.
- Budget requests received, budget in progress for presentation in October.
- Nick Manos has an item on fuel expenses. All fuel expenses are shown allocated to RAL. Should be split 85% to regular ops and 15% to RAL fuel.
- Currently, our price for on road diesel is $7 a gallon. Price is likely to rise. We are good to end of year and probably to June. At $7, that is $12,000 for one year's worth of fuel.
- Bob Sims noted that we had a new profit near $6,000 for the month.
- Noted type where "now" is rendered as "not".
- Greg Elems noted that Graeagle has been slammed this year, while museums in the area are down.
    - Discussion that roadwork between Graeagle to Portola has made travel slow.
    - We are planning to and should promote more in Graeagle.
- Noted we did not get any scout troops this year.
- Noted that a bus driver from a Reno retirement home. Says he has brought 4 bus loads of people to museum in last 2 years. We should pursue this.
    - Eugene Vicknair will discuss with Patty Clawson.
- Photo teacher from Truckee Meadows contacted Greg Elems about another field trip. May be able to expand beyond Truckee Meadows. Noted there are several community colleges we could reach out to.
- Discussion about promotion and advertising.
- Kerry Cochran asked for accounting code list.

President's Report

- We have been preparing for the WP Celebration / History Day
    - Going to have WP 2001 on east end. WP 563 near gate. Looking at WP 1503 near gate and also having WP 608 and / or 501 relocated.
    - Working on UP heritage locomotive.
- Has been talking to Alan Barrett. They are doing a convention show and are planning two shows for next year for Reno convention.
- Looks like SP GP9 2873 will enter fleet early next year. Nick Manos planning on pulling WP SW1500 1503 once that happens. Issue with 2873 is that the further we dive in the more issues are found and need to be fixed.

Director's Reports

- *Vicknair* – written report provided.
    - 2026 Electric Bill in progress
    - 2027 WP Photo Calendar in progress
    - Eugene is looking into Great Train Show events. Noted that March 13-14 2027 they GTS will be in Reno. Asked Board if they want to consider being open for tours. Concerns about weather that time of year.
        - Charlie Spikes feels we should talk with them. Board consensus to explore if they are open to idea.

Department Reports

- *Webmaster* – written report provided.
- *Train Sheet* – need to get one out.
    - Bob Sims offered to proofread
    - RAL article
    - Big Boy article
- *Historical / Archives* – written report provided.
    - Eugene Vicknair thanks Kerry Cochran for finding some museum plumbing diagrams.
- *General Superintendent* – written report provided.
- *Mechanical* – written report provided.

PRELIMINARY

    - All hazardous waste disposal complete. Total cost about $900. Bills being paid.Next year estimate cost about $300. Now set up with regular disposal.
    - Greg Elems had question on work for WP 1503. Work now scheduled for April 2027.
- *Restoration*
    - David Elems has the parts and material for the SP GP 2873 cut and ready. About to get into welding some of the items. Have found other body issues with the engine.
    - Question about members wanted to work on projects. Please send contact info to Michael Coen.

Committee Reports

- *Safety and Legal Compliance*
    - Nick Manos stated that we will be keeping 4 barrels max of used oil around. Anything more will be sent to waste. Noted that he is planning to get a spill control pallet next spring to hold them.
- *Election*

Old Business

Locomotive Restoration Fundraiser

Discuss fundraising proposal for locomotive restoration work.

- Estimated to be about $1,000 cost to print and mail.
- Discussion about alternate options.
- Noted that Nevada Northern still post mails as well as online. Black Butte Railway group has had some successful online campaigns.
- Bob Sims has two items. Question about 202 photo and typo correction.
- Should be covered within the budget.
- Consensus to proceed. Going to try and get this out within the next 2 weeks.
- Janet Steeper asked for a list of what we have accomplished for the year.
    - Look to get a list of accomplishments to Janet for 2026.

New Business

none

Upcoming Events

- *Western Pacific History Day* – September 26, Saturday
    - Looks like the West Coast Railroads Group will have 2-3 motorcars for rides.
    - UP sent rotary and SP heritage to Colfax Railroad Days.
    - Eugene Vicknair has reached out to Peggy Y. on WP heritage unit. Unit has been staying around California.
    - Need to clarify admission structure and ops hours. Regular caboose train schedule and add extras if needed. Motorcars ran before, after and during lunch.
    - Open regular hours.
    - One price covers all. Admission, train rides free.
- *2026 Western Pacific Historical Convention* – written report provided.
    - Headlight was mailed Wednesday or Thursday.
    - Kerry Cochran received the convention cars.
    - Convention schedule is out.
    - Eugene Vicknair is coordinating with the vendors and layouts.
    - Bob Sims we are up to 15 registrations. With mailing out and now being received we should be seeing more soon. Asked that Kerry Cochran send the presenter list for the database and that Eugene Vicknair send the vendors.
    - Bob Sims offered to pay registration for directors who want to attend or at least do virtual.
- *Pumpkin Patch Express and Santa Train*
    - Promotion started.
    - Get 1 dozen haybales. Rent a dumpster after for disposal or break up and spread in balloon.
    - Charlie has been talking with Sue at Winco for pumpkins. Getting price by next week. Will hold for as long as we need. Need to get them a check ahead of time.
    - Discussion about pumpkin logistics.
- *Heritage Rail Alliance Annual Convention*

PRELIMINARY

Governance and Policy

- *Legal / Insurance Report*
  - Director and Officer Policy renewed for 2026-2027
- *2027 Preliminary Calendar*
  - Received notes and corrections from Paul Finnegan
  - Kerry Cochran needs to check Ops Training dates and will send update
  - Request for changes / adjustments / corrections. Finalize in October.
  - Question about Chris Skow excursion in October 2027. We are aware of it and are coordinating.
  - We are being compensated for this event.
- *Revisions to Agenda process and policy*
  - Kerry Cochran will look if we need to alter the policy itself.
  - Tom Hervey commented that we should keep Election as a standing report. Added.
- *California Association of Museums membership*
  - Proceed with renewal
- *Identify new Election Chair and Committee*
  - Kerry Cochran noted there is a box in the Office Car with Election useful envelopes.

Summary and Confirmation of Actions

- Review Motions and specific actions
- Ensure all Motions / Actions have person assigned to them
- Note any Tabled or Continued Items for next Agenda

Good of the Order

1. Notices

2. Public Comments

- *Charlie Spikes*
  - Charlie has resigned from operating department as an Engineer. Still can work as a Fireman.

Nick Manos left meeting at 3:29 PM

BREAK 3:29 PM – 3:41 PM

Closed Session – requested by President Greg Elems and Director Eugene Vicknair – 3:41 PM – 4:18 PM

- Personnel Item – *Offer concerning Treasurer position*
- Business Item – *Possible 2026 - 2027 Events*

The Board heard a report on a *Personnel Issue* – Offer concerning Treasurer position. Consensus direction given. No reportable action taken.

The Board heard a report on a *Business Issue* – Possible 2026-2027 Events. Consensus direction given. No reportable action taken.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 4:19 PM

Next Meeting: October 10, 2026 – 1:00 PM
Location: WPRM Meeting Room, Portola

Respectfully Submitted – Eugene Vicknair - Secretary

PRELIMINARY

This file (BOD_Meeting_09-12-26_preliminary.pdf) was posted to
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