

**Feather River Rail Society  
Board of Directors Meeting – September 8, 2018 – 6:00 PM  
WPRM Meeting Room – Portola, CA**

President Steve Habeck called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM

**Attendance**

**The following Directors were present:**

Charlie Spikes  
Matt Elems – phone  
Kerry Cochran - phone  
Greg Elems  
Steve Habeck  
Bob Sims - phone  
Janet Steeper  
Eugene Vicknair - phone  
8 directors present, 1 absent – Quorum achieved.

Roger Stabler – arrived 6:15 PM

Guests present:

Bart Hansen - Treasurer  
David Elems – mechanical and safety

**Correspondence**

*Habeck* – Chris Skow has 20 person tour group coming on 9 AM, Monday, October 8. We will open up special and provide tour. Al Evans has passed away. Al lived in Sequim, WA and was a long time WP employee and FRRS member. We had to audit account with K&S Market. Had difficulty getting account worked out due to their accounting process. As a result, we will no longer do account purchases with K&S. All members using K&S will now pay out of pocket and submit for reimburse. UP Foundation denied grant application.

*Vicknair* – Discussed recent on-line reviews.

*Sims* – Received eMail from Wayne Monger about estate sale in Sacramento. Eugene Vicknair also received email from another member about estate sale. Eugene sent info to Kerry Cochran and Frank Brehm to check it out.

**Consent Calendar**

Approval of the minutes of the August 2018.

Motion 09-18-01

Approve the minutes of the August 2018 regular BOD Meeting as presented.

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

**Old Business:**

**OB1 – Minor Mechanical Department (Spikes) - continued from August**

Request to create a new department for restoration and care of small motorized artifacts.

- Continued from last meeting.
- David Elems talked with Bil Jackson about this idea.

- Discussion was to set up subdepartment under Mechanical to handle repairs. Reporting and budgeting would be under CMO.
- Use would fall under Facilities.
- Would use similar tracking and paperwork to main Mechanical.
- Budget coding currently has budget for non-rail mechanical under Mechanical.
- Consensus to set up subdepartment.

## **OB2 – Highway 395 Billboard (Vicknair)**

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Review estimated costs and logistical issues for building billboard frame along Highway 395.

- Written report provided.
- Summary of information on building billboard.
- Discussion of traffic level along Highway 395.
- Confirmed Little Giant crane is not roadworthy. Not roadworthy. Needs new boom.
- Discussion about permit issues and build costs.
- Suggestion to use containers or truck trailer instead of billboard.
- Bart to talk to family.
- Board expressed that we need more public signage.
- Janet Steeper asked if there were owners in area we could put signage on their property.
- Eugene Vicknair to follow up on locations, shipping container options. Look at Delleker, Nervino Airport, city land.
- Greg Elems discussed using small billboard trailers that could be parked in various areas.
- Suggestion to revisit repainting sign on building cost. Would need exemption from sign ordinance. Concerns about condition of roof.
- Eugene to report back next meeting. Will work with Big Fish on this item.

## **New Business**

### **NB1 – Kalmbach Guide and Advertising (G. Elems)**

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Update Board on renewal of Kalmbach Guide ad and consensus to proceed.

- Written report provided.
- Greg Elems provided summary of his contacts with Kalmbach rep.
- Cost to renew full page ad about \$581 with discounts.
- Kalmbach has not raised price in a while. Looking to sell additional advertising as part of package.
- Greg to talk further to Kalmbach.
- Wants Board to commit to rerunning full page ad.
- Eugene can work with Big Fish on reworking ad copy.
- Question what kind of response do we get to this ad. We are not sure.
- Roger Stabler suggested adding coupon / discount so we can track.
- Discussion of how to handle tracking and discount.
- Eugene Vicknair suggested offering ½ off admission.
- Discussion if we want to offer \$25 off RAL. Concerns about that. Preference expressed for admission discount.
- Bart Hansen stated admission discount is good idea. Noted that admission counts are down.
- Steve Habeck stated that visitor counts were down across NE California. Hearing from venues in region and this year was poor for visitor counts, likely due to fires and heat.
- Also suggested we add stickers onto brochures we are dropping off.
- Suggestion to have "show your guide" as the discount item, avoiding clip out coupon.
- No smaller than 1/6 of page for any additional ads. Greg recommends we only do Classic Trains for additional ads.

- Plan for Greg Elems to review with Kalmbach and then Eugene and Greg will work with Big Fish on advertising proposal with Klambach. Report back to Board next meeting.

## **Good of the Order**

### **President's Report**

- Written report sent before meeting.
- Life Membership upgrade for Bart Hansen parents has been taken care of.
- Portola Reporter had nice write up and photos from Railroad Days. An entire page was devoted to museum, which was called highlight of railroad days. Heritage Units were the big draw. Kerry Cochran asked if we can have copy of article to post on website. Noted that article has several errors, may not be best to post. Eugene Vicknair suggested maybe we just use photos as write our own copy.
- Numbers of visitors were down for Railroad Days. Sparse crowds. No one in the park on Sunday, most vendors were already gone by 9:30 AM. No one has stepped forward to take over Railroad Days going forward. Looks like lack of interest in city.
- Museum will likely do Railroad Days theme events on its own if city does not continue. Suggested we change dates since part of lack of visitors is due to schools being back in session for last few years of Railroad Days. People have asked that museum continue Railroad Days.
- UP 849 work almost done. Doyle McCormack sleeper needs work for interchange and movement. We will coordinate with Amtrak carman on this work. Work will happen on RIP tracks.
- Fundraising mailer to date: received 27 responses. \$3,295. Received a \$1,000 donation today. Also received a credit card donation for \$500 today. Fundraiser has well covered its costs.
- Need to switch POS charges to Plumas Bank and transfer credit cards to Plumas Bank. Eugene Vicknair to get POS charges switched. Steve Habeck to work with Plumas Bank on credit cards. Bart Hansen to be added as signer on accounts.
- Wayne Monger asked where traction motor is for U25B in Cle Elem. Cascade Rail received \$50,000 for completing cosmetic restoration. Discussion about location and logistics with the GE 752 traction motor.

### **Financial Reports**

- Financial reports and summary provided.
- Visitor counts, RAL counts, museum store and member donations down.
- Memberships up almost 50%. RAL income is up.
- Need to work on increasing volunteer counts.
- Janet Steeper reported that 10 people went through crew training but never showed up again.
- We have discussed having Volunteer Coordinator in the past. Janet Steeper has volunteered to take on this task. Eugene and Loren to provide her with member contact info. Eugene and Big Fish are working on volunteer and membership drive for local region. Will include Janet in those discussions. Janet will also work with Kerry and Paul.

### **Director's Reports**

- *Vicknair* – written report provided. Info on Bill Wisneski and Santa Fe diner. Eugene provided contact info to Greg and David Elems.
- *G. Elems* – written report provided. Switch frog donation to Dayton Valley Historical Society. Loco display track. Greg to talk to Todd Roberts at city about cleaning out loco display area. Has track materials prepped. Setting up to repair broken frog on 1-2 switch. Has new volunteer lined up to join MOW crew.

- *Cochran* – donation and transport of model layout diorama of Keddie Wye. Kerry Cochran, Paul Finnegan, Eugene Vicknair and Christopher Kapreilian will be loading diorama in Tracy. Kerry and Paul will haul in trailer to Portola. Greg Elems will have crew available to unload, including Randy Morton and Ethan Doty. Work will happen Sunday, 9/9. It is split into two pieces. Bob Sims asked that it not be placed against wall so he can continue window film work. Should not be a problem, will be set away from wall. Greg and Kerry will also coordinate moving donated desks that are currently in store.

### Event Reports

- *2019 WP – PCR Convention* – written report provided. Registration is open. Looking for presentations. Steve Habeck purchased crew operating guide, he and Eugene have copies and one is in archives. Janet interested in doing show on CZ food and crew duties.
- *Pumpkin Patch Express* – written report provided. KC Marr and Ali Doty have been working on decorations. Patty Clawson has locked down 4 vendors for event, looking at 1-2 more.

### Department Reports

- *Webmaster* – written report provided.
- *Operations* – passenger train report provided. Overview of season's passenger train ops provided for review. Will be soliciting feedback from the Board at next meeting.
- *General Superintendent* – written report provided.
- *Historical / Archives* – written report provided. David Elems has received another large black filing cabinet for archives use.
- *RAL Ops* – written report provided. We have 3 engines in service right now thanks to work by David Elems with help from Bil Jackson: WP F7A 917-D, SP GP8 2873 and Quincy TR6A 1100. Discussion about putting WP GP20 2001 into special RAL level, +\$150 above regular Plan B, \$400 cost. Mechanical Department is okay with placing into service. Special rental engine takes 1 week advance reservation. Greg will take new pics of WP 2001 for this promotion. Will copy Eugene and Big Fish for advertising coordination. Special level will go through end of season.
- *Mechanical* – RAL loco work review. Has plan for radiator work on WP SW1500 1503. Roger Stabler to review radiator cores that may be available in Woodland. Roger will look at radiators later this week and take pix to send to David Elems. Looking at doing radiator and body work on WP F7A 917-D next year. Roger looking to do orange paint on WP 1503 in late September. Asked for 1503 to be positioned for paint work. Roger has new pressure washer coming. David has plans for refurbishing old Hotsey cleaner. Seth Adams will not be back until October to work on WP SW1 501. We have \$1,000 donated for WP 707 injectors with more coming.
- *Train Sheet* – next issue is mailing on Monday. Trying a new printer as a test. Saving about \$200 on printing. Will evaluate and decide how to handle next issue.

### Committee Reports

- *Safety Committee* - will be meeting at end of the month. Talking to Alpine about fire extinguishers. Looking at areas we can and cannot park around shop for fire / emergency access. Working on evac routes and other issues. Fire Extinguishers are NOT to be moved unless being used for emergency. We have portable extinguishers for project protection.

### Legal / Insurance Report

- Received bill for new Directors and Officers insurance. Significant increase over last year.

### **Status of Surplus Property Report**

- A gentleman named David Farrier is interested in old signal base we have 8 of. Is restoring a signal and needs a base. Willing to offer \$50 donation to Society for a base. Would also make suggestion that when he no longer wants signal, he can donate to Society for display. Consensus is that it is okay to proceed with this.

### **Safety Report**

- Continuing to find yellow wagons parked in electrical keep away area. Nothing must be placed in these areas. Also, nothing can be placed in front of fire extinguishers or in the red zone around them.

### **Public Comments**

- Janet Steeper asked for info on materials being donated to Dayton so they can draft thank you.
- Greg Elems was asked when the next Headlight is coming out. Kerry Cochran is working with staff to get another Headlight out before end of year and a second before Convention.

### **Notices**

- Calendar and Budget reviews next meeting.
- Have some school group excursion trains before Pumpkin Patch Trains.

### **Closed Session** – requested by Director Vicknair – 8:54 PM – 9:10 PM

- Legal Issue – Meeker vs. FRRS and Vicknair

The Board heard a report on a Legal Issue – Meeker vs. FRRS and Vicknair. No reportable action taken.

### **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at: 9:11 PM (Spikes / Steeper)

Next Meeting: October 13, 2018 – 6:00 PM

Location: WPRM Meeting Room – Portola, CA

Respectfully Submitted, Eugene Vicknair – FRRS Secretary