

Feather River Rail Society
Board of Directors Meeting – August 10, 2024 – 4:30 PM
Western Pacific Railroad Museum Meeting Room – WPRM, Portola, CA

President Greg Elems called the meeting to order at 16:32.

Attendance

The following Directors were present:

Greg Elems	Charlie Spikes	Eugene Vicknair
Kerry Cochran - phone	Bob Sims – phone	
Steve Habeck	Janet Steeper - phone	

7 directors present at meeting start – Quorum achieved.

Visitors:

Des Powers	Nick Manos
Michael Coen	David Elems – CMO, Safety Officer
Tom Hervey	Bart Hansen – arrived on phone at 4:45 PM

Election of Officers

Nominations for President

Charlie Spikes nominates Greg Elems, seconded by Kerry Cochran

No further nominations

Nominations closed

Nominations for Vice-President

Charlie Spikes nominates Steve Habeck, seconded by Greg Elems

No further nominations

Nominations closed

Nominations for Secretary

Janet Steeper nominates Eugene Vicknair, seconded by Charlie Spikes

No further nominations

Nominations closed

Nominations for Treasurer

Eugene Vicknair nominates Desmond Powers, seconded by Kerry Cochran

No further nominations

Nominations closed

Officers for 2024-2025:

President: Greg Elems

Vice-President: Steve Habeck

Secretary: Eugene Vicknair

Treasurer: Desmond Powers

Appointment of Department and Committee Heads

Noted Facilities Manager position is open. Charlie Spikes has retired.

David Elems suggested we may need to find a new CMO. He is uncertain about his future schedule and is uncertain he will have enough time. Request for recommendations. David has not been able to get someone to take it on.

No other changes to Department or Committee Heads at this time.

Correspondence

Habeck

- Several museums / historical societies asking us to advertise with their events. Group in Tehama has a history event coming in September.
- Plumas County Fair is going to have an event over Labor Day Weekend in Quincy. Will compete with our closing weekend.
- Steve's daughter got call from Feather River College. Needs to follow up on question.

G. Elems

- Received letter from Pacific Locomotive Association asking for assistance on their master plan update. Greg and Eugene will get back to them.
- Received a card from Chaplain Robbin Smith from Combat Veterans of California. Needs to follow up. His mother was a machinist for WP in Stockton from 1979-80.

D. Elems

- Someone from Golden Gate Railroad Museum reached out to use on some parts they ran across, including rotary snowplow parts.

Vicknair

- Mike Mangini contacted Kyle Wyatt and Kyle connected Mike to Eugene concerning parts that Mike has in his garage that came from the WP "Clover Plot".
- Question about status of "Silver Rifle" sale. Sale by GGRM went through, we need to get insurance and other info in place with Colorado Railroad Museum.

Consent Calendar

1. Minutes – Minutes of the June 2024 BOD Regular and Annual Meetings and July 2024 BOD Regular Meeting.

Typo noted – Mechanical report, loco number is wrong. Corrected.

Motion 24-08-01

Approve the minutes for the June 2024 Regular and Annual Meeting and the July 2024 Regular Meeting as amended.

Vicknair / Spikes. Aye – 6, Nay – 0, Abstain – 1. Motion carries.

Old Business

none

New Business

Headlight Proposal from White River Publications

Review proposal for publication of Headlight Magazine.

- Sample quote provided along with additional information.
- Paul Finnegan has been acting editor. Did not plan to be editor long term. We need to look at alternatives.
- Have sample quote and information from White River Publications. Quote is about half the cost of what we are paying now.
- Kerry has been talking with Kevin EuDaly and Dale Sanders about the proposal. Dale would be directly responsible for editing and publishing tasks.
- Sample of one of their publications sent to Board.
- Question to Board whether we want to continue with discussion.
- Discussion about past conversations and details about current discussions.

- Dale Sanders would be doing editing and production. Kerry asked him about access to the FRRS archives. Dale currently has access for assisting FRRS as part of archive team and Dale has use for his personal book projects.
- Noted that Dale Sanders is a tremendous benefit to the archive team and has been extremely helpful in his work.
- Dale already has draft of current working issue of Headlight, about 75% done. If we approve, he feels we can get issue out by end of year.
- No current issues with current editor, but it was intended to be a temporary position.
- Noted that once we turn this over to White River then it is in their hands.
- Contract attached to business item. Kerry included two items to be changed.
- Eugene Vicknair likes the proposal. Steve Habeck noted they do quality work on time.
- Greg Elems feels this is promising. Had concerns over original agreement and those are no longer a factor.
- Eugene proposes we table to next meeting so everyone can review contract and feels this is a good deal.
- Tabled to next meeting.

Train Sheet Cost Reduction

Proposal to reduce cost of Train Sheet printing.

- Written report provided.
- Proposal to convert all Associate members to email Train Sheet only starting with final issue of 2024.
- Current cost to print and mail a Train Sheet each year is half of the cost of an Associate membership.
- Noted that Train Sheets are not posted to website until 1 year after publication.
- Review of costs and Associate member counts.
- There will be notices in the next Train Sheet and on website.

Motion 24-08-02

Accept the report and change Associate members to email only Train Sheet.

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

Group Rate Costs

Discuss changes to group rate charges.

- Written information provided.
- Discussion about group rates.
- Noted Eugene is looking at membership and admission costs.
- Tabled to next meeting.

Good of the Order

President's Report

- Verbal report provided.
- Has some thoughts on the UP 4014 Big Boy event. Very pleased with the volunteers for the event. Everyone for the most part put in 110% and a lot of people really went above and beyond. Weather was brutally hot. Everyone kept hydrated. Did not hear any direct complaints, but did hear some comments late in the day about stuff out of our control.
- The photo shoot went great and those who participated were very well behaved. They really appreciated the whole event. Two photo participants paid double out of appreciation.
- Thank you to Steve Habeck and Eugene Vicknair for their work.
- Noted that emails in MailTrain system to request help worked great.
- A lot of volunteers stayed to help clean up with was a huge help.
- We were contacted by Jen Romero working on Portola Railroad Day 2024. Greg and Steve met with her yesterday and she came to the museum today.
- We had a surprise visit from people from a company out of Redding. They were doing an environmental assessment for the city sewer planning grant. The company is EnPlan. Discovered some items in the plan we need to address. Greg is talking to the city. More details will be reviewed in closed session.

Financial Reports

- Financial reports provided.
- Steve received WorldPay statement.
- Reviewed credit card statement.

Director's Reports

Vicknair

- Written report provided.

Event Reports

- *Big Boy Celebration* – event report
 - Thank you to store staff and volunteers. Crowds were very well behaved.
 - Huge thank you to the steam crew.
 - UP is very happy with the event. Feels our handling and planning for the crowds was “perfect”.
 - Volunteers were able to pivot and deal with issues very well. Everyone stepped up and handled things very well.
 - Very little issues with members of the public. Still getting notes from people how much they enjoyed the event.
 - We learned a lot from the event and have plans for improvements going forward.
 - City was very impressed with the event.
 - Noted that this is “going up the flagpole” in Omaha and we showed well. Ed Dickens said to several people his crew as impressed with how we did the event.
 - This is a blueprint for how to handle future events. We will learn from things and make changes.
 - Commented that the MailTrain call for volunteers was motivating for many.
- *2024 Portola Railroad Day*
 - Jen Romero from Lost Sierra Chamber of Commerce is leading planning of 2024 Portola Railroad Day on September 28.
 - She has been to the museum twice to meet with us on the event.
 - Starting slow to rebuild event. One day this year. Build up in future years.
 - WP 165 will be running on Railroad Day, September 28. Will be our last open day for the season. We will be doing steam RALs on Sunday, September 29.
 - Main events will be in city park. Working to coordinate well with museum ops.
 - Discussion about ops for Railroad Day. Free admission. Charge for train rides. Train ops 11-4. Load and go.
 - Greg asked UP for a UP engine to display at Railroad Day.
 - Train ride tickets will be sold at the entry gate. We will use wristbands for train rides.
 - Planning to have a museum booth at the park and docent tours at the museum.

Department Reports

- *General Superintendent* – written report provided.
- *Historical / Archives* – written report provided.
- *Webmaster* – written report provided.
- *Train Sheet* – written report provided.
- *Mechanical*
 - Verbal report.
 - Few notes from Big Boy Event.
 - Backhoe and Big White are both out of service.
 - Yale forklift is still working after all the work Nick Manos put into it.
 - Work on WP 165 pushed back mechanical work on other pieces. Prepping SP GP9 2873 for paint. Looking at getting black on engine tomorrow.
 - Been talking with Nick Manos. As mentioned, does not know what class schedule will be this semester but suspects he will have lack of hours for the museum. Will probably be spending majority of time at work. Nick has offered to become Assistant CMO and will take on more of the responsibilities. Will revisit in a month.
 - Plan is to have Kodachrome painted in the next few weeks.
 - Board notes that David has done a stellar job.
- *Facilities*

- Finish work to be completed on ADA / UP grant improvements. Signage thanking UP has been approved and is being put up.

Committee Reports

none

Legal / Insurance Report

- Habeck working on renewal for Directors and Officers insurance.
- Received copy of latest Form 990.

Status of Surplus Property Report

- Follow up on “Silver Rifle” sale

Safety Committee

none

Public Comments

none

Notices

none

Closed Session – requested by President Greg Elems and Director Eugene Vicknair – 7:22 PM – 7:40 PM

- Property Issue – City Planning

The Board heard a report on a Property Issue – City Planning. Consensus direction given. No reportable action taken.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 19:40

Next Meeting: September 14, 2024 – 1:00 PM
Location: WPRM Meeting Room, Portola

Respectfully Submitted
Eugene Vicknair – FRRS Secretary