

Feather River Rail Society
Board of Directors Meeting – August 9, 2025 – 4:30 PM
Western Pacific Railroad Museum Meeting Room – WPRM, Portola, CA

President Greg Elems called the meeting to order at 4:32 PM.

Attendance

The following Directors were present:

Greg Elems	Kerry Cochran - phone	Eugene Vicknair
Bob Sims – phone	Matt Elems	
Tom Hervey - phone	Charlie Spikes	

7 directors present at meeting start – Quorum achieved.

Visitors:

Nicholas Manos – CMO - ph	Steve Habeck
Armando Epifani – arrived 4:42 PM	

Election of Officers

President:

Charlie Spikes nominated Greg Elems, seconded by Kerry Cochran
Greg Elems elected President with no further nominations

Vice-President:

Charlie Spikes nominates Matt Elems, seconded by Eugene Vicknair
Matt Elems elected Vice-President with no further nominations

Secretary:

Kerry Cochran nominates Eugene Vicknair, seconded by Matt Elems
Eugene Vicknair elected Secretary with no further nominations

Treasurer:

Kerry Cochran recommends we leave position open until we find a qualified person
Consensus of the board is to leave position open for now

Appointment of Committee / Department Heads

Affirming all current committee and department heads.
Discussion of future event committee to be reviewed soon.

Correspondence

G. Elems

- Received correspondence from Ed Wagner. He wanted Board to know that he is extremely pleased with how Ann Cary is handling her job as store manager. There was a small problem with an online order and she solved it and sent a personal note. Feels her actions reflect well on Society. Ed also called Kerry and Eugene as well to share same feelings.
- Received an email from person who owns Western Pacific caboos 434 in Idaho and uses it as an AirBnB. The want to offer something related to it for the Convention raffle. We will follow up.

M. Elems

- Received a Facebook message from person in Argentina asking where we could find a model of an EMD G22 in America.

Vicknair

- We have been getting a lot of Facebook attention and traffic. Videos going over 10-20K in viewers. Our followers are now over 12,000.

Consent Calendar

1. Minutes – Minutes of the July 2025 BOD Regular Meeting.

Motion 25-08-01

Approve the minutes for the July 2025 Regular Meeting as presented.

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

New Business

2026 Priorities

Review items from strategy meeting and examine needs for 2026 to guide budget requests.

- Report reforwarded to Board.
- Board requested to review priorities and provide guidance for departments on expectations and help them frame up their budget requests.
- Have emails for guidance in by September meeting.
- Budget item will be on October meeting for discussion.

WP 165 Planning

Discuss plans for WP 165 work.

- Written report provided.
- Reviewed top level report from CMO on path to integrate WP 165 into Mechanical Department. Steam Crew will persist in operations as the certification is different.
- Goal is to achieve full return to service by 2027.
- Want to cultivate more resources and expand our reach into the grater steam community.
- Need to figure out exact position with the FRA and explore alternative inspection regimes. Will develop business plan / cost – benefit for all options.
- We need to do analysis of mechanical needs to get quotes and guidance to apply for funding.
- Need written maintenance procedures and intervals. Need to figure manpower hours required.
- We need training program for operations crews.
- Initial operations goal will be three times during the year. First ops will be an unadvertised test run / crew orientation / shake down. Goal for next public operation is July 4th weekend 2027. Run 3 days for the weekend and do RALs on the 165 only along with caboose ops. Next operation target would be Railroad Days 2027. Same scenario.
- Purpose of RALs would be providing ongoing funding for supporting steam ops.
- Two ideas for initial funding:
 - upcoming restoration grant
 - wants to discuss selling some items:
 - Dodge Pick-up
 - Unimog
- Discussion
- Kerry Cochran and Eugene Vicknair agree to allow CMO to proceed. Board gives consensus.

Old Business

none.

Good of the Order

President's Report

- Verbal report provided.
- Greg had meeting today with Chris Avundo of the TSA. Doing a review of the museum and possible TSA related security issues. Greg showed him the facility and explained details. Said if we wanted a

security audit, they would provide a free audit and report. We could use report for submission for grants. Fencing could be addressed under TSA report. Kerry Cochran and Tom Hervey commented on their previous professional experience with TSA. Kerry discussed past experience and concerns with TSA and security audits and what might result if we allow them and related entities into the operation of the museum. Kerry does not feel we want to be involved in situations like this and Tom agrees wholeheartedly. Kerry stated that if the Board has any questions, to please contact him. Greg, Tom and Kerry will review and respond.

Financial Reports

- Financial reports provided.
- Questions from Bob Sims:
 - JOB Group
 - Liability Check - United States Treasury - 68-0002774
- Question from Tom Hervey

Director's Reports

- *Vicknair* – Donated new desktop computer for the store.
- *M. Elems* – The haybales have been picked up from the picnic area thanks to Matt, Gus and Armando. Still looking at how to eliminate the dead ties as they cannot go into a dumpster.

Event Reports

- *2025 WP / DRGW Convention* –Have been getting more registrations. Presentation schedule locked down. Convention cars arrived. Layout tour schedule to come soon. 2027 NMRA PCR will be doing convention in Reno and would like to do a joint convention.
- *Pumpkin Patch Express* – Patty, Eugene and Mike looking for community support. Looking to release promotion before end of month. Charlie already talked to Winco on pumpkins. Recommended we have Santa posts by Pumpkin Patch.

Department Reports

- *Webmaster* – written report provided.
- *Train Sheet* – written report provided.
- *Mechanical* – written report provided.
 - WP GP7 707: all but 1 injector is out of WP GP7 708. Waiting on Hatch and Kirk order, should be in on Monday. Will get started overhauling all injectors from 707 and 708 to have 1 complete set plus 7-8 extras. Some corrosion on injectors out of 708 that may not be savable. Next steps will cost money. Will be making another \$500-\$600 Hatch and Kirk order soon. It appears there is some internal corrosion and gumming of fuel in WP 707. Want to install new valve bridges and want to do the work at same time as injectors. Has money in mechanical budget, just not in right "bucket". Found a new barrel of oil that reduces oil needs. Remaining oil and part budget would cover the valve bridges, total about \$3,500. Wants to swap them out this year. Discussion about going ahead and also seeking donations to help offset costs. Eugene will talk to Paul about promoting donations for 707.
- *Facilities*
 - Coke machine died. One of the dispense valves shattered.

Committee Reports

none.

Legal / Insurance Report

none.

Safety Committee

none.

Notices

none.

Public Comments

Nick Manos

- Wants to thank Charlie Spikes for buying a new torque wrench that was needed.

Ron Berriesford

- Donated \$500 toward the recent dumpster that was needed for cleaning up around the museum. Big thank you to Ron.

BREAK 6:10 – 6:26 PM

Closed Session – requested by President Greg Elems and Director Eugene Vicknair

6:26 PM – 7:23 PM

- *Personnel Item* – Update on personnel issue
- *Equipment Item* – Private Equipment
- *Operations Item* – Proposed Special Event

The Board heard a report on a Personnel Item – Update on personnel issue. Consensus direction given. No reportable action was taken.

The Board heard a report on an Equipment Item – Private Equipment. Consensus direction given. No reportable action was taken.

The Board heard a report on an Operations Item – Proposed Special Event. Consensus direction given. No reportable action was taken.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:24 PM

Next Meeting: September 13, 2025 – 9:00 AM
Location: CSRM Theater -- Sacramento, CA

Respectfully Submitted – Eugene Vicknair - Secretary