

Feather River Rail Society
Board of Directors Meeting – January 10, 2026 – 1:00 PM
Western Pacific Railroad Museum Meeting Room – WPRM, Portola, CA

President Greg Elems called the meeting to order at 1:09 PM.

Attendance

The following Directors were present:

Kerry Cochran - phone	Michael Coen - phone	Tom Hervey - phone
Greg Elems - phone	Charlie Spikes - phone	Janet Steeper – ph – arrived 2:04 PM
Matt Elems - phone	Bob Sims – phone	Eugene Vicknair - phone

8 directors present at meeting start – Quorum achieved.

Visitors:

Matt Shuman – Elections Chair - phone	Armando Epifani – phone – arrived 1:40 PM
Nick Manos – CMO – phone	

Correspondence

Vicknair

- Film crew contact and ACH sent. Finishing reviewing contract today.
- On recent trip to Southern California Railway Museum, one of their mechanical persons thanked me for info they received from an FRRS mechanical volunteer.

G. Elems

- Received Board of Directors ballot from California Association of Museums. Will send copy to Board.
- Sent note and received response to Kalmbach / FireCrown about advertising decision in last meeting.

Consent Calendar

Minutes of the December 2025 BOD Regular Meeting.

Bob Sims noted correction to 2026 WP convention item title in minutes.

Motion 26-01-02

Approve the minutes for the December 2025 Regular Meetings as amended.

Vicknair / Spikes. Aye – 8, Nay – 0, Abstain – 1. Motion carries.

New Business

WP PFE Reefer Car Movement

Review and approve budget for moving WP PFE reefer car.

- Written report provided.
- Reviewed current situation with Board.
- Nick notes we need \$4,000 to \$5,000 for fuel and \$6,000 for oil before season opens.
- Kerry Cochran willing to donate \$1,000 to general fund to help with costs.
- Suggestion to offer rent to Fairgrounds.
- Tom Hervey suggests moving as fast as possible.
- Tabled to next meeting.

2025 Operating Department Report

Report on Ops Department hours and personnel in 2025, including hours for Cochran and Finnegan.

- Report provided.
- Ops Department crew report with hours and personnel.
- Passenger train report. 1,909 rode regular trains.
- Discussion about how to get more accurate numbers and counts for regular days and events.

Old Business

none

Good of the Order

President's Report

- Verbal report given.
- Greg communicating with Ed Dickens on scheduling for Big Boy.
- Schedule is looking to fall around Portola Railroad Days and Pumpkin Trains.

Financial Reports

- Financial reports provided.
- Reviewed and discussed financials.

Director's Reports

- *Vicknair* – written report provided.
- *Cochran* – written report provided. Kerry and Paul reported their volunteer hours.

Event Reports

- *2026 WP / DRGW Convention* – written report provided.
 - Decided to go to Oroville and Feather Falls Casino / Resort.
- *Santa Trains 2025*
 - Lots of comments that this was a great set of Santa Trains
 - Charlie Spikes feels we had more cab riders than usual, all were happy

Department Reports

- *General Superintendent* – written report provided.
- *Historical / Archives* – written report provided.
 - Noted donation of a diorama of Keddie.
- *Webmaster* – written report provided.
- *Train Sheet* – written report provided.
 - Paul Finnegan resigning as Train Sheet editor.
 - Michael Coen is considering taking it.
 - The Board thanks Paul Finnegan for his work as editor. Request to send a formal letter.
- *Mechanical*
 - Have rough plan to winterize WP SW1500 1503 on Jan, 24.
 - Has been working on documentation and annuals.
 - Put up some new content on the website, including instructions on locomotive inspection form. Changing locomotive time card and new forms and instructions on website.
 - Going to install hour meters in locomotives.
 - Discussion about switching date for clearing shop.
 - Bob Sims mentioned he has a shelf of steam related manuals for a reference library. Nick also has some steam related docs for library.
 - So Cal Ry Museum has offered their mechanical library and knowledge if it would help.
- *Facilities*
 - Armando related that Brian Waller worked hard to get pipes repaired. Armando ordered more heat trace tape. Everything is frozen and shut down. Armando is going to try and thaw and drain some systems so they do not get damaged.
- *Museum Store* – written report provided.
 - March 13-15 going to work on cleaning out store and party car.
 - Greg Elems noted we will also have shelving available in the boxcar some archives are currently in.

Committee Reports

- *Election* – written report provided.

- So far incumbents Kerry Cochran and Greg Elems have been nominated.

Matt Shuman left meeting at 2:53 PM

Legal / Insurance Report

- Current on insurance, but postal issues have caused issues due to items getting lost or coming in late. We are working on getting things switched to email.

Safety Committee

- No reportable incidents or accidents.
- Working on setting up a safety talk. Some issues need to be addressed. We need to start including docents in crew training and meetings.
- Kerry spoke with Nick Manos about including mechanical persons in training / safety meetings.
- Discussion about interaction with the public by volunteers and improving safety culture.
- Nick has been purchasing tools for battery service that are insulated and safe. Going to be bringing them up.

Notices

None

Public Comments

Spikes – Thank you to Brian Waller for loaning his ATV for snow clearing

Vicknair – still looking into privacy and reporting issues. Going to schedule review with Board after more findings.

Closed Session – requested by President Greg Elems and Director Michael Coen – 3:24 PM – 4:31 PM

- *Personnel Item* – Discussion on personnel issues

The Board heard a report on a Personnel Item – discussion on various personnel issues. Consensus direction given. No reportable action taken.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 4:32 PM

Next Meeting: February 14, 2026 – 1:00 PM

Location: WPRM Meeting Room, Portola

Respectfully Submitted – Eugene Vicknair - Secretary