Feather River Rail Society
Board of Directors Meeting – May 9, 2026 – 4:30 PM
Western Pacific Railroad Museum Meeting Room – WPRM, Portola, CA

President Greg Elems called the meeting to order at 4:36 PM.

Attendance

The following Directors were present:

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

8 directors present at meeting start – Quorum achieved.

Visitors:

Don Nelson – Mechanical	Burr Wilson
Gus Paoli – Archives	David Elems – arr. 5:36 PM
Steve Habeck	

Correspondence

Greg Elems

- Jon Clark coming to work on the Silver Rifle in about 2 weeks. Wants to know any days in 3rd week of May that do not work for us. Discussion on who could coordinate with him on property and let him in and out.
- Corresponded with grandson of Phil Oels. Interested in becoming a member and becoming a volunteer. Had grandfather and uncle who worked on the WP.

Charlie Spikes

- Swire Coke will be here on April 11, Monday, to remove the old Coke machine. Charlie will try and call to reschedule for a time when someone can be here to look over their shoulder.

Eugene Vicknair

- Received letter from Michael Bamford asking to stay with paper mailed Train Sheet and including a $200 donation for the extra cost and trouble.

Consent Calendar

Minutes of the March and April 2026 BOD Regular Meetings.

Motion 26-05-01
Approve the minutes for the March 2026 Regular Meeting as presented.
Vicknair / Spikes. Aye – 8, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion carries.

Motion 26-05-02
Approve the minutes for the April 2026 Regular Meeting as presented.
Hervey / Spikes. Aye – 5, Nay – 0, Abstain – 3. Motion carries.

New Business

Offer to Purchase Unimog and Accessories

Review offer to purchase our Unimog.

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- Offer from gentleman in Susanville to purchase for $7,000.
- Opinion from former CMO David Elems is that it is worth much more.
- Noted that tires alone are $1,000 each.
- It has been requested that we dedicate any income from sale to WP 165.
- Noted it was all donated to us.

PRELIMINARY

Motion 26-05-03
Approve sale of the UniMog and its accessories for the offered $7,000. Funds received will go to the WP 165 Steam Restricted Fund.
Spikes / Cochran. Aye – 8, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion carries.

Headlight New Issue

Seeking approval to proceed with next issue of The Headlight.

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- It has been 6 months since last Headlight. Would like one out before next Convention.
- Cost will be about $5,800.
- Dale Sanders waiting for go ahead. Says he has enough material.
- Question about dealer sales. Kerry will discuss with White River.
- Discussion about budget and timing.
- Question about whether we can still sell extras in Museum Store with White River still handling dealer sales. Yes we can.
- Consensus approval given.

Volunteer Accommodation Conditions

Discuss current condition of the volunteer accommodations.

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- During Big Boy event, Tom Hervey had some people come to him and discuss the condition of the volunteer accommodation cars. He took a look at the shower car and was shocked at how bad it looked. Janet Steeper also is very concerned about these cars.
- Edenwold smells bad. We need to check for mold.
- Noted there are issues with floor and lack of venting.
- Eugene Vicknair noted that lounge is good when people take time to clean is and with the new furniture. Thank you to the folks who donated the new sofas.
- Kerry Cochran noted that the old mattress foam is outgassing and they need to be replaced.
- Roommette 11 does have a leak.
- In the last few years, people have been better about cleaning it.
- Kerry brings air fresheners each year and did some before the Big Boy Event.
- Shower car was completely built with museum volunteers. Part of the problem is that we have lost insulation on the piping. We need to winterize it better. Women's end shower is out of service. Middle Men's shower leaks onto ground. Some of the valves need servicing.
- Wallboard and floors in shower car need work.
- Discussion about Edenwold being cleaned in years past and that helped a lot.
- Discussion about the Lounge Car. Consensus is that the Lounge Car is fine when kept clean.
- Discussion about the Edenwold. First step would be to have a good cleaning done, then create a plan for replacing mattresses and flooring. Cleaning crew should sanitize the car like done last time. Recommendation that we put in linoleum instead carpet. Discussion about doing linoleum with carpet runners that could be removed and cleaned or replaced. Janet Steeper volunteers to investigate getting linoleum. Recommendation that we replace the mattresses first. We need to track down leak for Roommette 11. Main solution would be to budget for HVAC repairs / upgrades, mattresses and flooring. There is a heater in the car but you need to run fan to circulate properly. Look at dehumidifier in car. Suggestion to coat roof with roof fabric and elastomeric. We need budget and work plan as basis for fundraising.
- Discussion about Shower Car. Floor needs to be redone. Roof and windows are in good shape. Plumbing and floor need work. Charlie donated a new toilet for the shower car. Suggested we gut the showers and rebuild them, doing one end at a time. We need budget and work plan as basis for fundraising.
- Suggestion to request a donation from members using the sleeping accommodations to start a maintenance fund.
- Discussion about looking at getting a shower trailer for replacing the shower car. Could this be a lower cost option.

David Elems joined the meeting at 5:36 PM

- Recommendation that Janet, Tom and Eugene get with Brian Waller and determine costs and possible work plans. Come back by July meeting with info and costs.

PRELIMINARY

Old Business

Adjustment to Fare Policy

Review adjustment to the Fare Policy.

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- New brochure inserts had error in them for youth cab rides fare.
- Policy is $14, inserts show $12.
- Need to revise the Fare Policy to match the inserts.
- Consensus to adjust the policy.

Good of the Order

President's Report

- Verbal report given.
- In process of working with Jon Clark on "Silver Rifle". Will be coming up to finish UP inspection prep for movement to Colorado Railroad Museum. Car was owned by Golden Gate Railroad Museum and they sold it to Colorado Railroad Museum. FRRS was only storing it.

Financial Reports

- Financial reports provided.
- Discussion about Big Boy income, SBA COVID loan and projections for summer.
- Bob Sims has some questions on transactions.

Director's Reports

- *Vicknair* – written report provided.
  - Train Sheet – Matt Elems willing to do the Train Sheet layout. Does not want to chase content. We need people to commit to do content. Format needs to be addressed as for digital vs. mailed printed. Suggestion that print version be no photos and digital have photos. Kerry Cochran noted that donor Bob Keenan sent us a box of WP china. Bob wants to know what is going on with museum and wants news on his donations and news on the museum. We need to keep our members informed. Discussion about how best to handle Train Sheet. Matt Elems willing to do layout and Eugene Vicknair willing to act as article editor and wrangler. Noted that Headlight is historical and modeling info and Train Sheet is newsletter. Goal is still to go mainly electronic.

BREAK 6:25 PM – 6:45 PM

David Elems, Matt Elems, Tom Hervey and Janet Steeper looked at Edenwold. Saw windows on south side are in poor condition and leaking. Suggestion that we look at buying an Amtrak Budd Superliner and sell off the Edenwold. Janet will look into alternate cars.

Event Reports

- *Big Boy 2026* – written report provided.
- *2026 Western Pacific Historical Convention* – written report provided.
  - October 1-3, 2026 is available at Feather Falls.
- *Ardenwood Rail Fair*
- *Heritage Rail Alliance 2026 Conference*
  - Our membership is due in about a month in HRA, June 13.
  - Eugene offered to be Society representative for November conference.

Department Reports

- *General Superintendent* – written report provided.
  - Had outstanding turnout for crew training
- *Historical / Archives* – written report provided.
- *Webmaster* – written report provided.

PRELIMINARY

- *Museum Store* – written report provided.
- *Mechanical* – written report provided.
  - When Big Boy was here, Nick Manos and Don Nelson talked to Ed Dickens concerning the WP 165. Intent is to follow up with him after Big Boy tour is over.
  - WP 165 needs a 5 year annual. Requires removing the fire brick and inspecting the flexible staybolts.
  - Want to get someone independent to inspect locomotive and write up report for FRA and proceed from there. If issues found, we will address then talk to FRA.
- *Restoration* – written report provided.

Committee Reports

- *Election* – written report provided.
  - Steve Habeck volunteered to be a teller. Looking for two more tellers.
  - Count will be in the lounge car starting at 9:30 AM.

Legal / Insurance Report

none.

Safety Committee

- No reportable incidents or accidents.

Notices

- Members Meeting and Dinner and Open Cab Day - June 6
- Members being asked to volunteer to bring things in addition to catered sandwiches.

Public Comments

- Bob Sims has question about some spam reports he is getting from WPLives.org addresses. Will talk to Paul Finnegan.

Closed Session – requested by Director Charlie Spikes and Director Eugene Vicknair – 7:20 PM – 8:51 PM

- *Personnel Issue* – Member Conduct

Janet Steeper had to leave the meeting at 7:40 PM.
Charlie Spikes switched to phone meeting at 7:45 PM.
Duane vanderVeen present for first part of discussion. Left meeting at 8:10 PM.
Steve Habeck joined closed session at 8:15 PM. Left meeting at 8:40 PM.

- *Business Issue* – Budgeting and Reporting

The Board heard a report on *Personnel Issues* – Member Conduct. Consensus direction given.
The Board heard a report on a *Business Issue* – Budgeting and Reporting. Consensus direction given.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 PM

Next Meeting: June 6, 2026 – 3:30 PM
Location: WPRM Meeting Room, Portola

Respectfully Submitted – Eugene Vicknair - Secretary

PRELIMINARY