

FEATHER RIVER RAIL SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Meeting held January 21 1996, at the home of Bruce and Sue Cooper.
Time of Meeting: 9:00 AM.

FRRS Directors present: S. Habeck, C. Lippincott, W. Monger, (via telephone conference call), G. Wollesen, P. Langdon, (arrived at 9:45 AM), N. Holmes, B. Cooper, H. Stiles and S. Cooper.

FRRS Director absent: V. Neves.

FRRS Members / Visitors present: Lolli Bryan, Mardi Langdon, Tom Graham, Melissa McGrath, Jim Ley and Donna Habeck.

Meeting called to order by FRRS President Steve Habeck at 9:35 AM.

(1), Minutes of previous Meetings:

(1.1), **Minutes of the November 1995 Meeting:** Wayne reported that the land at Burns mentioned in 7.5, has not been sold. M: B. Cooper, S: H. Stiles, "That we accept the November 1995 Minutes as presented, with the correction duly noted". Motion passed 8-0.

(1.2), **Minutes of the December 1995 Meeting:** The Meeting was canceled because several Directors were unable to attend.

(2), **Special Orders:** No Special Orders were invoked.

(3), Financial Reports:

(3.1), **Gift Shop:** \$385.00. (3.2), **General Acct.:** \$3209.74. (3.3), **CU Loan:** \$00.00. (3.4), **CU Savings:** \$7,910.06. (3.5), **Special Acct.:** \$2,255.00. (3.6), **Skip's Acct.:** \$800.00. (3.7), **Plumas Savings:** \$2,432.89. (3.8), **Placer Savings:** \$34,906.00. (3.9), **B of A:** \$1,078.00. (3.10), **Beanery Acct.:** \$35.00. (3.11), **CU Certificate:** \$50,0578.77. (3.12), **Golf Classic Acct.:** \$109.00. M: B. Cooper, S: H. Stiles, "That we accept the Financial Reports as presented". Motion passed 8-0.

(4), Department Head and Committee Reports:

(4.1), **Publicity:** By Hank Stiles. Hank requested the Board's authority to continue the adverts placed in Summer Travel Guide and Flagstops, both contained in Pentrex publications. While discussing Hank's request the Board considered modifying the adverts to include dates of Railroad Days etc. and changing the mention of locomotive rentals from 'rent' a locomotive to 'drive' or 'operate' a locomotive to give a more accurate portrayal to the general public of the program. Also, more emphasis on the FRRS, not just the Portola Railroad Museum was discussed. The Board also considered placing adverts in other publications, ie. Reno, Sacramento and Bay Area newspapers. The Board agreed that in light of the greatly reduced receipts for 1995, that we need to advertise more.

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(4.2), **Public Relations:** By Bruce Cooper. Bruce has been in contact with Huell Howser, the presenter of the TV show 'California Gold' about the Museum being included in a future program. The Board discussed exploring other media publicity at this point. Bruce stated has not received any offer of payment from 'Muscle' magazine for the pictures taken at the Museum.

(4.3), **Membership:** By Norm Holmes. The transition of Membership Secretary from Ed Warren to Peggy Garner is progressing very smoothly.

(4.4), **Gift Shop:** By Norm Holmes. The Gift Shop is continuing to perform fairly well in spite of the poor weather. Sales receipts from the Southern Cal. train shows were \$440 approx.. Norm presented a list of 1996 train shows that will be attended by the Museum Gift Shop.

(4.5), **Facilities:** By Gordon Wollesen. The roof has developed a few more leaks but it is still a lot better than it used to be. The installation of the hot water system will progress as soon as funds are available. The Board discussed providing better parking facilities for RV's of Members working at the Museum.

(4.6), **Grants:** By Steve Habeck and Norm Holmes. Nothing new to report.

(4.7), **CMO:** By Hank Stiles. The master sign for the vehicle logos has been shipped to the manufacturer. The WP GP9's are in Council Bluffs waiting to be sent west to Portola. Hank mentioned that 2001 will need to have batteries installed before it can be checked out. Hank stated that he would like 2001 to have a current FRA blue card so that it can be sent to other locations ie. Sacramento for special events. We still need a bell for VIA 6776.

(4.8), **Beanery:** By Sue Cooper. The Beanery is closed until the 1996 season.

(4.9), **Restoration:** By Steve Habeck on behalf of Dave Dewey. The Board discussed the painting / restoration program for 1996. 921, 725, 731, 6776 and the Ingersoll Rand were mentioned as candidates for this year, as well as finishing 805A and 2001. Norm has located some door catches for the cabinets in the VIA lounge car.

(4.10), **Publications, Headlight, 1996 calendar and Museum guide:**

By Norm Holmes and Steve Habeck. Norm produced a proof copy of the Headlight that John Ryczkowski intends to publish. When the new headlights are mailed out, we will include a 'welcome back to the Headlight' flyer. The magazine will also be sent to people who used to be Members of the FRRS as a gesture of goodwill. Norm produced the following costs of producing and distributing the Trainsheet. 1032 copies mailed @ 26c per copy = \$268.11. 21 copies mailed overseas @ \$2.05 per copy = \$43.05. 4 copies to Canada = \$6.60. 4000 calendar cards @ 1.7c each = \$68.00. 1100 Bicentennial reprints @ 12c each = \$135.00. 1500 envelopes = \$199.00. Print costs @ 31c per copy = \$361.00. GP9 fund raising flyers @ 4.4c each = \$44.00. 1300 issues of the wall calendar @ \$1.377 each = \$1791.00. Annual Permit, \$85.00. Giving a total cost of \$3000.76. Steve mentioned that the wall

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calendar produced by Wayne and Vic has been very well received. Steve produced a draft guide produced by Paul Finnigan of a possible Museum guide and equipment roster. The Board agreed that it was an excellent product certainly worth pursuing further. Norm suggested that we put the idea on hold until we have exhausted our stock of 'Circle the Wagons' brochures, which could be updated with a flyer.

(4.11), Pacific Limited: By Steve Habeck. Steve repeated the debt owed to UP by Pacific Limited which stands at \$84,000. If UP demands payment, the FRRS is obliged to pay a fourth of the debt ie, \$21,000. Pacific Limited Board has agreed to make a partial payment to UP of \$20,000 as a gesture of good faith. After some discussion, M: B. Cooper, S: H. Stiles, "That we send an advance of \$5,000, (our one fourth share), to Pacific Limited for the partial payment of the debt owed to Union Pacific Railroad". Motion passed 7-1. Wayne opposed. The only trips so far approved are still the ones over the former CNW and through the Ozarks to Branson MO.. The ticket reservation system has been reorganized to try and eliminate the problems that occurred in the past.

(4.12), Special Events; R & LHS visit; advance Railfans Day
publicity: By Steve Habeck. Mr Art Lloyd on behalf of R & LHS, requested a one time only copy of the FRRS mailing list so that they could mail flyers advertising their railroad bookstore in Folsom to FRRS Members. Steve and Norm decided to send a box of mailing labels rather than the actual list to preserve the confidentiality of the list. Mr. Lloyd also outlined the agenda of the R & LHS Convention at Reno in May / June that will include a trip to our Museum. The Board agreed that we need to advertise Railfans Day well in advance of the actual weekend. The theme of this year is going to be EMD first generation hood units. Norm has been approached by Roy Gabriel and his partner who would like operate a railroad flea market at the Museum on Railfans Day. Wayne is hoping to get John Shaw as our feature slide presenter. John has a vast collection of Plumas / Sierra County railroad slides. The possibility of a similar flea market at the Museum during Railroad Days was discussed. Peter Solyom has approached Norm about the possibility of a WP Historical Society meet.

(4.13), Archives: By Lolli Bryan. Lolli suggested that we include articles and photos in the Train Sheet of interesting items discovered in the archives. Also, Lolli requested permission to place adverts in local papers requesting WP Memorabilia. Lolli's request was granted.

(4.14), Safety Committee, (Training Program revisions): By Steve Habeck. A lot of changes have been proposed for the program. When Jim Gidley has written up a draft of the new rules, they will be issued to the Operating Dept. Members.

(5), Correspondence:

(5.1), Bill of Sale for 725 & 731: Steve produced the Bill of Sale for these locomotives for the Board to inspect

(5.2), Tentative Contract with the State of Nevada: This concerned UP 737. Steve read out the above Contract which

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outlines the conditions under which the State of Nevada will transfer ownership of the engine to the FRRS. Briefly, if the locomotive is not transferred to the FRRS, the State of Nevada will reimburse all transportation charges.

(5.3), **Letter from Amsterdam Leasing:** This concerned their search for certain Alco & MLW locomotives that may be available.

(5.4), **Letter from the City of Portola:** The City Engineering Dept. wishes to put our water supply onto a metered service.

(5.5), **Letter from the Heather Wren:** Thanking us for the donation of a locomotive rental at the Heather Wren benefit dinner & auction.

(6), **Museum Executive Director Report:** Norm did not have anything new to add to what the Board has already been informed about what is happening at the Museum.

(7), **Old Business:**

(7.1), **Updates:**

Doug Morgan Proposal: Doug has forwarded a draft lease agreement to Norm. When it has been 'cleaned up' it will be presented to the Board. Doug also told Norm that he has purchased Sam Girdler's share of the 'Pioneer'.

Directors Insurance: Nothing new to report.

Property sale & land acquisition: Mike Passo of UP Real Estate has told Norm that when the sale of the land is complete, that the Museum lease agreement will be re-written to reflect the donation of part of the sale parcel to the FRRS.

UP 737: Nothing to add to the earlier discussion during 5.2, Correspondence.

Gray's Flat rail: Nothing new to report.

SP 1215: A tentative date of Feb. 20 1996 has been set for the proposal to be presented to the Board of Supervisors concerning the transfer of ownership from King's County to the FRRS. Norm will be present at the Meeting.

Trailer in Sacramento: We have not had any further contact with the owner, so the Board decided not to pursue the donation of it to the Society any further.

Switches / drop table trade: The transportation details etc. are being worked on at this time to complete the transactions.

WP 725 & 731 status and use: No action will be taken until the locomotives are at the Museum and can be evaluated.

(7.2), **Organizational Chart review and approval:** Tabled until the February Meeting.

(7.3), **David Dewey employment proposal:** The general opinion of the Board is that Dave should remain under contract to the Society as self employed, not a full time salaried employee. Norm also suggested that the guidelines under which Dave works should be reviewed ie., Dave supplying more of his own tools etc. The Board decided to postpone any firm decisions until a later Meeting when Dave may be present.

(7.4), **1996 Budget outlines from Department Heads:** Tabled until the next Meeting.

(7.5), **Establish minimum standard rates for the use of Museum property and equipment:** Bruce stated that he is working on a table of base line rates etc. which he will present to the Board when it is complete.

(7.6), **Establish minimum fee for charter train rides:** Bruce suggested a \$40.00 minimum charge for this service. Local schools etc. would be exempt from any charges.

(7.7), **Acquisition of satellite dish and receiver(s):** The dish has been installed by Bruce and the first receiver has been set up in the Silver Spike for Ken Roller's use. The second receiver is in the store room until a suitable location is ready for it.

(7.8), **Acquisition of new radio batteries & charger:** The specification has been changed to a 'six hole charger' at the recommendation of Kerry Cochran and Gordon Wollesen. The charger and batteries will be purchased as soon as funds permit.

(7.9), **Glad Hand Award:** As soon as Bruce receives enough glad hands for plating etc., he will mount them on plaques for presentation to the Members concerned.

(7.10), **Membership input items:** The main focuses are, facilities improvements, disposal of surplus equipment and protection of the equipment. No decisions were taken on specific items.

(8), New Business:

(8.1), **Acceptance of Chris Skow's settlement check:** This is the \$5,000 check paid to Chris by UP for donation to the FRRS as a result of his injury claim. (See Board Minutes, July 16 1995). M: N. Holmes, S: H. Stiles. "That we accept the check to the value of \$5,000 to the FRRS from the Union Pacific Railroad via Chris Skow". Motion passed 8-0.

(8.2), **Bylaws change proposal for Directors terms, proposed by Tom Graham:** Tom suggested that the Election process be changed to elect three Members each year and that the term period be increased from two years to three. Tom also presented a method of transition from the present system to the new system. After some discussion, M: H. Stiles, S: G. Wollesen, "That Tom presents his proposal in a written form to the Board for consideration to be put to the Membership in the form of a ballot for a By-laws change" Motion passed 8-0. Wayne suggested that the proposal should include term limitations. The Board agreed that term limitations should not be tied to this issue.

(8.3), **FRRS role in proposed tourist operations on the Almanor RR:** The Society has been approached by a group of people from the Chester area including the Manager of the Almanor Railroad, (operated by Collins Pine). the group appear to have the necessary financial backing for the venture. Wayne mentioned that the good relationship developed through the annual Almanor Motor Car Runs are a major reason why the FRRS has been approached to operate the trains. Hopefully, there will be meetings between the FRRS and the group concerned to pursue the idea further.

(8.4), **Establish Ken Rollers duties & responsibilities:** The Board

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discussed updating the agreement that was made with Ken concerning his job as caretaker and site security. The Board agreed to Norm and Gordon reviewing the issue and reporting back to the Board.

(8.5), Commitment for trackwork, (balloon, Dodgepole, 6, 7 and ramp): Steve listed the trackwork that needs urgent attention around the site. After much discussion, including Wayne's suggestion that we purchase new ties not for heavily used track instead of our current policy of using used ties, the Board authorized Wayne to investigate the cost of new ties.

(8.6), Generators: Jim Ley mentioned that Steve Lee may have four passenger car generators for disposal at Cheyenne. The Board agreed to investigate acquiring them.

(8.7), Crane Seminar: Jim presented a proposal to the Board regarding training and certification of crane operators. He suggested that himself and possibly Hank should attend a seminar which would certify them to operate cranes and train other crane operators. After some discussion, including the liability advantages of having at least one certified crane operator, **M: N. Holmes, S: C. Lippincott,** "That we send Jim Ley to the Crane Operations Seminar outlined by Jim in Oregon and reimburse his registration expenses, plus \$100 for out of pocket expenses". Motion passed 7-1. Gordon abstained on the grounds of limited finances. At this point, the Board had a brief discussion about the drop in receipts from the locomotive rental program.

(8.8), McCloud Railway purchase of FR&W 16: The McCloud has approached Norm about the possibility of purchasing this locomotive, because it is an ex. McCloud engine. Also Jeff Forbis, (the owner of McCloud Railway) has mentioned the possibility of the Society organizing passenger trains on the McCloud. After some discussion, the Board authorized Norm to investigate the two issues further.

(9), Next Board Meeting: The next Board Meeting will be held 11:00 AM on February 18 1996, at the home of Bruce and Sue Cooper.

(10), Good of the Order: Wayne mentioned that he would like to make up a collection of FRRS / Museum photos etc. to send to the Host of our Internet WWW page. **M: H. Stiles, S: B. Cooper,** "That we adjourn the Meeting". Motion passed 8-0.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:50 PM.

Meeting Minutes transcribed by Peter G. Langdon from audio tapes recorded at the Meeting and personal notes.