

**Feather River Rail Society**  
**Board of Directors and Annual Meeting – June 8, 2024 – 7:00 PM**  
**Western Pacific Railroad Museum Diesel Shop – WPRM, Portola, CA**

President Greg Elems called the meeting to order at 19:04.

**Attendance**

**The following Directors were present:**

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

6 directors present at meeting start – Quorum achieved.

**Visitors:**

David Elems – CMO, Safety Officer	Gus Paoli
Ann Morningstar – Election committee	Drew Atkins
Nick Manos	Eric McKay

**Correspondence**

*Habeck*

- Letter from Steve Holmes on Norm Holmes' Celebration of Life. Appreciated use of the facility. Wonderful event. Special thank you to Greg Elems and Steve Habeck.
- Guy from North Myrtle Beach, NC. Wants to put FRRS logo on his Bronco tire cover. Asking Board for permission. Board gives consent to use graphics. Kerry Cochran will follow up.

Motion 24-06-01

Approve use of FRRS logo on personal vehicle by request of member.  
Cochran / Vicknair. Aye – 6, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion carries.

- Letter from Philadelphia Insurance. Notice that they agree to renew our D&O policy for next year.
- Received American Alliance of Museums renewal.
- RBC statement on funds in investment fund received. Had been going up.

*G. Elems*

- Got letter from Kalmbach Media, now called Crossroads. Received advertising contract for next year's Tourist Trains Guide for full page ad. Also received bill. We were #1 or 2 on their June email ad.
- Have someone who wants to be on the 4014 train down the canyon but found out we need to have 10 hours plus of correspondence for just a special event, no rides.

**Consent Calendar**

1. Minutes – Minutes of the April and May 2024 BOD Regular Meetings. Noted that April 2024 Minutes were tabled from May.

Bob Sims – April minutes has incorrect location. Corrected. May minutes refers to sink in wood shop, this is actually in metal shop. Corrected.

Motion 24-06-02

Approve the April and May 2024 BOD Regular Meeting Minutes as amended.  
Cochran / Vicknair. Aye – 6, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion carries.

**Old Business**

none

## **New Business**

none

## **Good of the Order**

### **President's Report**

- Verbal report provided.
- Doug Petersen signal donation. Greg Elems and Phil Schmierrer moved donated signals from Lodi to Portola. Not in parking lot.
- Norm Holmes Celebration of Life went well.
- Moving on with UP 4014 Big Boy Celebration. Waiting to hear from gentleman who did photo class a few years ago. Planning to help with our photo event on July 10 evening. Has not head back from Mast Roofing on recent questions. Heard they do need to schedule time to work on roof. Waiting to hear if we need a down payment to schedule. They are holding bid they gave us as we have applied for grant to fund work. Plan is to put in October 2024 work slot.

### **Financial Reports**

- Financial reports provided.
- Went through financials.
- David Elems noticed some codes in credit card report that he needs to adjust.

### **Director's Reports**

*Vicknair* – written report provided.

- Discussed Whitman Grant updates.
- Discussed September dates for 2025 convention. Second and third weekends in 2025.
- Question about UP Foundation grant.

### **Event Reports**

*Independence Day Weekend – July 5-7*

- To have discussion with Roger Stabler on 165 ops.

*Big Boy Event – July 10*

- Current ticket sales over 260.
- UP approved poster and graphics. New marketing push coming Monday.
- Still trying nail down second food truck. Also trying to get caterer for fundraising dinner.
- Discussion about location of Big Boy in yard.
- Stocking up store including Big Boy specific merchandise.
- Steve Habeck is concerned about July 4 weekend so close to Big Boy.

### **Department Reports**

*General Superintendent* – written report provided.

- Opening weekend well attended. Thank you for all help with Norm Holmes Celebration of Life.

*Historical / Archives* – written report provided.

- We are getting a lot of donations. Noted Doug Petersen donation. Zephyrette Helen Webb donated a bunch of stuff.

*Webmaster* – written report provided.

*Train Sheet* – written report provided.

- Publication date moving up to 6/24 to make sure it gets out before Big Boy event.
- Request for articles.
- Ann Morningstar said that last Train Sheet was one of the best and Headlight was exceptional.

*Signal* – written report provided.

- Discussion about AT&T requesting to drop landline phones. We have options if this happens. So far CPUC is denying AT&T's request.
- WigWag is now working again.

*Mechanical*

- SP GP9 2873 is on caboose train. Had small hiccup with QRR 1100. Wanted 2873 on train for cab ride capacity. Mechanically in good shape. Still doing body and prep work fo repainting. Wants to keep it in restricted caboose train service until repainted. Will be released to RAL and open service when painted.

- WP 0-6-0 165 had FRA inspection. Everything went well, no problems. Everything in compliance. Initial steam up is scheduled for June 20 or 25. Then prep for 4014 event.
- Prepping for cab day was also a lot of work. Thank you to Nick Manos and Logan Beers for all their help in prepping for Open Cab Days.
- In next few weeks, moving back to diesel work. Priority is WP FP7 805-A. Hope to have 805-A running end of summer.

#### *Facilities*

- Has been some rearranging and upgrades in machine shop. Old store sink is now in machine shop and is the new shop sink. Making improvements to discharge and sump pump in wood shop.
- Thank you to Eric McKay for wiring up new light up exit signs and working on other electrical items.
- Ed Powell and Bill Parker did a lot of weeding last weekend.

#### **Committee Reports**

none

#### **Legal / Insurance Report**

none

#### **Status of Surplus Property Report**

none

#### **Safety Committee**

- Calling Alpine and getting June set of extinguishers certified and serviced.
- Did get extinguisher mounted in east end of Museum Store.

#### **Notices**

- Thank you to Nick Manos for leading Open Cab Days. Greg, Steve and David did equipment relocation. Logan and Steve worked on a lot of stuff including shop clean up. Eugene did history write-ups. We had high volunteer turnout today and a lot of visitors. Visitors were very happy with the event and how it was handled. We want to get more, good quality steel steps.

### **Annual Membership Meeting – 20:17**

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#### **1. Election Results – white ballot**

- Ann Morningstar made official announcement. No candidates aside from incumbents entered the Board election for 2024-2025.

#### **2. General Society Update and Future Goals**

- Big Boy Celebration is coming. Seems to be facilitating new relations with Union Pacific.
- We were contacted by someone with UP History Museum in Iowa and asked about having someone speak at UP event in September 2024.
- Discussion about future items with UP.
- Discussion about Whitman Building project and relationship with our current and former congressional representatives.
- Review of possible future land donation.
- Through conventions and archive work we are working with California State Railroad Museum and their archives. Building great relationship with them.
- We have a strong relationship with Nevada-California-Oregon Railway museum and that is becoming mutually beneficial.
- Building good relationship with Rio Grande Modeling and Historical Society.
- FRRS helped out Utah State Railroad Museum with painting of Western Pacific GP35 3002.
- The archives are expanding. Making progress on cataloging and scanning. Putting more and more stuff online. Dale Sanders and Paul Finnegan are doing a lot of scanning and cataloging. We still get a lot of questions that utilize the archives.

- Mechanical projects: WP FP7 805-A, WP GP7s 705 and 707. Now a real department again with multiple people in the department. Working on increasing tools on hand and improving tool quality. Working on getting fleet back up to old levels in good operating condition. Goal is to have a good fleet to choose from for operations. Brian Waller wants to start working on WP coach 302:1 and Charles O. Sweetwood.

### 3. Comments from the Board and Officers

- *Cochran* – Thank you to all members and directors for their work and support
- *G. Elems* – Noted influx of new members who are helping us with work and ops around the museum. Thank you to them. Looking at some new RAL engineers. Noted Nick Manos and Brian Waller in particular. Some long time volunteers getting excited again about working at museum.
- *Spikes* – Thank everyone who has been covering the facilities issues while he has been down with knee and surgery. Noted he feels time to pass on Facilities Manager title to someone new. Thanked everyone who helped him over the last 15 years. Thank you in particular with Duane van der Veen and Ed Powell on Facilities work.
- *Habeck* – Concerned about grant moving forward on Whitman Building Eugene Vicknair noted that UP is cooperating on modifying the lease to protect construction of Whitman Building and reopening the land sale question.

### 4. Comments from the Membership

- *Nick Manos* – It seems that in the past from his perspective that projects have been taken on without full plan. An example is WP coach 302:1. Feels there should be more emphasis on how we preserve and protect, steward the artifact. We should factor all this before we start a project. With the value of volunteer time and scarcity of funds there should be a long term plan for every move. Has also seen, over the last year and a half, has seen positive changes in how we conduct acquisitions. As a new volunteer, wants to say that all the members of the Board have been wonderful to work with and appreciates that they have been easy to work with.
- *David Elems* – To echo Nick, we have been making a lot of strides in the right direction in terms of policies and safety culture. We are improving in safety and making safety a habit. Just need to keep improving. How we treat equipment is improving and we are continuing to improve. Moving in right direction.
- *Eric McKay* – Thinks everyone did a fantastic job today with the Open Cab event. Hears what Nick is saying about where to keep restored equipment. That is why he is excited about Whitman Building and feels it is something we have been needing. New building cannot happen fast enough. There are some things that have sat around forever and perhaps we should consider what to do with them. All in all we have a great bunch of people who want to do the right thing.
- *Drew Atkins* – AS a new member, it has been pretty great starting out here.
- *Ann Morningstar* – Would like to see Model T running on track and making some money with it. That was Ron Huey's intention.
- *Gus Paoli* - Thinks event today went well and was spaced out well. Things spaced well for photos and viewing. Made good sharing for social media. RAL program is something good to draw in visitors. Good thing to focus and expand. Eric McKay noted a lot of people taking photos of their families and offered to help them by taking photo of the whole family for them. Encourages them to share with social media.

**Closed Session** – none requested

### Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 20:58

Next Meeting: July 13, 2024 – 4:30 PM  
Location: WPRM Meeting Room, Portola

Respectfully Submitted  
Eugene Vicknair – FRRS Secretary