

**Feather River Rail Society  
Board of Directors Meeting – August 10, 2019 – 4:30 PM  
WPRM Meeting Room – Portola, CA**

President Steve Habeck called the meeting to order at 4:35 PM

**Attendance**

**The following Directors were present:**

Charlie Spikes  
Greg Elems  
Janet Steeper  
Kerry Cochran

Bob Sims  
Steve Habeck  
Matt Elems - phone  
Eugene Vicknair - phone

8 directors present at meeting start – Quorum achieved.

**Guests present:**

David Elems – Asst. CMO, Safety Officer – phone with permission  
Bart Hansen - Treasurer  
Kenneth Finnegan – Signal Dept.

**Election of Officers**

**President**

Greg Elems nominated by Hansen and Spikes

Steve Habeck nominated by Sims - nomination terminates for lack of second

- Kerry Cochran made a statement that several directors had considered that we need to pursue succession plan and educate other directors / officers in the different jobs. Some directors thought that in the coming year would be good to swap jobs between Steve Habeck and Greg Elems. This is also consideration for Steve's health situation. There is no slight intended toward Steve.

Greg Elems elected President.

Greg Elems accepts the nomination and election to President.

- Greg Elems takes over meeting as President

**Vice-President**

Steve Habeck nominated by Cochran and Vicknair

Steve Habeck elected Vice-President.

Steve Habeck accepts the nomination and election to Vice-President.

**Secretary**

Eugene Vicknair nominated by Spikes and Cochran

Eugene Vicknair elected Secretary.

Eugene Vicknair accepts the nomination and election to Secretary.

**Treasurer**

Bart Hansen nominated by Steeper and Spikes

Bart Hansen elected Treasurer.

Bart Hansen accepts the nomination and election to Treasurer.

**Appointment of Department and Committee Heads**

- Kerry Cochran provided list of current Department and Committee Heads.
- Kerry suggested that this be tabled to September meeting to allow time for review.

- Greg Elems expressed approval of current roster.
- Discussion if Election Committee from 2019 will be willing to continue for 2020 election. Matt Shuman has expressed they would be willing to do so.
- Matt Elems stated that he would like Paul Finnegan to fully take over Train Sheet editor. Greg Elems approved change.
- Kerry Cochran requested consensus direction to make the discussed changes to 2020 Election Committee and Train Sheet.
- Eugene Vicknair mentioned that David Epling has requested to be made Model Railroad Committee head at last meeting. Bob Sims is current head of the committee. Consensus that this will be discussed later in meeting.
- Kerry to update list and send out.

### **Correspondence**

- *Steve Habeck*
  - Received message from Seth Adams. Was at museum last week. Pulled injectors from WP SW1 501 and got quote for new injectors. Seth offered to donate ½ of injector cost. David Elems recommended to get competitive quote from Power Rails and discuss with H&K.
  - Was filling out credit application for Battery Systems in Reno. Listed Flyers fuel. In talking to Flyers, discovered we had 7 people on cardlock account, including 6 that Steve had never heard of. However, no one had used the account. Steve cancelled all names on cardlock fuel account and is resetting the permissions on the account. We are looking to reset and start using the account correctly. This should lower our fuel costs.
  - Received copy of contract for NDA on business project we are working on.
  - Received new application for Directors and Officers insurance. Has been pulling together financial information needed for this.
  - Noted that he saw an email that a visitor had come by 22 minutes before closing and store was closed. He wanted to spend money in the store but store was closed as employee was counting till. Steve had been given permission for them to lock up early as there had been no new visitors since 3 PM. The visitor's comments were also posted on Facebook. He is not upset, but wanted to make the point. Kerry Cochran noted that we have published hours. Steve was letting store person go early to save some money on payroll. Discussion about protocol on this. Steve told store staff no more early closing during summer. Greg Elems spoke to visitor and discussed situation. Visitor said he will be coming back in future to visit and make purchases. Greg noted that he saw a second statement about similar situation on Facebook. Agreed that we need to stay open the full hours. Greg noted that he has also let store staff leave early on slow / stormy days.
- *Yelp and Google Reviews* – Eugene Vicknair noted that we had about half a dozen new reviews following WP Celebration, 5 being 5 star and 1 being 4 star.

### **Consent Calendar**

Approval of the minutes of the July 2019 Regular Meeting and 2019 Membership Meeting.

Motion 19-08-01

Approve the minutes of the July 2019 Regular Meeting and 2019 Membership Meeting as presented.

Vicknair / Steeper. Aye – 7, Nay – 0, Abstain – 1. Motion carries.

### **Old Business**

#### **2020 Western Pacific Convention**

Review preparations for 2020 Convention.

- Written report provided.
- Written report provided.
- Kerry Cochran reviewed plan that he and Eugene Vicknair worked out.
- Presented recommended convention fares based on costs Eugene received from casino.
- Reviewed dates, theme, committee and structure of event.
- Kerry requested comments or consensus approval.
- If Board approves, we will start website set up and start taking pre-registrations.
- Eugene will get Bob Sims and registration up to speed before we start getting registrations.

Motion 19-08-02

Approve the report as approved and give permission to proceed.

Cochran / Habeck. Aye – 8, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion carries.

- Kerry and Eugene will start getting everything set up to open registration.

## **New Business**

### **Signal Department – Museum Network**

Discuss changes to Museum network, internet and WiFi.

- Written report provided.
- There have been some questions / complaints from visitors that they were being requested for password on audiotour. Kerry pointed out that there is a password for WiFi. Visitors need to use their own data plan for audiotour. We do NOT have public WiFi system.
- Steve Habeck received information on device based audiotour system which is intended to be used by docent with transmitter and receivers for visitors. We looked at this years ago and decided not to use due to cost and potential loss.
- We have discussed having public WiFi in past and we have rejected this due to security and bandwidth. We could do this today. Over the last week, Kerry and Kenneth Finnegan have been monitoring bandwidth.
- Discussion about doing trade with Plumas Sierra Telecom: they get Gold Sponsorship level in exchange for faster internet connection. Bart Hansen will follow up on this as he has contacts with them.
- Discussion about poor quality of phone network and internet around the museum.
- Bart commented that Liberty Power may be able to put power into picnic area as part of non-profit support.
- Consensus direction to Signal Department to proceed with investigations and research.
- Question if we could limit / throttle guest WiFi. Answer is yes. We can control times, bandwidth, what they can access, etc.
- Earlier this year, Steve reconfigured our phone system to a new provider except one line for AT&T. This lowered our phone costs about 50%.

### **Event Planning**

Review new Event Planning tools.

- Kerry Cochran discussed need to improve event planning.
- Provided copy of proposed event planning document.
- Requested consensus direction to proceed with reviewing this tool and solicit feedback from Board and impacted volunteers / staff.

- Steve Habeck stated that we need to review these things more closely with store staff on this items.
- Discussion about event planning issues.
- Consensus direction to proceed with development.
- Eugene Vicknair has been reviewing this for the last couple of weeks. Is working on suggestions for Kerry.

### **FRRS Document Storage**

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Review report on new digital storage system.

- Written report provided.
- Kerry Cochran and Paul and Kenneth Finnegan have been setting up secure cloud storage for all FRRS business documents.
- Kerry presented review of the system and justification for why we need to be saving these documents and histories.
- Secure internet based record storage using NextCloud.
- Improvements to archives department computer and storage systems led to this.
- Kerry and Paul are currently collecting data, documents, etc. and storing them.
- Data is backed up in multiple locations. It is search engine capable.
- We are not paying for this service. Being provided free of charge. We have unlimited storage.
- We have multiple administrators managing so there is not a single point of access.
- Discussion about use and details of system.
- Consensus direction given to continue.

### **International Railfair Roseville**

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Consider proposal to have presence at IRF Roseville, November 9-10, 2019.

- Written report provided.
- Bart Hansen offered to assist with this attendance at IRF. Offered to transport materials and take trailer to Roseville.
- Kerry Cochran requested to get the information on the recent HO material donation. Noted that we have donation procedures now and they need to be followed.
- Kerry thanked David Epling for picking up HO donation and for inventorying the donation.
- Discussion of how to handle inventory and meal costs for event.
- Expression that we want to do the event. Need to have details worked out.
- Bart and Janet offered to inventory remaining Bruce Y O scale items.
- Greg Elems brought discussion back to IRF event.
- Noted that no lodging expenses are requested.

Motion 19-08-03

Society participate in the International Railfair in Roseville. Will sell model railroad materials. Will pay no expenses beyond registration / table fee. Table costs reported as \$150 for recommended set up.

Cochran / Habeck. Aye – 8, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion carries.

- Bart offered to donate fuel costs for transport to and from event.
- Expenses for food will not be paid.
- Discussion about protocols on reimbursement and donations against expenses for museum operations.

### **Historic Designation for Charles O. Sweetwood**

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Proposal to nominate WP 106 for historic register status.

- Written report provided.
- Clarification on questions about impact of historic status.

Motion 19-08-04

Approve seeking National Historic Landmark status for Western Pacific 106 "Charles O. Sweetwood".

Cochran / Habeck. Aye – 8, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion carries.

### **Western Pacific SW1500 1503 Events**

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Proposals for dedication and photo events featuring WP 1503.

- Written report provided.
- Greg Elems reviewed quickly the events he is thinking of.
- Dedication of WP 1503 for June 2020 with full event and attendance by friends and family of Rod McClure.
- Would like to do photo opportunity similar to rotary run once WP 1503 is fully operational again. Would also like to have photo op with WP 501, WP 165 and WP 608.
- Photo session is targeted for October 2019. Would be an evening event after museum closes at 5 PM. Would offer cab ride tickets.
- Discussion about doing framed photos and sending to Union Pacific as a thank you for 1503 donation.
- Consensus direction given to continue with planning.

### **Good of the Order**

#### **President's Report**

- Written report provided.
- Steve Habeck will be taking ex-WP speeder that Kerry Cochran donated to Quincy next week and have it in the local parade. He will also be cleaning it up.
- Charlie Spikes requested 10 minute break.

BREAK 6:35 PM – 6:48 PM

#### **Financial Reports**

- Written reports provided.
- Western Pacific Celebration was good for finances. Bart called out Eric McKay for his handling of the information booth. Kerry noted that Eric stayed and helped him with Archives Car electrical as well.

#### **Director's Reports**

- *Vicknair* – written report provided.
  - Christopher Kapreilian has been helping with reefer. Other members have been expressing interest in helping.
  - Question about adding color and what cost for calendar. Should not impact cost. Kerry to help Eugene get images out of Garth Groff collection for calendar.
- *Cochran* – written report provided.
  - Renewed our membership with Heritage Rail Alliance.

#### **Event Reports**

- *Western Pacific Celebration* – written report provided.
  - Steve Habeck commented that he felt event went smoothly and was successful.
  - Janet Steeper noted that people were happy and wanted to be there.

- Opinion that advertising worked well and explained event well.
- Greg Elems expressed thanks for all the volunteers who worked to prepare WP 1503 and prep for the event and who worked the event.
- Thanks to Bart Hansen for last minute cleaning.
- We received sponsor donation from Sierra Energy for \$25.
- PortaPotties cost \$375 total for event.
- *Pumpkin Patch Express 2019* – discuss preparations and finalize committee.
  - Eugene Vicknair has already had tentative discussions with KC Marr, Ali Doty and Patty Clawson about Pumpkin Patch Express.
  - Plan is to use WP SW1500 1503 for the event.
  - Light plants will be split: one in Pumpkin Patch and one in parking lot.
  - Pumpkin Patch planning committee will be Kristina (KC) Marr, Ali Doty, Eugene Vicknair.
  - Some changes being considered for general event. Train ops will remain the same with diner removed.

### **Department Reports**

- *Webmaster* – written report provided.
  - We received compliment from Sierra Energy about quality of our website.
- *Train Sheet* – written report provided.
  - Kerry pointed out details in planning notes for Train Sheet articles.
- *General Superintendent* – written report provided.
- *Historical / Archives* – written report provided.
  - Archives car now has permanent power. HVAC equipment is being delivered. Breaker is installed to power the HVAC system.
- *Marketing* – written report provided.
  - Lost Sierra Chamber Director also received info from Steve Habeck about WP Celebration.
- *RAL Operations* – written report provided.
  - Noted that Facebook RAL advertising by Big Fish has been getting notice and attention.
  - Noted that we have 7 RALs booked for rest of August.
  - Greg Elems commented that our RAL poster is showing equipment that is not available right now.
  - David Elems stated that he has seen several different responses to questions about US Army FM condition. Offered to write canned response.
  - Kerry Cochran noted that we should update advertising. Also noted that several folks have commented on condition of WP F7A 917-D.
  - Advertising posters need to be updated. Greg requested that Eugene create new RAL poster to replace poster outside store.
  - We have two full boxes of brochures remaining.
- *Mechanical* – written reports provided.
  - Discussion about costs for WP SW1500 1503 radiators and backhoe repairs.
  - Discussion about need for new batteries in electric forklift. Current set are about 23 years old.
  - Discussion about replacement of golf cart battery set that was recently completed. Cart received full servicing and rewiring.
  - Eugene Vicknair relayed message from Roger Stabler about possible work on finishing painting on WP SW1500 1503 in the next few weeks.
  - Bob Sims discussed offering donation toward some mechanical work.

### **Committee Reports**

- *Model Railroad* – written report provided.
  - Noted that we need contact information for Jim Stockdale for HO model donation. Bart Hansen to follow up with David Epling.

- Plans are to take donated collection to International Railfair for sale.

### **Legal / Insurance Report**

- One policy renewed last month. Directors and Officers policy renewing next month.

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

- One SP sugar beet gon has been loaded and sent to museum in Arizona.
- Eugene Vicknair to contact museum in Williams, AZ to clarify holding second SP beet gon for them.

### **Safety Report**

- David Elems still working on forklift safety training.
- He is also still working on last fire extinguisher renewals and replacements.
- Greg Elems discussed run through switch during end of Saturday operations at Western Pacific Celebration. Investigation is still in process.

### **Public Comments**

- *Bob Sims* – Suggesting that we keep the bear bolts into the dumpster even on night before dump pick-up. Garbage company said this is okay. They just asked that we not use the locks. Bolts are okay.

### **Notices**

- 2020 Preliminary Calendar to be reviewed next meeting. Submit any dates and requests for events before the meeting.

### **Closed Session** – requested by Directors Cochran, Habeck and Vicknair – 7:59 PM – 8:37 PM

- Legal Issue – FRRS vs. Kasten / ITAC / Gateway
- Business Issue – Equipment Donation
- Business Issue – Future Business Possibility
- Personnel Issue – Volunteers and Personnel

The Board heard a report on a legal issue – FRRS vs. Kasten / ITAC / Gateway. No reportable action taken.

The Board heard a report on a business issue – Equipment Donation. Consensus direction given. No reportable action taken.

The Board heard a report on a business issue – Future Business Possibility. No reportable action taken.

The Board heard a report on a personnel issue – Volunteers and Personnel. Consensus direction given. No reportable action taken.

### **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at: 8:39 PM (Vicknair / G. Elems)

Next Meeting: September 14, 2019 – 4:30 PM

Location: WPRM Meeting Room - Western Pacific Railroad Museum - Portola, CA

Respectfully Submitted, Eugene Vicknair – FRRS Secretary