

**Feather River Rail Society
Board of Directors Meeting – November 9, 2019 – 1:00 PM
WPRM Meeting Room – Portola, CA**

President Greg Elems called the meeting to order at 1:06 PM

Attendance

The following Directors were present:

Charlie Spikes

Greg Elems

Kerry Cochran - phone

Bob Sims

Roger Stabler - phone – arrived 1:21 P

Steve Habeck

Matt Elems - phone

Eugene Vicknair – phone

Janet Steeper

8 directors present at meeting start – Quorum achieved.

Guests present:

Bart Hansen – Treasurer - phone

David Elems – Asst. CMO, Safety Officer

Bil Jackson

Tom Hervey

Correspondence

- *Habeck* – Ads are up in the local RV parks. Veteran's View posted image of 4 locomotives from our website and put it on their site to promote us. We have promotion deal with them. Showed stack of newspapers from local area with Pumpkin Patch ads.
- *G. Elems* – Duane van der Veen gave Greg letter from Portola Rotary thanking us for our contribution to their fundraising effort.
- *Vicknair* – We continue to get mainly 4 and 5 star reviews posted to Google and Yelp. Also have had visitors posting photos. Did get a couple 1-2 star reviews, only one with comment. Received email from family who visited from Switzerland and did RAL. Their certificates were stolen. We are getting them new certificates.

Consent Calendar

Approval of the minutes of the October 2019 Regular Meeting.

Motion 19-11-01

Approve the minutes of the October 2019 Regular Meeting as presented.

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

Old Business

none

New Business

Western Pacific 512 Restoration and Painting

Review paint scheme options and fundraising proposal.

- Written report provided.

- Color drawings shown of five different possible paint schemes. We have permission to use drawings in fundraiser.
- Need to make clear that fundraiser must hit certain funding level to do paint scheme. If funding does not reach level specified, funds will just be used for mechanical work.
- Discussion about battery needs and other Alcos that could be operable.
- Question about current condition of the engine.
- Discussion about current condition of the paint job on the engine. Paint is in poor condition. Was done over 17 years ago.

Roger Stabler joined meeting on phone – 1:21 PM

- Question about what cost may be for mechanical work. Still uncertain, engine is still under evaluation.
- Overview given of current inspection status.
- Suggestion to table this item until mechanical scope is better understood.
- Question about condition of other Alcos in the collection. Habeck stated that Quincy 4 has 2 cracked / bad heads.
- David Elems hopes to have cleaning and overall inspection done by end of the month.
- Noted it will take about 8 gallons of primer and 8 gallons of paint to do the 512.
- Consensus direction to table this item and revisit in December meeting.

Santa Train 2019 Advertising

Review budget proposal for advertising.

- Written report provided.
- Suggestion to add advertising in Reno area and on social meeting.
- Need to get cab ride info onto the web page for Santa Trains.
- Noted that we have \$1,400 in Santa Train budget and \$1,100 in Advertising budget for year. Use these funds for advertising.

Great Train Expo

Approve participation at Great Train Expo in Sacramento January 4, 2020.

- Written report provided.
- Bart will not be available, but Bart and Janet will still help with packing and inventory.
- Eugene may be available to help with the booth.
- Concern that inventory may need to be picked up earlier than weekend before due to weather unpredictability.
- Discussion that people planning the event need to follow up on getting paperwork filed.
- Suggestion to just go with one 3 table booth instead of two.

Motion 19-11-02

Approve expenditure of \$195 for a single 3 table booth at the Great Train Expo – January 4-5, 2020.

Vicknair / Steeper. Aye – 9, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion carries.

- Eugene Vicknair will coordinate with Bart and David Epling to make sure it is paid.

Volunteer Recognition

Discuss issues with Volunteer Recognition.

- Written report provided.
- Kerry Cochran has been pushing hard to make sure that volunteers get recognition.

- Operations Superintendent Loren Ross reported to Kerry that there are some volunteers who are not signing in so their hours and service are captured and noted.
- Certain volunteers were singled out as doing a lot of work and we don't know the hours.
- We need to know these numbers to help with grant applications, restoration project estimations, etc.
- Kerry will be drafting certificates of recognition for volunteers. Duane van der Veen mentioned in particular.
- Bob Sims had question about recording of hours.
- Discussion about recording and recognition of volunteer hours.

Good of the Order

President's Report

- Written report provided.
- Noted that caboose being repainted is SN 1642..

Financial Reports

- Written reports provided.
- Eugene and Bart to have call about Plumas Bank account status later in week.
- Bart has set up a tentative date of December 12 to do an audit of financials with Susan Scarlett. Audit committee is being set up.
- Noted that more and more grant organizations are demanding audited financials and this is also viewed as a protection item for the Society.
- Discussion about costs for getting through the winter.

Director's Reports

- *Vicknair* – written report provided.
 - Got us approved as reseller with printer on 2020 Photo Calendar. This gets us a discount and no sales tax.
- *Sims* – Has been working on sealing windows on the *Silver Hostel*. Got some High Line signboards off eBay. Planning to stay a few days longer to get windows finished. Is down to the smaller windows and 3 large windows left to do on the car. Discussion about sealing cars against intrusion.
- *Habeck* – Steve went around and changed all the battery operated clocks for time change and changed batteries. Went into lounge car and found the car to be in a poor condition. Garbage can full, car filthy. Also found someone had pulled battery from smoke detector in Edenwold and left note but did not change battery. Last time Kerry Cochran was up, he spent a day cleaning the lounge car, so it happened since then. Bob Sims offered to empty trash and do some cleaning before he leaves. Suggestion to set up for changing batteries on smoke detectors when the fire extinguishers get tested and serviced each year.

Event Reports

- *Pumpkin Patch Express 2019* – written report provided.
 - Reviewed feedback and ideas. Still reviewing operation and will get more feedback. Board will review recommended changes formally at December meeting.
 - Discussion about issues with using the Model T as a prop. Suggestion to only bring it out for special events.
 - Discussion about how to handle people coming through without paying. Proposed to go to straight \$10 per car and no EPCAN donation for Pumpkin trains suggested. Will be on December meeting as business item.

Department Reports

- *Webmaster* – written report provided.
 - Questions / discussion about Yahoo groups shutting down and implications. Greg to talk further with Bob and Paul on this. Discussion about old WordPress blog and Facebook.
- *Train Sheet* – written report provided.
 - We have articles for the Train Sheet needing writers. Steve Habeck offered to put together something for the Santa Train if he can. Roger Stabler made suggestions on how best to provide info based on his steam report experience. David Elems will try to get something in mid / late December for WP 512.
- *General Superintendent* – written report provided.
- *Historical / Archives* – written report provided.
 - Noted that KC received a large archive donation and sent a list to Kerry so he could get a donation letter out. Thanks to KC for that.
 - Steve Habeck noted that there are 3 donations in the container.
- *RAL Operations* – written report provided.
 - Discussion about issues with RAL numbers being down. Noted that we have not had any cancellations due to lack of engineers or mechanical issues. We also handled all walk-ins.
 - Thanks to Bil Jackson for handling RALs last week.
 - Discussion about where to focus RAL advertising.
 - Promote group RALs, “share with friends”.
 - Age group seems to be mainly 40-60 years old.
 - Used to get a lot of European and Japanese tours.
 - Discussion about WP 1503 to be available for RAL next year.
- *Mechanical* – written report provided.
 - Bil Jackson has been trying to get the replacement parts for the light plant. Has bypassed issue and plant is usable.
 - WP 512 – wheels on left side are in great shape, flanges on right side are tenuous. R2 wheel may not be recoverable to spec. Plan is to turn loco and keep it running in that direction.
- *Marketing* – written report provided.
 - Reviewed offers from GroupOn. To put on January 2020 Agenda for action.
- *Operations* – written report provided.

Committee Reports

- *Historical Convention* – written report provided.
 - Greg Elems reaching out to Al Fonseca for guest speaker.
 - Hoping to start getting registrations this week. Bob Sims is still reviewing registrations process.

Legal / Insurance Report

- We are paying our Directors and Officers Insurance in installments.

Status of Surplus Property Report

none

Safety Report

- Noted issue with wheel on WP S1 512.
- Working on finishing fire extinguisher inspection.
- January 1 need to inspect next set of extinguishers.
- Would like to bring Alpine in to service second batch of extinguishers. Will cost less than \$800. Would leave us just 2 batches to inspect in 2020.

- Oil separator. Wants to get work crew together and clear 5 feet around separator and erect construction plastic fence around temporarily. Wants to cover and put permanent fencing around. Has plan to cover with chainlink gate panels.
- Oil house – Working on ideas to improve oil house. Need to clear area around oil house.

Public Comments

- *Bil Jackson* – Leaving next Saturday or Sunday, will be back in April. Heading to Arizona.

Notices

none

BREAK – 3:49 PM – 4:00 PM

Closed Session – requested by Director Vicknair – 4:02 PM – 4:46 PM

- Legal Issue – Meeker vs. FRRS and Vicknair
- Business Issue – Future Business Possibility

The Board heard a report on a legal issue – Meeker vs. FRRS and Vicknair. Consensus direction given. No reportable action taken.

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

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at: 4:48 PM (Vicknair / G. Elems)

Next Meeting: December 14, 2019 – 1:00 PM

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

Respectfully Submitted, Eugene Vicknair – FRRS Secretary