

Feather River Rail Society
Board of Directors Meeting – March 8, 2025 – 1:00 PM
Western Pacific Railroad Museum Meeting Room – WPRM, Portola, CA

President Greg Elems called the meeting to order at 1:07 PM

Attendance

The following Directors were present:

Greg Elems - phone	Charlie Spikes – phone	Janet Steeper – ph – arr 1:25 PM
Kerry Cochran - phone	Matt Elems - phone	Tim Hervey - -director
Michael Coen – phone	Bob Sims – phone	Eugene Vicknair - director

8 directors present at meeting start – Quorum achieved.

Visitors:

Ethan Doty – phone

Matt Shuman – Election chair - phone

Correspondence

Habeck

- Sent the summary for our liability policy premiums and financing. Note the total premium is \$25,165.76, plus the financing, for 10 monthly payments. The down payment has been made, as has the first monthly payment of \$2,155.57. I have not yet received the policy from Vivian at Hub International.
- Sent an article from the Sierra Booster of February 27, 2025 (the biweekly Loyaltan rag) is important reading for us. It is my opinion that we should vocally support this movement to possibly get PSREC to take over the electric service in Portola, Loyaltan, and Sierra Brooks from Liberty, especially after you read this article. Liberty's rates are far above the Co-op in all classes of service, and Liberty has rate increases requested. Some of you may be aware of this discussion, but the numbers presented are eye-opening, as we know from our electric bills.
- We have received a statement for the Charles Schwab account, showing the balance as Eugene mentioned. I turned the statement over to Cheryl at Susan's office.
- I checked in Paul's report that he removed H&R Block from the sponsor list due to expiration. I took a check from the Hansens for their Silver Sponsor renewal to Cheryl some time ago. It may have gotten overlooked in Susan's office, but the Hansens have renewed their sponsorship for 2025.

G. Elems

- Armando Epifani will be bringing copy if insurance for his cabooses. Probably next week. Armando offered to help with repair to lounge car water lines.
- No recent contact with local real estate folks or Portola Railroad Days planning. Reportedly Railroad Days now has a date.

Consent Calendar

1. Minutes – Minutes of the February 2025 BOD Regular Meeting.
- Bob Sims noted two minor corrections to the minutes.

Motion 25-03-01

Approve the minutes for the February 2025 Regular Meeting as corrected.
Cochran / Vicknair. Aye – 8, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion carries.

New Business

Report of the Strategy and Planning Meeting

Review report and approve recommendations.

- Written report provided.
- Reviewed basic items on the report.

- Eugene Vicknair suggested doing joint events with model railroad clubs. Michael Coen reached out to Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society and they want to do have us attend their next open house. They have large overhang next to building and large parking lot.
- Michael also talked to director with Ardenwood / Carter Brothers. They do a steam event on Memorial Day. Open to setting up a booth for us at their Memorial Day event. They draw a lot of families on that weekend.
- Kerry Cochran noted that Ethan Doty had sent out his mother's contact information to Janet Steeper and Michael Coen as the new Volunteer Coordination committee.
- Bob Sims planning to come up and will be working on display room windows.
- Ethan Doty noted that we will likely need a new set of batteries for the WP 805-A. Also the Army 1857 is questionable and WP 501 are dead. All other battery sets are serviceable and capable of starting. WP 805-A, Army 1857, WP 501 (dead), WP 707, WP 1503, Quincy 1100, SP 2873 and SP rotary snail all have batteries. Discussion about swapping some batteries around.
- Greg Elems discussed need to rebuild brake stand on WP FP7 805-A.
- Bob Sims asked if we have a large format scanner. Kerry Cochran reported that we have an archive scanner that will do 11" X 19" materials.

Motion 25-03-02

Approve the report and accept the recommendations as presented.

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

Joint Open House with Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society

Proposal to have FRRS / WPRM tables at Sacramento Model Railroad Society open house.

- Written report provided.
- Open house is May 17-18.
- We will not be able to sell merchandise but can exhibit. We may be able to sell memberships and RALs.
- They are presenting to their board on approving this event.
- Eugene, Greg and Michael have already started talking to possible volunteers to help.
- Greg Elems noted this is perfect timing with caboose trains.
- Kerry Cochran mentioned talking to Eric McKay.
- Reportedly they have a substantial parking lot. The club models the Feather River Canyon.
- Ethan Doty suggested his mother may be able to help with info booth as well. She lives in the area. Greg Elems is going to reach out to Alan Barrett as well.
- Board gives consensus direction to proceed.

Old Business

Museum Telephones

Update on telephone lines at the museum.

- Switchover to cel phones has been completed.
- Working on setting up voicemail.
- Looks like all landline accounts are cancelled.
- Recommended that someone needs to carry the phones with them at least during the off season.
- Likely hand phones off to Ann Cary. Greg Elems will talk to her about this.
- RAL promotion is waiting on final voicemail set up and hand off of phones.
- Kerry has revised some of our safety documents to accommodate calls over cel phones vs. landline. You need to state your location as calls currently go to state CHP. System is being updated.

Good of the Order

President's Report

- Verbal report provided.
- Greg just received text from Brian Waller. Brian has water line to lounge car dug up at leak and he says it will be an easy fix.

- Greg talked to Duane vanderVeen about becoming member of the Safety Committee. Duane will not be available for a while as he has some family issues he needs to help with. Will pick up that conversation when Duane returns.
- WP GP40 1976 / 3451 follow up. Greg noted that he has not been saying much or posting photos he has as this is a touchy subject. Eugene, Greg and Paul are working on an article for the Train Sheet concerning the 1976 situation. Going forward we need to make it more known that people need to talk to the museum about saving equipment and not going off on their own. There are several items Greg and Eugene are working on to see about saving.
- Greg had discussion with Charlie Spikes about serving as Vice-President on a temporary basis to fill out current VP term until next office election.
- Requested consensus of the Board on having Charlie Spikes serve until August as VP. Consensus approval given. Noted that Charlie abstained.

Financial Reports

- Financial reports provided.
- Reviewed the financials.
- Bob Sims had question about insurance payments and legal expenses. Reviewed and answered.

Director's Reports

- *Vicknair* – written report provided.
 - Question about status of POS / online store rebuild. Eugene and Janet need to measure and weigh items and take some photos. Ethan will also help with T-shirt photos.

Event Reports

- *2025 WP / DRGW Convention* – written report provided.
 - Discussion about banquet and room block options on Old Sacramento.
 - We are looking for presentations. CSRM and N-C-O groups will likely want to do presentations.
 - Hire one of the store staff to do the store management. Suggested we talk to Breckyn since she will be in Sacramento.
 - Bob Sims asked about how registration will be handled. Details still being worked out.
 - Looking at special events. Layout tours, CSRM back stage, CSMRHS layout, Siemens.
 - Also possible events at Old Spaghetti Factory and Western Railway Museum.
 - Discussion about presentations and model contest / exhibit.
 - Question about convention car. Discussion about options.

Department Reports

- *Webmaster* – written report provided.
 - Sponsorship renewals.
 - Note that crew training is Saturday, May 3.
 - The Board thanks Paul for his work staying on top of the website and related items.
- *Signal* – written report provided.
 - Noted that AT&T final payment went out February 13, 2025.
- *Historical / Archives* – written report provided.
 - Working with Chris Skow to move donated items from his house to the museum.
 - Greg and Eugene received some donated SP materials when they were in Alturas.
- *General Superintendent* – written report provided.
- *Mechanical* – written report provided.
 - Discussed batteries and upcoming work session in April.
 - Ethan Doty reviewed status of batteries and Big White forklift.
- *Facilities*
 - Info on lounge car water break sent to board.
 - SP Sparks bricks.

Committee Reports

- *Election* – written report provided.
 - Notice that a “white” ballot is declared.

Motion 25-03-03

Approve the Election Report as presented and ratify a “white” ballot election.
Cochran / Vicknair. Aye – 9, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion carries.

Legal / Insurance Report

- Question about off-site insurance coverage. We should be good.

Safety Committee

- Fluid puddles in shop.
- Charlie notes that Duane told him he would be willing to be on the committee.

Notices

none

Public Comments

none

Motion 25-03-04

Adding an item of urgency to closed session: Business Item – Equipment Movements.
Vicknair / Coen. Aye – 9, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion carries.

Motion 25-03-05

Adding an item of urgency to closed session: Personnel Item – Supervisory Position.
Cochran / Vicknair. Aye – 9, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion carries.

BREAK – 3:30 PM – 3:42 PM

Closed Session – requested by President Greg Elems, Director Eugene Vicknair and Director Kerry Cochran
3:43 PM – 4:36 PM

- *Business / Property Item* – Property and Future Improvements
- *Business Item* – Mail Handling
- *Business Item* – Equipment Movement
- *Personnel Item* – Supervisory Position

The Board heard a report on a Business / Property Item – Property and Future Improvements. Consensus direction given. No reportable action was taken.

The Board heard a report on a Business Item – Mail Handling and related Personnel Item – Supervisory Position. Consensus direction given. No reportable action was taken.

The Board heard a report on a Business Item – Equipment Movement. No reportable action was taken.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 4:37 PM

Next Meeting: April 12, 2025 – 1:00 PM
Location: WPRM Meeting Room, Portola

Respectfully Submitted
Eugene Vicknair – FRRS Secretary