

**Feather River Rail Society  
Board of Directors Meeting**

**May 6, 2006**

**6 p.m.**

**Volunteer Lounge, Western Pacific Railroad Museum  
Portola, California**

President Rod McClure, attending by phone, called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. The following directors were present:

Frank Brehm	Kerry Cochran	Steve Habeck (phone)	Norm Holmes
Gail McClure	Wayne Monger	Matt Parker (phone)	Hank Stiles
Eugene Vicknair			

All Directors were present for the meeting.

Staff present:

Dan Brady	John Walker (arrived 6:20 p.m.)
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Visitors present:

David Epling	Ed Powell	Ed Wagner
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### **Appointment of Election Tellers**

David Epling, Election Committee Chair, advised the Board he would like to appoint Russell Johnson, Vicki Epling and John Walker as Election Tellers. President McClure advised he would have Mr. Walker approach Leslie Tigan with the City of Portola regarding certification of the elections on June 3, 2006.

### **Correspondence**

President McClure informed the Board of receipt of a letter from the NRHS and Henry Luna with Pacific Locomotive Association (PLA) thanking the FRRS for assistance with their passenger excursion train to Portola, CA. The letter also contained a check in the amount of \$1,000. FRRS volunteers took care of watering and spotting/turning equipment included in the consist, and Museum Manager John Walker opened the facility and gift shop early on the day of the train's departure from Portola, thereby allowing passengers the opportunity to explore the Museum and purchase souvenirs.

Director Stiles advised of contact with a former WP employee by the name of Ed Daniels. Mr. Daniels is with a group in the process of trying to activate the former SP Placerville Branch from Folsom to Placerville, CA. Their organization plans to become a member of our organization, and has asked that we provide them advice and guidance on how to develop their campus.

### **Consent Calendar**

1. Minutes – Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held: December 3, 2005; January 7, 2006; February 4, 2006; March 4, 2006; April 1, 2006.

2. Financial Reports – Treasurer Dan Brady provided financial reports for 2006 through the end of April. They indicated the Society to be in a better financial position than at this time last year. Cash flow remains a concern and he recommended again that the Board continue with restricted spending and a higher level of fundraising. Mr. Brady then presented the Board with the final copy of the 2006 Budget for ratification. Lastly, he provided a quick review of the organization's investment accounts.

Motion # 06-05-01 -- Approval of consent calendar reports as presented. Motion made by Director Vicknair, seconded by Director McClure. All Directors present voted in favor, with the exception of Directors Habeck and Parker, who abstained due to an inability to review physical documentation prior to the vote. Motion carried.

Motion # 06-05-02 – Ratification of FRRS 2006 Budget as presented. Motion made by Director McClure, seconded by Director Vicknair. All Directors present voted in favor, with the exception of Directors Habeck and Parker, who abstained due to an inability to review physical documentation prior to the vote. Motion carried.

### Old Business

#### **SP SD9 4450**

Director Stiles advised that the cost to replace wheels on SP 4450, obtained as part of the Golden Gate Railroad Museum move, will be \$750 per axle or \$4,500 total (the wheels currently under the locomotive have welded flat spots). He has been in contact with an Amtrak employee who advised that the wheels under the SP9 can be turned to ¾" tread thickness. He believes he can do the work on site in six days with a helper if the Board would approve a budget of \$2,000 for the project. President McClure advised that the cost to ship would be an additional \$600-\$1,000. There is a market for parts from the locomotive that would recoup these expenses and more. Director Stiles stated that he would not proceed with turning the wheels or spending any money from an approved expenditure until he received confirmation from the UP that they would accept the wheel repairs as proposed. It is believed that the locomotive must be removed from the former GGRM campus no later than July 1, 2006.

Motion # 06-05-03 – Approval of budgetary expenditure for repairs to facilitate movement of SP 4450 from GGRM/San Francisco, CA to FRRS/Portola, CA, in an amount not-to-exceed \$2,000 from line item 51000 – Mechanical, other, and pending approval by Union Pacific Railroad of proposed repairs acceptable for transportation by rail. Motion made by Director Vicknair, seconded by Director Brehm. All Directors present voted in favor, with the exception of Director McClure who abstained. Motion carried.

### **Advertising Proposal**

Director Parker provided a follow-up regarding the advertising proposal directed to him at the April meeting. He spoke with Holly Russell, who provided us with the proposal, and based on that conversation, he would recommend that the Board consider moving forward with creation of a press kit (\$300) and "story pitching" which would provided directed information to local media outlets (\$80 each). He recommended targeting Reno, NV and

Sacramento, CA. President McClure asked Director Parker to contact Ms. Russell again and obtain recommendations for these services based on tiered cost levels.

## **New Business**

### **Yard Sale at Museum**

Director Holmes suggested that the Society consider holding a "Yard Sale" to dispose of surplus items on the property. He would be willing to coordinate the event. He spoke with City Administrator Jim Murphy who stated he would be willing to provide a free permit for the project and allow posting of signage for same. Mr. Murphy also advised it would be permissible for private individuals to participate for this specific event only at this time. After some discussion, consensus direction was provided to Director Holmes to proceed with the proposal on the weekend of July 15-16, 2006, allowing private parties to participate at a cost of \$10 per table and on the condition that they sign our standard liability release prior to setting up. They will also need to remove any unsold items and clean up their areas before leaving.

## **Good of the Order**

### **President's Report**

President McClure reminded the Board that he and Director Habeck have been traveling with the Union Pacific Steam Crew on their Spring 2006 Tour. He related a story regarding their experiences in Guymon, OK, where they spent two days with the 844 and crew. This town of 5,000 was so pleased and excited to have the event in their community that the city officials and residents had both days packed with events to celebrate both the train and the crew. Members of the town prepared breakfast, lunch and dinner for the crew every day, included recognition of the Union Pacific and the Steam Crew in a parade organized as part of their "Pioneer Days" event, and had signs posted all over town thanking the railroad for bringing the locomotive and passenger train to town. They even went as far as to close off their main street, also a U.S. Highway, and detoured traffic to accommodate the train. He commented that this city's outpouring was phenomenal, and based on their ongoing experiences, was not unique to this small, mid-Western town. He also remarked that it was quite a different reception than the "Steam Team" received upon their arrival in Portola last year where the City was very aggressive in demanding a special event permit for the train to layover for public display. The City's permit requirement was suddenly dropped shortly before the train's arrival. The Board was in agreement that it would appear we are based in a community where there appears to be a void of local government support of rail history evident in other areas of the country with a similar population and historical demographic base.

President McClure asked for a listing of the members of the 2009 Centennial Committee. The committee members were identified as President McClure, Director Habeck, Director Vicknair, Director Parker, Director McClure, Director Monger, and WPRRHS Administrator Thom Anderson. Director Vicknair also requested the addition of Member James Mason. President McClure advised he has shared the plan with unnamed individuals with the Union Pacific who expressed an interest in possible participation.

President McClure reported that GGRM was very quick to pay our submitted invoice for expenses involved with the equipment move from their facility in February-March, 2006.

The group responsible for the restoration of the Virginia & Truckee in Nevada, for whom we moved cars from GGRM, has not responded to our inquiry regarding storage charges on their cars. He will follow up with them and report back to the Board.

He asked for consensus direction from the Board to provide an Active membership for two years for Mr. Ed Dickens for all of his work on behalf of the FRRS and GGRM in conjunction with our joint equipment move. He will provide pertinent information to Director Vicknair in his capacity as Membership Chair.

President McClure stated that he proposed the Board's requests regarding sale of two MRS-1s from our inventory as reported at the last meeting to Member John Buberniak. Mr. Buberniak was generally in agreement with the proposal, but needed to check on a few details before giving a final commitment. He has also expressed an interest in purchasing one of our Kennecott Copper RS-3 units and a spare blunt truck from an Alco RS-1. The Board provided consensus direction to President McClure to commence with discussion of sale of this equipment to Mr. Buberniak.

President McClure asked that Director Vicknair approach the Acquisition and Deaccession Committee regarding confirmation of authorization to deaccess the following items from the collection: ONW 4, US Steel 20, NVR 51, SP 4404.

### **Director's Reports**

Director Stiles asked that the Board become more involved in fundraising.

Director Vicknair advised he has received a quote for movement of the WP 470 in the amount of \$5,000 from Jim Dobbas, Inc. He is waiting for a quote from Rushway Trucking who indicated they believe they can come in under this amount. Donations and pledges currently total approximately \$2,500.

Director McClure informed the Board that all members of the organization will receive a postcard inviting them to the annual membership meeting in June.

Director Parker advised that the Washoe County Sheriff's Department (WCSD) would be conducting a training exercise at the Museum on May 23, 2006 as part of their Rail Protection Team training under Department of Homeland Security's CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams) directives. Washoe County, NV has been recognized by the federal government for development of their community based emergency response programs. This specific protocol was developed by the coordinator of Nevada's Operation Lifesaver program, Richard Gent, reportedly in conjunction with WCSD and local railroads.

Director Monger reported that in review of programs similar to our Run-a-Locomotive (RAL) platform advertised in railfan based publications, many of them offer free membership in conjunction. Director Vicknair will consider this as part of the work he is doing with respect to membership drives.

### **Museum Manager's Report**

Museum Manager John Walker stated that with better weather has come a small increase in visitorship. He is concerned about the availability of locomotives and crews, specifically

with regard to the RAL program. He also thanked the California Conservation Corp for assigning volunteers to assist with brush cutting on the property.

He reported he has caught people in the hospital building again and received consensus direction from the Board to prosecute anyone apprehended on the property without permission of the FRRS in the future.

Dewinterization process has been completed and the shower car damages previously reported have been patched. Ed Powell has installed a locking cover over the thermostat in the Sleeper Car to prevent abuse of the air-conditioning system. Clean out of boxcars has been completed.

Mr. Walker continues to receive complaints regarding signage and stressed need for improvement. He has spoken with the employees at the city Corporation Yard regarding the fact that we have come out of winter hibernation and that their attention to the increased tempo resulting therein is a critical safety issue.

### **Department Reports**

Funding Department – President McClure advised that Director McClure has resigned as Department Chair for the Funding Department.

Publications – Director Vicknair advised that the latest edition of The Train Sheet is nearly complete. He is still awaiting items for the issue and has not received anything for the next issue.

Operations – Director Cochran advised 22 people participated in the Annual Crew Training Weekend. He also asked that President McClure have a check issued for purchase of radio batteries prior to start of operations due to safety concerns.

### **Committee Reports**

None

### **Legal Counsel Report**

President McClure reported that Alan Turner will be available to attend the next meeting.

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

None other than previously reported

### **Safety Report**

Director Cochran advised that safety was covered extensively during crew training and no other issues have been brought to his attention.

### **Public Comments**

Member David Epling advised that principles with the Central California Traction Co. have officially approved the trade between the CCT and FRRS (CCT 24 / SP 4107). The

Board provided consensus direction to Mr. Epling to coordinate a locomotive horn "salute" and moment of silence during our Railfan Photographer's Day event in memory of Mr. Rob Carlson, an icon in the railfan community and a good friend to the FRRS, who passed away April 29, 2006.

### **Notices**

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|--------------------------------|--------------|
| ❖ Railfan Photographer's Day   | May 20, 2006 |
| ❖ Operating Season Opening Day | May 27, 2006 |
| ❖ Membership Meeting/BBQ       | June 3, 2006 |

### **Closed Session**

Meeting adjourned to closed session at 7:26 pm and reconvened to open session at 7:49 p.m.

Director McClure reported the following out of closed session:

One Personnel issue was tabled until the next meeting. The Board heard a report regarding an ongoing Legal issue; no action was taken. The Board heard information regarding a confidential Personnel issue; consensus direction was given, no action was taken. Finally, the Board heard information regarding a possible proprietary Land Acquisition; no reportable action was taken.

### **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.  
Next meeting: Saturday, June 3, 2006  
Location: Volunteer Lounge, WPRM  
Portola, CA

Respectively Submitted  
Gail A. McClure