

Vice-President's Report August 2015

The Museum is shifting into high gear in preparation for Railroad Days. I have started attending the Planning Committee meetings on a regular basis, and have convinced them that the WPRM is on board, fully in support of Railroad Days (there had been some comments heard that we weren't going to do anything for Railroad Days, and I have straightened that out).

The environmental contractor for UP came on the property last month and drilled out, filled, and abandoned four of the monitoring wells on our property. During the course of supporting their work, Charlie noticed major tagging on the north side of two of our boxcars on Rip 4, WP 37007 and WP 36011. I called the sheriff's office, and when the deputy and I inspected the scene, she recovered two empty paint cans, four can caps, and five nozzles, which she took as evidence. We also discovered that the south side of WP 37007 (between Rip 3 & 4) had also been heavily tagged, and the paint was fresh. In talking with Loren Ross, who was helping Charlie with the contractors, he said that the car was not tagged when they were in there (this was on a Monday, and we found it on Thursday). So the taggers were there at least twice. They apparently got in by coming over our fence along the Ramp track, as evidenced by the top of the fence being bent over next to a rack of conduit we have stored there. This did not look like the work of locals, either. So far, in the last two weeks there has been no new tagging.

On the same day as the sheriff's report, I also met with the UP Special Agent from Sparks. I asked him to come over due to reports I've heard that we were stealing fuel out of the UP engines on the property. I took him around and showed him that no fuel has been removed from UP 9282 (UP 9532 was drained prior to its arrival). He took pictures of both engines' fuel gauges and made notes. He also said that if we can get a screen capture of any allegations of theft off the Internet to him, he will investigate. I will not tolerate any more unsupported allegations against this organization.

The Special Agent also took pictures of the tagging on the boxcars for his reference and support of our case with the Sheriff's Office.

I also updated the Special Agent on the status of the equipment on the West Pass (Morgan's stuff), and reminded him that it does not belong to us. The passenger cars are in the process of leaving the property, although it may still take time.

I have taken on some oversight of the WP Store in Gail's absence, and have prepared items for Board consideration. I also bought a battery backup UPS for the store computer, since it does not like multiple power blips like we get during thunderstorms, and is a problem when people are in the Store and it goes out. The UPS should help.

Steven J. Habeck
Vice-President, FRRS