

**Feather River Rail Society  
Board of Directors Meeting – July 14, 2018 – 6:00 PM  
WPRM Meeting Room – Portola, CA**

President Steve Habeck called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM

**Attendance**

**The following Directors were present:**

Charlie Spikes  
Matt Elems – phone  
Kerry Cochran  
Greg Elems  
Steve Habeck  
Bob Sims  
Roger Stabler  
Eugene Vicknair  
8 directors present, 1 absent – Quorum achieved.

Guests present:

Ann Morningstar  
Paul Finnegan – webmaster  
David Elems – mechanical and safety

**Correspondence**

*Habeck* – Received letter from City of Portola that we need to do weed abatement. Vicknair will talk to Phil Oels about options. Received letter from company in Kentucky. Non-profit organization that is holding a big fundraiser, asking for donations. Asking for things we can't provide.

**Consent Calendar**

Approval of the minutes of the June 2018 BOD Meeting and 2018 Annual Membership Meeting.

Annual Meeting minutes not available.

Motion 07-18-01

Approve the minutes of the June 2018 regular BOD Meeting as presented.  
Vicknair / Spikes. Aye – 7, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion carries.

**Old Business:**

*none*

**New Business**

**NB1 – Policies (Cochran)**

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Discuss revisions and new information on proposed new volunteer policy.

- Added to agenda in error. Item not needed. Removed from agenda.

## **NB2 – Fall 2018 Fundraising Mailer (Vicknair)**

Review mailer proofs and approve estimated print / mail cost of \$650.

- Written report provided.
- Examples of mailing provided.
- Suggestion to outline white text on envelope photo.
- Suggestion for additional text for WP 917 photo.
- Adjust images.
- Typo on 917 caption.

Motion 07-18-02

Approve expenditure of \$650 for mailing and form of mailing as presented. From line item 56600 – Fundraising.

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

## **Good of the Order**

### **President's Report**

- Report provided orally.
- Fueled RAL fleet 2 weeks ago. Good on fuel for another month. Fuel car is empty.
- Now have account with Hunt and Sons in Quincy. New quote is \$0.60 a gallon cheaper than Flyer's. Buy roughly 3,000 per year of diesel fuel.
- Batteries: One reason WP F7A 917 was down last month was battery failure. Managed to get battery set working again with new battery. We are now out of batteries. Scrapper picked up 22 old batteries recently. Steve cleaning and reorganizing battery house. Has been in contact with 2 vendors for batteries, DynoBatteries and Pape Machinery / Crown Battery. Crown / Pape rep came to museum to look at our operation. Crowns are more expensive but are excellent quality and bulletproof. New Dynos in SP GP9 2873 doing well. Crown trying to get us better deal. Dyno set was \$6,800 delivered last year. Recent Crown quote for unipacks was \$7,800 for set of 2 small, \$9,200 for 2 large packs. Steve negotiating with them. All batteries currently in operational units have been serviced.
- Director and Officer Insurance due on August 28. Steve working on info, needs to be to Deeble / insurance broker by July 29. Premium going up 25%.
- We received a letter from OSHA based on someone making complaint about various small issues. Steve sent response yesterday to OSHA. All 6 issues addressed. 4 were non issues that were mischaracterized. 2 are being addressed immediately. Steve to follow up with OSHA.
- WP 917 work by David Elems and Bil Jackson was done recently. Had problems with cooling and oil systems. Resolved several issues. Still needs work on injectors but is now back in RAL service. Need to install new injectors and need new oil. Estimated cost will be about \$6,000. Needs new injectors and seals that can handle new fuels. Emphasize that we need to do this work in fundraising mailer and focus on WP 917. All engines are having oil dilution due to new fuel blends corroding old style seals. All running engines will need new seals that can handle the new fuels.
- Museum Store had issue with refund on a double billed RAL. Could not refund properly, but Eugene fixed that yesterday and we have issue corrected. Having some other teething issues with new Point of Sale, but they are getting resolved. We are pulling in \$4,000 to \$5,000 per week from store sales, admissions and tickets. Store is restocking.
- UP 849 issue: Been having issues coordinating getting it moved to Western Rail. Steve and Ethan photographed and measured flat spots on wheels that looked condemnable. Sent to Western Rail and they confirmed that wheels looked like they needed to be changed. Western Rail also sent person down who seemed to confirm the wheels were

bad. Sent a new wheelset and a contractor to repair. We were prepared to lift engine for wheel changeout using WP derrick 37. Truck bringing wheelset and all tools broke down in Oregon and had to return. Roger Stabler, Ethan, Greg Elems and Bil Jackson were crew to work train. Derrick had minor issues starting but got working, Contractor looked at wheels and said they were fine. Western Rail received report that derrick was not ready and not rigged and would not lift locomotive, none of which was true. We did in fact lift the UP 849 with the derrick and was ready for changeout should wheelset have been available. Derrick was able to lift engine off trucks in idle. Greg Elems has photos of derrick lifting. Contractor had taken off without seeing derrick lift, however he knew we had the correct rigging. Steve is crafting a response and Eugene and Board will help. Union Pacific sending an inspector tomorrow to check. Handrails and steps being repaired as per UP specs.

### **Financial Reports**

- Financial reports and summary provided.
- Questions about RAL totals. Dollar value does not match with RAL count report. Eugene to work with Bart and Ethan and check numbers. Looks like we need to improve reporting. RAL numbers are trending down.
- We received Ethan's RAL report last night. Trend for count is down. We need to improve RAL numbers.
- Reviewed advertising costs. Concern about ad costs shared with city.

### **Director's Reports**

- *Vicknair* – written report provided. Summary of capital fundraising meeting yesterday. Plans committed for proceeding with large fundraising.
- *Sims* – WP 165: Crew got oil tank painted black. Roger Stabler, Bob Sims and Kirk Baer worked on tank. Bob has been working on wooden cab floor. Roger worked on safety valves. Received donation letter very rapidly for wooden silverware box from WP heavyweight diner 504. Bob also donating CZ service tray. Donated \$450 in new Z scale equipment, including WP caboose, GN F3A-B, BN caboose; as well as books for sale in the Museum Store. Has duplicate books he is selling and donating income to archives.

### **Event Reports**

- *2019 WP – PCR Convention* – written report provided. Update on convention planning. Working on special events for convention. Kerry working to facilitate issue 52 of the Headlight. Kerry working with Headlight staff and Eugene and Frank working on recompiling info to recreate Headlight issues 17-18 as a special publication.
- *Portola Railroad Days* – Volunteer Fire Department disbanded, no pancake breakfast and other events. Steve dealing with UP on Heritage units, unsure if they will be available. Portola coordinators announced they will not do event next year. Need to start thinking about how to deal with that. We need to run tram. Ethan has a commitment for model railroad. Will run trains Friday, Saturday, Sunday. Charge for train rides. Admission free Saturday and Sunday.

### **Department Reports**

- *Webmaster* – written report provided. Update on news items. Has M23 motorcar rides again video posted. Most popular video so far. Yesterday, Lew Barnard and Don Nelson worked on new RAL promo video. Reviewed Yahoo email group and found 38 valid members. Still to decide what to do with it, Yahoo Groups no longer supported. Discussion about internet communication / discussion methods and platforms. Discussion of implementing Secure Socket Layer. Starting this month, Google will start flagging us as an insecure site. Our webhost is providing free, basic SSL certificate. Paul looking at details and will take appropriate steps and provide recommendations. Asked for information in a timely manner for promoting Portola RR Days. Working with

Kerry and other people have added a LOT of material to Archives / Historical web pages. Added historic department email to website. Have been getting a lot of emails with archives / historical questions. Staff webpage has been updated with new directors and their new WPLives email addresses.

- *Historical / Archives* – written report provided. Discussion about volume of historical questions we have been getting. Kerry took 2 week vacation. Getting historical questions on weekly or more basis.
- *General Superintendent* – written report provided. We have been lacking crew for caboose trains, but Loren Ross, Fred Ellenbaas, Greg Elems and Charlie Spikes have been backbone of operations. Ed Powell has also been working several weekends. David Elems has been working on mechanical issues.
- *Mechanical* – WP 917 went down twice in last month. Had issues with battery charging contactor as well as cooling system. Crossover for air system for shutters is dead after 50+ years of use and exposure. Have plan to fix. Working on pulling radiators out of 708 for evaluation. Wants to install good cores into 917. Talking to Roger Stabler about radiator cores for GP and F9s. Also working on WP 1503 radiator. Has sources for some SW1500 radiators for sale. 917 has 11 leaking injectors. 9 are bad. Air compressor looking bad, wants to work on in fall. Issue with #10 power assembly liner, not sealing correctly. Working on list of needed tools for working on liners and power assemblies.
- *Crew Caller* – written reports provided. Starting last year, revamped crew report to start capturing more info. Revamped this year to capture more data. Now tracking passenger counts and other metrics. We will have better info for determining operations for next year. Attached current year to date reports to report. Will discuss data in September. Also tracking by volunteer person work hours, positions, etc. Kerry, Loren and Paul have been working on this for several months.

### **Committee Reports**

*none*

### **Legal / Insurance Report**

*none*

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

*none*

### **Safety Report**

- *Safety Committee* – First official meeting yesterday afternoon. David Elems thinks it went well, got a lot done and each member took on action items. David Elems is chair. Talked about OSHA letter, fire extinguishers, paint storage improvements, flammables cabinets, route exits and exit plan, master map of extinguishers / first aid kits / eyewash stations. Roger Stabler will work on paint issue. David has plan for extinguishers. All large extinguishers over 10#s will be going into locomotives. Going to buy 5-10# extinguishers for shop. Plan to use email auto system to remind on extinguisher, first aid kit and eye wash station period inspections. Have forklift training setting up and are ready to implement. David and Kerry to work on final details. Fire detectors to be installed in appropriate rooms. Note to inspect Shower Car, Lounge Car and Sleeper and update those detectors. Committee: Charlie Spikes, Duane vanderVeen, David Elems, Roger Stabler. Committee reports to Kerry Cochran. Next report in August. Next meeting in September.

### **Public Comments**

- *Spikes* – Question on progress on new outdoor event center in Old Town.

- *Habeck* – Suggestion to include audio tour page into brochures to be handed to groups. Suggestion to add map to page as well. Complaints cel service does not reach far enough, looking at improvements.
- *Ann Morningstar* – Noted that it is just last year that Portola has had 4G connection that allows good internet. Phone needs to be updated as well. Some folks are not aware of this. This could be impacting audiotour issues.

### **Notices**

- Amazon Prime Day is July 16 – order from Amazon Smile and select the Feather River Rail Society to receive a donation based on your purchase.

### **Closed Session** – requested by Director Vicknair – 8:22 PM – 9:04 PM

- Legal Issue – Meeker vs. FRRS and Vicknair

The Board heard a report on a Legal Issue – Meeker vs. FRRS and Vicknair. No reportable action taken.

### **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at: 9:05 PM (Cochran / Spikes)

Next Meeting: August 11, 2018 – 6:00 PM

Location: WPRM Meeting Room – Portola, CA

Respectfully Submitted, Eugene Vicknair – FRRS Secretary