

**Feather River Rail Society  
Board of Directors Meeting – September 12, 2020 –1:00 PM  
Conference Call due to COVID-19 Shelter Protocols**

Vice-President Steve Habeck called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM. All attendance by phone.

**Attendance**

**The following Directors were present:**

Kerry Cochran	Charlie Spikes	Eugene Vicknair
Bob Sims	Matt Elems	
Steve Habeck	Janet Steeper	

7 directors present at meeting start – Quorum achieved.

**Guests present:**

David Elems – Asst. CMO, Safety Officer  
Bill Jackson  
Ethan Doty – arrived 1:16 PM

**Correspondence**

- *Vicknair* – Got email from homeschool group asking about visit. Understood that we are closed and said they will see us in 2021.
- *Cochran* – Heard from Rick Gruninger and Lisa Wesch. They have fire about 10 miles away. Safe and doing well, but lots of smoke.

**Consent Calendar**

Approval of the minutes of the August 2020 Regular Meeting.

Motion 20-09-01

Approve the minutes of the August 2020 Regular Meeting as presented.  
Vicknair / Spikes. Aye – 7, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion carries.

**Old Business**

**Event Changes / Delays Due to COVID-19**

Review upcoming events and revise calendar.

- No new discussion. Not needed next meeting.
- Habeck got word that Pacific Locomotive Association is cancelling their annual Train of Lights.
- Plumas County got 3 new COVID cases last week.
- Consensus is that we have made correct decision.

**New Business**

**Update on Store Improvements / On-Line Store Progress**

Discuss proposed store improvements and review progress on new on-line store.

- Written report provided.
- Noted typo in report. Monthly charge is \$29.95. First 3 months free.
- Discussed new online store and logistics of handling orders.
- Discussed proposed reset of store.

- David Elems had some suggestions about making double doors more visible from sales desk.
- Matt Elems suggested using barricades to funnel into store. Concern about leaving restroom access. Possible people would enter double door and exit west door.
- Discussion about capturing visitors coming by, skipping admission.
- Question about Keddie diorama. Will run point to point with operator. Normal mode will be static display. Will have plastic sheets to keep from being grabbed.
- Want to keep access to roll up door.
- KC always had concerns with keeping in popular sizes of shirts and hats.

Motion 20-09-02

Approve \$1,000 increase in 53010 - Merchandise budget line item (\$5,000 to \$6,000) and approve public start-up of new on-line store pending further testing.

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

- Question about timing and budget for getting work done. Will depend on work quotes that come back.
- Eugene Vicknair will pay for the one month of fee due in this year. Other 3 months are free.

### **Revision to FRRS / WPRM Domain Names**

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Discuss dropping some unused domain URLs.

- Written report provided.
- Historical background on domain names and why we acquired so many.
- Kerry Cochran feels we are over some of the previous issues with requiring so many domain names.
- Each domain name costs roughly \$15 per year. List shows about 5 it is felt we can do away with.
- Noted that search engines are more effective now so URLs are less important.
- Steve Habeck feels we should go with the recommendations.

Motion 20-09-02

Approve attached report and follow recommendations to let the listed URLs go.

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

### **Website Move to New Servers**

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Review plan to move WPLives.org website to new servers.

- Written report provided.
- Kerry Cochran shared that over last year we have had numerous issues with our web host, HostMonster. In looking at options, Paul and Kenneth Finnegan and Kerry Cochran considered hosting WPLives.org on new server managed by Kenneth Finnegan.
- Opinion of this ad-hoc committee is that we should move to this model.
- Report outlines issues with HostMonster and steps they have taken to test and improve the website.
- Testing of new server shows substantial improvement in speed and operation. Would be more resistant to down time. All WPLives.org email would also run through system and have multiple redundancy.
- There are back-up people to take care of the servers in case something happens to the Finnegans.
- Would save us about \$225 per year.
- Would have better spam filtering.
- Want to issue new museum credit card to webmaster just for web services and domain registration.
- HostMonster service has degraded over last year or two.
- Eugene Vicknair feels this is working well and recommends we approve this.
- We have technical expertise in house to handle and manage this kind of set up.

Motion 20-09-03

Approve proposal as presented to relocate WPLives.org to new server managed by Paul and Kenneth Finnegan and approve new credit for webmaster Paul Finnegan for web related expenses.

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

- Eugene Vicknair to get new credit card for Paul Finnegan.

## **Review 2021 Event Calendar**

Preliminary review of event calendar.

- Draft 2021 Calendar presented.
- Changed Pumpkin Patch Train dates.
- Steve Habeck wants us to consider now being open every day. Recommends we go through the daily reports for last 3 years and consider closing on slowest days.
- Eugene Vicknair suggested that we table to October meeting and review daily reports and event dates.
- Perhaps go to 3-5 days open or by appointment. Could still have RALs on public closed dates.
- Noted that some of the state grants require museums to be open a minimum number of days per year.
- Kerry Cochran suggested we have another strategic planning meeting and look at museum operations.
- Noted the calendar is COVID and weather dependent.

## **Good of the Order**

### **President's Report**

- Written report provided.
- Looking for volunteers to work on WP GP7 705 and trackwork.
- Work progressing well on SN caboose 1642. Plan is to get green paint on caboose before snow flies.

### **Financial Reports**

- Reports provided.
- Someone got the museum card number. Fraud security flagged it and card was shut down. New card being issued.
- Power bill up over \$1,000 per month. Had welders and air compressors going for steam work session. New HVAC / climate control for Archives car working well.
- Need to fill propane tanks before next steam work session.

### **Director's Reports**

- *Vicknair* – written report provided.
  - Discussed plans for new edition of Track and Time.
  - Presented idea for WP pictorial coffee table book.
  - Questions about proposed Arcadia book on Plumas County common carrier railroads.
  - Inventory complete and sent to Susan and Cheryl.
- *Habeck* – written report provided.
  - West webcam is looking at ground. Wind knocked it down.
  - D&O Insurance has been renewed.
  - Diesel fuel order being delivered around end of the month.
  - Main phone line has been up and down due to the heat. About every two weeks getting phone call from same person who tells us the COVID virus is “bulls\*\*\*\*”.
  - Review of big switching project. Yard rearrangement is complete. Reorganized yard, have simulated local train on Dodgepole, put wood equipment in more protected location. Passenger cars are now on straight rail to prevent access through end doors.
  - Paul Finnegan requested article on rearrangement of yard for Train Sheet.
  - Updated roster put together. Steve working with Paul to put into Train Sheet format.
  - Going to make copy of roster and location of equipment for volunteers and staff.

### **Event Reports**

- *2020 Historical Convention*
  - Refund report provided. Thank you to Bob Sims for staying on top of this. Steve Habeck asked for his to be converted to 2021 Convention. Still 4 outstanding folks with no response.

### **Department Reports**

- *General Superintendent* – written report provided.

- *Historical / Archives* – written report provided.
  - We are getting a tremendous amount of archive donations. We are getting donations from as far away as New Jersey. He is sending original WP stainless steel plates from the “Silver Planet”.
- *Webmaster* – written report provided.
- *Train Sheet* – written report provided.
- *Funding* – written report provided.
  - SBA review. They are asking for more tax docs. Eugene Vicknair recommends we pull a credit report to check our details.
- *Mechanical*
  - Looking at working on radiators on SP GP9 2873 and WP GP20 2001.

### **Committee Reports**

none

### **Legal / Insurance Report**

none

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

- *Southern California Railroad Museum and ONW AS-616 3* - Received email that they are interested and are looking at costs. Has completely new electrical system. Board has put price of \$40,000 on then engine. *ONW 4 / McCloud 34* had water leak in rear cylinder. Has some minor water damage to brake system.

### **Safety Report**

- Water tank on flat car. Another water tank in back 40 that might fit in pick-up.
- Still planning to do remaining fire extinguishers over next month or so.
- Follow up with ABC about archive car fire suppression system.
- Suggestion to keep water in WP tanks and have them near picnic area. Has been considered. Cars have some leaks. Going to look at that in future.

### **Public Comments**

none

### **Notices**

none

### **Closed Session – 3:28 PM – 3:42 PM**

- The Board heard a report on a Business Item – Potential Business Opportunity. Consensus direction given, no reportable action taken.
- The Board heard a report on a Collection Item – Potential Equipment Donation. No reportable action.

### **Adjourn – Vicknair / Steeper**

Meeting adjourned at: 3:43 PM

Next Meeting: October 10, 2020 – 1:00 PM

Location: Conference Call – COVID-19 Protocols

Respectfully Submitted, Eugene Vicknair – FRRS Secretary