

**Feather River Rail Society  
Board of Directors Meeting – July 10, 2021 – 4:30 PM  
Western Pacific Railroad Museum Meeting Room – WPRM, Portola, CA**

President Greg Elems called the meeting to order at 4:49 PM.

**Attendance**

**The following Directors were present:**

Kerry Cochran - phone  
Greg Elems  
Bob Sims - phone

Steve Habeck  
Charlie Spikes  
Roger Stabler - phone

Eugene Vicknair - phone  
Matt Elems  
Janet Steeper

9 directors present at meeting start – Quorum achieved.

**Guests present:**

Chris Skow

**Installation of New Board**

Formal seating of new Board of Directors for 2021-2022

**Correspondence**

*Habeck*

- Received letter from attorney in Bay Area concerning estate of a woman who passed away. Her name was Catherine C. Hale. Passed away on December 20, 2020. Had a will from 2007 that left 10% of her estate to the FRRS.
- Habeck received subpoena to appear in court concerning case against one of the vandals who attacked the museum in spring 2020.
- Insurance documents to be signed for Directors and Officers renewal.

*Vicknair*

- California Trolley and Rail Corporation is moving their non-Kelley Park equipment to PLA in Niles Canyon.

**Consent Calendar**

Approval of the minutes of the May and June 2021 BOD Regular Meetings and the June 12 Special Meeting.

- Received correction to June 2021 Regular Minutes. Changed Signal Department Report.

Motion 21-06-01

Approve the minutes of the May and June 2021 Regular Meetings and June 12 Special Meeting as amended. Spikes / Vicknair. Aye – 9, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion carries.

**Old Business**

**1 - Headlight Magazine**

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Discuss need for new editor.

- Written report provided.
- FRRS Headlight Editor David Pires has resigned from this position.
- The Board thanks David for his long service in this capacity.
- Kerry Cochran has been discussing various options for the Headlight.
- If anyone is interested in the position or knows someone who is, please let Kerry Cochran know
- Bob Sims asked what the status of the remaining Headlight team is. We will discuss that in the future.

**2 - 2021 Western Pacific Convention**

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Review status of event and current state of planning and promotion.

- Written report provided.
- We have signed contract with SureStay Plus Reno for September 16-18. They are now open for room reservation.
- Chris Skow is offering to have tours of his home with private artifact museum and 225' X 440' garden railway on Sunday, September 19. Has been discussing this with Norm Holmes. Would bring convention goers between convention hotel, Museum and Chris' home via rented vans. Drive time is about 10 minutes between museum and Chris' home. Would need big bus for trip from Reno to museum. Plumas Transit vans between museum and Chris' home. Idea is to do this in morning on Sunday, leave hotel like 8 AM and get them back to Reno by 12:30 - 12:45 PM. Van shuttle would run between museum and Chris' home every 30 minutes. Noted that we need to check with hotel on checkout time.
- Chris is donating one free trip on the Rio Grande Photographers Special in October on the Cumbres and Toltec for the door prize raffle. Charter will repeat in October 2022 if 2021 is too soon for winner. Also proposing to have grab bags for the door and will donate WP tickets and baggage tags for the grab bags.
- Invited directors at the museum to swing by his house after the meeting.
- Discussion about special train for convention visitors.
- Eugene reported progress on Virginia and Truckee excursion on Thursday day and setting up mixer at WP / NCO depot for Thursday night.
- Chris Skow has two private cars on the Amtrak "California Zephyr" coming from Chicago and through Reno on Wednesday, September 15. Has 3 empty bedrooms on the westbound trip. Suggested that the museum mention this and would get 15% commission on the sale. Train leaves Emeryville on the 16<sup>th</sup> and returns. Has some day rider tickets in domes on Sept. 16 between Emeryville to Reno. Ride dome over Donner.

Special Notes:

Just received word that Beckwourth Complex fire went through Doyle. FRRS Members the Hanson family lost their homes but were able to escape. Just got word that US 395 north of Hallelujah Jct. is closed.

Next Thursday, at 11 AM, will be the annual Western Pacific employees gathering at Goomba's in Blairsden.

Bob Larson's photo collection has gone to Bill Magazin.

## **New Business**

### **1 - ADA Signs**

Additional signage required for ADA guidance.

- Written report provided.
- Guest got confused as to how to get to building from ADA parking.
- We need to order a couple signs.
- Proposal to mount one at parking area and another to the Cotton Belt car pointing to Diesel Shop entrance. Sign on car would be magnet mount.

Motion 21-06-02

Approve buying two signs to provide better guidance.

Cochran / Vicknair. Aye – 8, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion carries.

Note - Charlie Spikes had to leave meeting to take care leaking hose on the new soda machine and missed vote.

### **2 - RAL Telephone Replacement**

Approve purchase of new RAL phone.

- Written report provided.
- RAL telephone has started having errors and we cannot change the announcement. Greg tried working with it and found problems with phone.

- Recommended replacement: AT&T EL52113 Single Handset Expandable Cordless Phone with Answering System & Extra-large Backlit Keys
- Consensus direction given to purchase recommended phone for RAL replacement.

### **3 - Museum Signage Updates**

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Discuss need to update museum signage and use of Screenly system.

- Written report provided.
- Need to update physical signs.
- Suggestion to add info on Screenly system. Add screen over museum store counter and at entrance to store facing main floor of the shop building.
- Screen displays costs \$300 each.
- One currently in the Display Room was donated by Kenneth Finnegan.
- Suggestion to also redo gate sign.

Motion 21-06-03

Approve \$800 budget for two new Screenly systems and \$50 budget for new vinyl to update metal gate sign. To use account 70015 – Lights and Signage.

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

### **4 - September 2021 Board Meeting Location**

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Suggestion to move September Board Meeting date and time to coincide with WP Convention.

- Move Board Meeting to coincide with convention.
- In the past we have usually met Saturday, 9 AM during conventions.

Motion 21-06-03

Move the date and time of the September 2021 Board Meeting to Saturday, September 18 at 9 AM to match with the WP Convention.

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

### **Good of the Order**

#### **President's Report**

- There has been a lot going on.
- Have had no contact with D&D Roofing or Tholl Fence.
- Need to talk to ABC Fire.
- Heat and fires has not done us any favors.
- Janet and Eugene have led work on the store. The floor guys are going to touch up the new epoxy floor, but they are part of the fire department and are busy.
- July 3-4 were good operations days. Had good day today.
- Have two RALs lined up for after trains Sunday. Have two scheduled this Thursday and more in a week.

#### **Financial Reports**

- Written reports provided.
- Eugene Vicknair gave summary of finances.

#### **Director's Reports**

- *Vicknair* – written report provided.
  - Discussion about printing 150 2022 Photo Calendars instead of 100.

#### **Event Reports**

- *2021 WP Historic Convention*

- PayPal codes and Train Sheet insert going out tonight. Bob Sims will be getting the database together soon. Want to promote as soon as possible.

## Department Reports

- *General Superintendent* – written report provided.
- *Historical / Archives* – written report provided.
- *Signal* – written report provided.
- *Train Sheet* – written report provided.
  - Train Sheet going out Monday
- *Webmaster* – written report provided.
- *Funding* – written report provided.
- *Museum Store* – written report provided.
  - Roger Stabler asked if need some seed money for ordering hats and shirts. Janet and Eugene will discuss with him.
  - Tim tacked up sheet and made little desk for the cubicle frame under final parts can get up to museum.
  - Janet rearranged final boxes for stocking. Ann and Jean coming in Monday to help and Charlie to help on Monday.
  - Janet going to lead inventory. Charlie, Ann, Jean and others will be helping.
- *Mechanical* – written report provided.
  - Noted that we need to get water car inspected.
  - Question about what was started on WP GP7 705. Greg Elems and David Roth took off old lettering and flaking paint. Put some Rustoleum primer on areas.
  - Discussion about WP 705 paint needs.
  - Steam report: Locomotive boiler basically done. In August, final tube sheet welding will occur. Some minor work on tube ends will occur also. Need to work on throttle linkage. Roger has purchased the remaining bronze material for injectors and washout plugs, plus several valves including some for overstock. Found some for sale at major discount and took advantage. Burner system for hydro test worked great. Next hydro test will be in September. Hoping to move engine under its own power in Spring 2022. David Elems ha finished some adaptors for the piping.

## Committee Reports

none

## Legal / Insurance Report

none

## Status of Surplus Property Report

- David Elems asked if it was worth pouring any more money into the two pick-ups we have. Mechanic looked over the Dodge and pronounced it dead. The Ford may still be usable.
- Suggestion to put the word out that we need a 4X4 truck donated.

## Safety Report

- Yesterday was the sixth day we were open to the public this year. We had three visitors show up yesterday afternoon who went through barricades, went through closed UP 105, opened all cabinets in 105, opened all hood doors on several locomotives, tried to get into cabs. Did get into the Baldwins and the Alcos. Complained to a volunteer that nothing was open. They were caught in closed area of the shop on the SP GP9 2873 which is under repair. Even after volunteer spoke with them, they went through opening things up.
- Brutal heat wave going on. Beckwourth Complex Fire is smoking out Sierra Valley and Reno.
- Greg Elems spoke with a firefighter working the Beckworth fire. He expressed happiness at our fire mitigation work. Thanks to Dave Roth, Phil Schmierer and Ethan Doty in particular for their work on this. He talked to Greg about bringing crews by to talk with them about railroad safety.

## Public Comments

- *Habeck* – Yesterday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 20 years ago, his daughter DonnaJean Habeck died in the old Gift Shop. July 10<sup>th</sup> his second granddaughter will turn 2. And July 11<sup>th</sup> is his 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

- *Steeper* – Her daughter commented that this is the only railroad museum they have been to that allowed them to touch and interact with the equipment. Felt it made for a better experience.
- Discussion about computer in Ops office not working.

### **Notices**

- August meeting will include election of officers.
- Review committee and department heads for August meeting appointments.
  - Kerry Cochran to send out latest committee and department head listing.

### **Closed Session – 7:25 PM – 7:39 PM**

The Board heard a report on a Collection Item – Equipment Collection. Consensus direction given, no reportable action taken.

### **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at: 7:40 PM (Vicknair / Spikes)  
Next Meeting: August 14, 2021 – 4:30 PM  
Location: WPRM Conference Room, Portola, CA

Respectfully Submitted, Eugene Vicknair – FRRS Secretary

PRELIMINARY