Feather River Rail Society
Board of Directors Meeting – February 8, 2025 – 1:00 PM
Western Pacific Railroad Museum Meeting Room – WPRM, Portola, CA

President Greg Elems called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM

Attendance

The following Directors were present:

Greg Elems - phone	Charlie Spikes – phone	Janet Steeper – phone
Kerry Cochran - phone	Matt Elems - phone	Eugene Vicknair - phone
Michael Coen – phone	Bob Sims – phone	

8 directors present at meeting start – Quorum achieved.

Visitors:

Ethan Doty – phone	Matt Shuman – Election Chair - phone
Tom Hervey - phone	Nick Manos - CMO – phone – joined about 2:20 PM

Correspondence

Habeck

- Working with Susan, Cheryl, and Vivian, the FRRS liability policy has been renewed, effective 2/1/2025. Premium is being financed; initial payment has been made. Have not yet received a copy of the policy.
- We have received a check for $1,000 from the RGM&HS (Jeff Pierce) for the 2025 Convention. It has been delivered to Susan's office.
- There is a letter and check in the fire safe in the WP Store from a member who sent in his membership renewal and an order for a calendar, all on one check. This was received in late January.
- Ethan Doty, Duane VanderVeen, and I have completed taking down and storing all Christmas lights and decorations from the front gate, fence, and the caboose train. All cabooses are locked, trash removed, and fresh trash can liners placed. Available for service.

G. Elems

- Received messages about Western Pacific GP40 1976. More information in President's Report.
- Had comments about working to save the final Western Pacific related pieces which are still in railroad service.

Consent Calendar

1. Minutes – Minutes of the January 2025 BOD Regular Meetings.

- Eugene Vicknair noted corrected error on closed session reportable action. Item corrected and amended minutes issued.

- Bob Sims had discussion about old furniture being cleaned out of museum. Greg Elems mentioned that Phil Schmierrer wants some of the furniture.

Motion 25-02-01
Approve the minutes for the January 2025 Regular Meeting as corrected.
Cochran / Spikes. Aye – 7, Nay – 0, Abstain – 1. Motion carries.

New Business

Policies and Procedures Review

Listing of Policies and Procedures that need review and update.

- List of policies and procedures to be revised presented in written report.

PRELIMINARY

- Kerry Cochran looking for corrections, additions, revisions, etc. to the policies.
- They are spaced out throughout the year.
- Kerry asking direction and suggestions on how to handle.
- Greg Elems commented that there are some policies coming up for review that will likely need more scrutiny than others. Noted Director and Officer Code of Conduct as a particular one.
- Kerry Cochran noted that we can always go back and revise any policy even if it is not up for review.
- Bob Sims had question about how Kerry wants to receive and handle comments and feedback.
- Please review and be prepared to discuss next meeting on at least the first 8 policies.

Revise Train Sheet Publication Frequency

Proposal to revise the publication frequency of the Train Sheet.

- Written report provided.
- Recommendation from Train Sheet Editor Paul Finnegan to switch Train Sheet to 3 times a year from 4 times.
- Noted we have more people on MailTrain email list and Facebook for news items.
- We still need people submitting articles of museum news items in a timely manner.
- Discussion about electronic vs. print and how to get info out.
- Discussion about old and archive Train Sheets.
- Concerns about email Train Sheet sometimes not reaching members.
- Discussion about fiscal impact and transition to electronic in the future. This proposal would save the Society almost $2,000 a year.
- We do have Facebook, MailTrain and Instagram for online news presentation.

Motion 25-02-02
Accept the Train Sheet proposal as presented.
Cochran / Spikes. Aye – 8, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion carries.

Board Vacancy

Discuss options for filling Board vacancy.

- Recommendation that we consider Tom Hervey for filling the Board position vacated by Steve Habeck.
- Tom Hervey is former SP, WP railroader over 40 years. Was with the PUC. Former Portola Mayor. Longtime Family member of FRRS. Has been volunteering more actively in recent years.
- Tom is willing to fill out the term on Habeck's seat.
- Board members expressed their approval of having Tom Hervey fill seat.
- Matt Shuman requested confirmation that Tom Hervey and Michael Coen as well as the other candidates are valid candidates under the by-laws. Secretary Vicknair is confirming and should be able to confirm on Monday or Tuesday.
- Greg Elems discussed that Ethan Doty is considering running for the Board in a upcoming election. Thanked Ethan for attending meetings and learning how the meetings and Board actions work.
- Hearing no opposition to Tom Hervey joining the Board, Greg Elems appoints him to fill out the seat formerly held by Steve Habeck. Kerry Cochran and the other directors welcome Tom Hervey to the Board effective immediately.

Noted Tom Hervey is now a Director.

Old Business

Museum Telephones

Update concerning telephone lines at the museum.

- Written report provided.
- Update provided by Eugene Vicknair.
- Telplex has released RAL number and phones have been shipped. AT&T still processing phone number port.
- Visible has shipped the new phones.

PRELIMINARY

- Bob Sims had question about AT&T vs. Telplex. Kerry Cochran responded that years ago, when AT&T was raising their rates, we shifted 3 of our 4 lines to TelPlex for cheaper rates. Those rates have continued to climb and now we are in same situation. Eugene Vicknair recalls that we had to keep one line with AT&T due to regulatory reasons.
- Ethan Doty recalls that Steve Habeck originally started the previous change to TelPlex.
- Some additional background and discussion.
- New cost will be $50 a month, $25 per line, and one time cost of $90 plus tax for each phone. Kerry Cochran had offered to pay for the phones.

Good of the Order

President's Report

- Written report provided.
- Noted the exterior gate valve from underground was the water valve that failed going to the lounge car. Armando was able to shut it off before it got too bad.
- Ethan will be testing the valves. Noted that water is now turned off at main valve at the Office Car.
- Discussion about water system and things that need to be checked.
- WP GP40 3541 / 1976 is being scrapped despite strong and long term efforts by the Society to save it.

Financial Reports

- Financial reports provided.
- Reviewed items.
- Bequeathment paperwork in with Schwab. There are no restrictions on the bequeathment expressed to us.
- Working on RAL promotion to try and rev up reservations for the 2025 season.
- Got three brand new members in January.
- We reduced our electricity consumption over 25% in December 2024 vs. December 2023 but cost went up. January 2025 usage was also down a similar amount vs. 2024. Connection fees have also gone up, so even no usage gets higher expenses.

Director's Reports

- *Vicknair* – written report provided.
  - Need to move date of Planning Meeting. Suggested to move to Sunday, March 2, at 11 AM at Michael Coen's house. Those who cannot be there in person can use Zoom link.
  - We discussed with Union Pacific getting bricks from the Sparks SP mechanical building for future use on the Whitman Building. We need to set up work crews and will try to get at least 10-12 pallets of bricks.
  - Matt suggested we also look at Gaylord containers. Janet would use fence wire nailed to a pallet for loose bricks.

Event Reports

- *2025 WP / DRGW Convention* – written report provided.
  - $1,000 received from RGM&HS for convention expenses.

Department Reports

- *Webmaster* – written report provided.
  - Greg discussed with Steve Lee about removing his name and image from our website due to questions and issues with FRA.
- *Historical / Archives* – written report provided.
  - Greg got donation info to Kerry so he could send a thank you letter.
  - Steve Lee will be donating stuff to the archives in April.
  - Mike Coen having lunch soon with Chris Ryckowski and Ski is talking about donating some stuff to the archives.
- *General Superintendent* – written report provided.
  - Crew training scheduled for May 3.
  - Greg Elems will be proctoring a GCOR test for railroaders who have kept up their GCOR federal certifications. This will be in April.

PRELIMINARY

- *Mechanical*
  - Nick Manos joined the meeting. Making report.
  - Winterized WP SW1500 1503 with David Elems middle of last month. Was last engine needing to be winterized.
  - Mechanical work session 1 for 2025 will be held middle of April. Will focus on support equipment (forklifts, telehandler, backhoe, etc.) to start. Going to get those lined up for service and prep for repairs. Make sure they are fully fueled to start year. Then going to focus on getting WP 1503 up and operational.
  - If that goes well, or in 2nd work session, will work on Quincy TR6A 1100 and then work on Southern Pacific GP9 2873 to support painting efforts.
  - Cost is looking at about $1,500 to $2,000 for support equipment. Nick will front but needs to be reimbursed.
  - We have everything needed for locomotive service. Need fuel for locomotives. Need to purchase at least 1,000 gallons around middle of May.
  - Ethan Doty will check fuel level on Quincy 1100. Has been checking batteries on locomotives. So far they look fine and Ethan has chargers on them.
  - Greg Elems suggested we go back to promoting fuel fund for locomotives.
  - Kerry Cochran asked how much help Nick needs for work sessions. Looking for as many people as possible. Has some contacts David gave Nick to reach out to.
  - Looking to possibly combine mechanical work session with facilities work.
- *Facilities*
  - Greg Elems noted that we may have some frozen / split P-traps under shower car. We will need to do some work under the shower car looking at plumbing issues. Kerry noted that middle shower was leaking in the shower car previously.
  - Ethan Doty has been looking around when he is there.
  - Brian Waller fixed leaking toilet in Women's restroom.

Committee Reports

- *Election* – written report provided.

Noted Matt Shuman left meeting at 3:17 PM

Legal / Insurance Report

- Still making monthly insurance payments.
  - Eligibility of candidates nominated for election is being verified.
  - Currently have 3 candidates and probably white ballot.
  - Confirmed that the 2025 Election Committee followed the letter of their due diligence.

Status of Surplus Property Report

- Kerry Cochran requested that this be removed as a regular item. No objections noted.

Safety Committee

- Greg Elems to talk to Duane VanderVeen about joining Safety Committee.

Notices

none

Public Comments

none

Closed Session – requested by President Greg Elems and Director Eugene Vicknair

3:25 PM – 4:40 PM

- *Business / Property Item* – Property and Future Improvements
- *Business Item* – Railroad Contacts
- *Business Item* – Equipment Loan
- *Personnel Item* – Member Conduct

PRELIMINARY

The Board heard a report on a Business / Property Item – Property and Future Improvements. Consensus direction given. No reportable action was taken.
The Board heard a report on a Business Item – Railroad Contacts. Consensus direction given. No reportable action was taken.
The Board heard a report on a Business Item – Equipment Loan. Consensus direction given. No reportable action was taken.
The Board heard a report on a Personnel Item – Member Conduct. Consensus direction given. Contact letter will be drafted. No further reportable action was taken.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 4:43 PM

Next Meeting: March 8, 2025 – 1:00 PM
Location: WPRM Meeting Room, Portola

Respectfully Submitted
Eugene Vicknair – FRRS Secretary

PRELIMINARY