Feather River Rail Society
Board of Directors Meeting – March 14, 2026 – 1:00 PM
Western Pacific Railroad Museum Meeting Room – WPRM, Portola, CA

President Greg Elems called the meeting to order at 1:06 PM.

Attendance

The following Directors were present:

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

9 directors present at meeting start – Quorum achieved.

Visitors:

Matt Shuman – Elections Chair - phone

Nick Manos – CMO – phone

Correspondence

Greg Elems

- Tony Azavedo has a set of trucks that would be useful for us. We need to set up transport after Big Boy event.
- Hines, Oregon city council person will be making a trip to come down and review the Oregon and Northwestern Caboose and pick up some rail supplies we are donating to them. This will occur after Big Boy event.

Kerry Cochran

- Received some message from Ann Cary.
- Idishki Ishimuro wants to know if we want to display some N-scale models of "California Zephyr". He is going to try and drop by June or July and drop them off.
- Received question from Eastern Contra Costa Historical Society concerning the Terminous Branch. Sending her information he got from archives and from Eugene Vicknair.

Consent Calendar

Minutes of the February 2020 BOD Regular and Special Meetings.

- Bob Sims noted a typo which was corrected.

Motion 26-03-01
Approve the minutes for the February 2026 Regular Meeting as corrected.
Vicknair / Spikes. Aye – 9, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion carries.

New Business

Plumas Museum Narrow Gauge Equipment

Discuss status and option to lease locomotive before physical transfer.

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- Written report provided.
- Discussion about proposal.
- Letter was sent from Nevada-California-Oregon Railway concerning this.
- Opinion expressed that N-C-O would be an excellent candidate for leasing the locomotive.
- Question as to interest by N-C-O in leasing the locomotive.
- Consensus direction to approve temporary lease and recommend lease to N-C-O as preference of FRRS.
- Director Vicknair abstained from decision as a director and officer in both FRRS and N-C-O.

Old Business

none

PRELIMINARY

Good of the Order

President's Report

- Verbal report given.
- Operation was a success, now a long term recovery. Greg is healing but it is slow. Hoping to be mainly recovered by Big Boy Event.
- Has had communication with UP Manger Curtis Young. UP water cars, crane and support cars have been moved out of display area and they are now on north side of yard.
- Discussed gate and public access with Mr. Young. He likes that location and has no problems with the plans we have.
- Ethan Doty, Tom Mueller and Greg will be doing adjustment to ramp track switch to ensure smooth operation. Steve Habeck has volunteered to be the switch tender and exit monitor at the gate and switch for the event.

Financial Reports

- Financial reports provided.
- Discussion of income from Big Boy event.
- Question about Liberty Energy bill. Eugene will follow up on that. Noted that there was a big rate increase from Liberty Energy.
- Noted that we need to discuss winter access to the Diesel Shop going forward.
- Eugene is working on improvements to our financial operations and policies. Will be following up more after Big Boy Event.
- Noted that we did a fuel purchase that should carry us through the end of the year. Nick Manos noted that Quincy 1100 and WP 707 both have fuel in their tanks and that we could consider using that fuel in WP 1503 and SP 2873.

Director's Reports

- *Vicknair* – written report provided.
    - Discussion about interim Train Sheet. Matt Elems and Michael Coen are willing to work on Train Sheet going forward. Idea is to form an editorial team. Reaffirmed that we need to go full electronic. Discussion about sending out a postcard informing the membership. Bob Sims suggested that we charge a fee for mailed copy. This has been discussed and is a good idea.

Event Reports

- *Big Boy 2026* – written report provided.
    - Question about POS registers in the store. We will have two computers running.
    - Kerry has someone who can help at the store.
    - We will need a hot spot phone at the gate. No time to work out a more permanent option. Likely use RAL phone at the gate.
    - Ballfield will be open for parking.
    - Need to talk to city about Plumas Sanitation and ballfield clean up / liability.
    - Greg Elems needs to do food truck permit for the event.
    - Discussion about Daylight Sales booth at the event.
    - Event layout map being finalized.
    - Discussion about expanding viewing area to include the two diesels.
    - UP planning to send UP Western Pacific Heritage Unit for the event. Tentative plans are to parking it on the east side of the pedestrian walk on 3 rail. Might couple WP 484 caboose to the heritage unit.
    - Need to get lounge, sleeper and shower car cleaned up.
    - We will be allowing dry camping of member RVs at the old hospital.
    - Nick recommended to set up on using both channels for radios. Kerry will be doing a briefing on this. Kerry has a set of brand new radio batteries.

Department Reports

- *General Superintendent* – written report provided.
- *Historical / Archives* – written report provided.
    - Greg will be talking to Gus Paoli. Will check with him on Archive work and intern.

PRELIMINARY

    - Noted there is a group offering seminars and online info on archives work. California Inclusive Preservation Program.
- *Webmaster* – written report provided.
- *Museum Store* – written report provided.
- *Mechanical* – written report provided.
    - Completed digitizing WP 0-6-0 165 documents. Don Nelson and Paul Finnegan also have copies of this archive and they are in the online storage.
    - Work session will formally start on April 6 but Don Nelson will arrive and being on April 4. Don will be focused on 165 for the week.
    - Nick will arrive April 6 and get WP SW1500 1503 going. Plan is to take 1503 offline and start work on it and SP GP9 2783 April 8, but this may be modified due to UP 1983 switching. WP 1503 will be only engine in service for early part of year following its annual.
    - SP GP9 2873 will be mechanically ready by April 24. It will be out of service until June 7 to accommodate any painting work. We need it for operations and RALs. We have plenty of people willing to volunteer to help with 2873. Nick will not be doing any other mechanical work unless there is an emergency during that time. Shop should be clear.
    - Ann Cary heard from someone from Quincy who wants to get paid to paint a locomotive. Discussing about having a talk with him at the museum. If rate is reasonable, Nick offered to donate funds toward the painting of SP 2873.
    - Don and Nick want to have a discussion with Ed Dickens about 165.
    - Working on three month projection of planned expenses. Looking at fuel or a transfer pump purchase for June.
    - Have added a new volunteer to the mechanical department: John Fastidio.
    - Matt Shuman working with Kerry on parts for UP 6946.
    - Bob Sims has question for possible costs on WP 165. Planning to do a stock transfer, but holding due to current market situation. Nick hoping to have better expense ideas in a few months. There will be 1 injector to be rebuilt and have some outside inspections. Going to do inspections and then solicit bids.

Committee Reports

- *Election* – written report provided.
    - Election mailing in process. Ballots will be out before deadline.
    - Have not heard from anyone willing to take on election chair.
    - Question about a director serving on election committee. Would need to be researched.
    - Request for suggestions for folks to serve on election committee.

Matt Shuman left meeting at 2:53 PM

Legal / Insurance Report

- We may be incurring a legal cost on getting contracts drawn up for Ballfield Parking.
- All insurances are paid and up to date.

Safety Committee

- No reportable incidents or accidents.

Notices

- Big Boy Event and Dinner – April 8. Dinner sales cut off in 2 weeks. Advance tickets on Monday, April 6.

Public Comments

- *Eugene Vicknair* - Discussed feedback and comments he had received at the Sacramento Great Train Show. Lots of positive comments, people interested in the museum and folks happy to see us back at shows. Mike Coen offered some thoughts about ways to communicate with the public and countering rumors and negative comments. Emphasized positive, diplomatic responses to any incorrect information and rumors.

BREAK – 3:04 PM – 3:15 PM

Closed Session – requested by President Greg Elems – 3:153 PM – 4:32 PM

PRELIMINARY

- *Personnel Issue* – Project Management and Approval

The Board heard a report on *Personnel Issue* – Project Management and Approval. Consensus direction given. Reportable action was taken: Michael Coen is appointed to the position of Restoration Manager by President Greg Elems.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 4:33 PM

Next Meeting: April 11, 2026 – 1:00 PM
Location: WPRM Meeting Room, Portola

Respectfully Submitted – Eugene Vicknair - Secretary

PRELIMINARY

This file (BOD_Meeting_03-14-26_preliminary.pdf) was posted to
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