

## Farewell to the Reno Branch

*continued from Page 1* that the line be kept in service to that point; but UP has already negotiated relocating this customer to the area below Martin in the near future. A red flag is planted between the rails near MP 11, plainly visible from US 395, preventing northward movement beyond that point. With sections of this line laid with welded rail that can be used elsewhere, its future as a railroad is in serious doubt. Fortunately, UP has been using the north end of the branch to store auto-racks, with nearly 200 of them sitting north of MP 3 since last fall. It will be difficult to tear up the track with cars sitting on it.

With the handwriting on the wall, the FRRS has stepped in with a plan to commemorate the Reno Branch prior to its demise. We are working with the UP and have come up with a plan for an excursion on the Reno Branch, to be called, "Farewell To The Reno Branch". As currently envisioned, this excursion would operate from Portola (adjacent to the Museum) to Sparks, lay over in Sparks, and return to Portola the second day. As Project Manager for this undertaking, I have drawn up a draft plan and budget for this project, and have received approval from the FRRS Board of Directors to proceed with plans to upgrade and paint various pieces of equipment from the collection for possible use on this venture. I cannot stress enough that we have not yet concluded discussions with the UP, and that final approval has not been given as yet! The work I have started on our equipment is such that the Museum will benefit from the upgrading whether the excursion runs or not. I have carefully chosen the equipment to be worked on, and the order in which it will be worked on, to minimize impact on daily Museum operations, yet provide improved appearance and use from this equipment as soon as it's completed.

Due to the ongoing negotiations with UP, and the fact that cars are still stored on the branch, no time frame for any excursion has yet been determined. If approved by UP, we will be reliant on the removal of the cars on the branch through the normal course of business prior to an excursion. I'm sorry that I can't be more detailed about this, but too much is still too tentative to be very specific. One thing I can state with authority is that we can use all the help we can get to get the FRRS and its equipment in shape for ventures such as this. Even though we are working under the FTRB banner, I'm hoping it's just a catalyst to spur excitement amongst you, the membership, to get involved, or get involved again, on projects that are definite in scope, approved and funded by the Board, and good for the Museum by improving appearance and functionality of our equipment. Whether we run an excursion or not, the Museum wins, and that's the bottom line.

For specific inquiries, you can E-mail me at [chooch@psln.com](mailto:chooch@psln.com) or call me at the Museum, or at home, (530) 283-3396. **DO NOT** call the UP; they don't know any more than we do at this point. To avoid confusion, we have only one person designated as the contact with UP, and he is in contact with me as necessary. If it involves the FTRB Project, and you didn't hear it from me, or from official FRRS channels, it probably isn't right. I am committed to getting the word out as quickly and as accurately as possible as things move along. Thank you for your interest, and I hope to see many of you helping to take up the cause in Portola.

## Minutes of Past Meetings

**May 5, 2001**

Interim President Hank Stiles called the meeting to order at 6:55 p.m. The following directors were present: Jim Murphy, Frank Brehm, Doug Morgan, Eugene Vicknair, Pat Brimmer, Hank Stiles, Ed Wagner (via telephone). Director Vic Neves and President Andy Anderson were absent.

Visitors Present: Rod McClure, Kerry Cochran, Bill Adamson, Steve Habeck, Don Nelson, Norm Holmes.

### CONSENT AGENDA:

Zephyr Project Report, Headlight Report, Train Sheet Report, Gift Shop sales at WPRRHS Convention, WP OB cupola Caboose 630 Report.

Motion #01-05-01

Made by Frank Brehm, seconded by Doug Morgan to accept consent agenda reports. All directors present voted in favor. Director Neves and President Anderson were absent.

### REPORTS:

TEA-21 Grant – Old Hospital

Eugene Vicknair presented and addendum to the TEA grant application for consideration. He explained that it had been reported that the Plumas County Transportation Commission was unsure if the proposed project fit into categories mentioned on the application, the addendum addressed which categories the project fit into. During the discussion it was determined that the addendum should place more emphasis on the projects link to transportation.

Motion #01-05-02

Made by Jim Murphy, seconded by Pat Brimmer to approve sending the addendum with the suggested added emphasis. All directors present voted in favor. Director Neves and President Anderson were absent.

### MINUTES:

Minutes of the April 7, 2001 meeting.

Motion #01-05-03

Made by Jim Murphy, seconded by Frank Brehm to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2001 meeting as presented. All directors present voted in favor. Director Neves and President Anderson were absent.

### OLD BUSINESS:

**RENO EXCURSION:** The Board reviewed the Reno Excursion Project plan drafted by Steve Habeck. Comments from Dan Brady regarding financing of the project were also reviewed. It was reported that Union Pacific had reviewed the draft plan and would cooperate with FRRS using Rod McClure as the liaison. Tickets will only be available to FRRS members due to liability concerns of UP, there can be tickets available to VIPs. Video taping of the excursion will be completed and there could be revenue from that portion of the project. The Board commended Steve Habeck on his work to draft a concise plan for consideration.

Motion #01-05-04

Made by Jim Murphy, seconded by Pat Brimmer to approve the Reno Excursion Project and add expenses to the upcoming budget. All direc-

## Minutes of Past Meetings

tors present voted in favor. Director Neves and President Anderson were absent.

### Motion #01-05-05

Made by Doug Morgan, seconded by Eugene Vicknair to appoint Rod McClure as the Reno Excursion Project liaison between FRRS and UP. All directors present voted in favor. Director Neves and President Anderson were absent.

### Motion #01-05-06

Made by Doug Morgan, seconded by Frank Brehm to appoint Steve Habeck as project manager for the Reno Excursion Project. All directors present voted in favor. Director Neves and President Anderson were absent.

**BUDGET 2001:** The Board reviewed a list of projects to be considered for the 2001 Capital Expenditure Budget. It was noted that only \$104,000 was available for these projects. Director Murphy suggested prioritizing the list and just ending the list when the funds ran out.

### Motion #01-05-07

Made by Hank Stiles, seconded by Pat Brimmer to approve special capital expenditure projects on an individual basis until funding was no longer available, considering each project when a report on the project and a request for funding was brought to the board. All directors present voted in favor. Director Neves and President Anderson were absent.

**EQUIPMENT SIGNS:** Eugene Vicknair reported on quotes for exterior grade sign boards for equipment. He requested the Board approve \$1353 to purchase the signs.

### Motion #01-05-08

Made by Jim Murphy, seconded by Doug Morgan to approve the sign plan and appropriate \$1353. All directors present voted in favor. Director Neves and President Anderson were absent.

**BOARD SECRETARY:** Director Stiles reported that he would like the Board to consider \$100 per month payment to Leslie Tigan to act as the Board Secretary. Duties will include, minutes, agendas, organization and keeping of official records.

### Motion #01-05-09

Made by Hank Stiles, seconded by Pat Brimmer to authorize payment of \$100 per month to Leslie Tigan for Secretary services. All directors present voted in favor. Director Neves and President Anderson were absent.

**BOARD ORIENTATION MEETING:** The Board discussed the concept of scheduling an orientation meeting for new Board members after each election. Director Vicknair suggested scheduling the meeting now for new members. Director Murphy suggested placing an item on the June agenda for approval of an agenda for the orientation meeting. Director Brimmer noted that the new members should set the date for the meeting when seated in June and the meeting should be held within 30 days. After a brief discussion it was the consensus of the Board to place an item on the June agenda to discuss the agenda and schedule for the orientation meeting.

### NEW BUSINESS:

**WP COACH:** Norm Holmes provided a report on the possible acquisition of the WP Coach. It was the consensus of the Board to forward the request to the A & D Committee for review of information which need-

ed to be provided in the form of a report with information and photos.

**OLD HOSPITAL:** Norm Holmes requested the Board allocate \$3000 to secure the hospital building and clean up the grounds.

### Motion #01-05-10

Made by Pat Brimmer, seconded by Hank Stiles to authorize \$3000 to secure and clean the grounds of the old hospital, utilizing a minimum of ½" CDX with 1 ½" deck screws every 6 to 8 inches. All directors present voted in favor. Director Neves and President Anderson were absent.

Director Murphy reported that a perimeter fence around the property would be a good idea, he also reported that Norm Holmes had acquired siding similar to the type on the building, but unknown to him the siding contained asbestos and would have to be properly disposed of. It was the consensus of the Board to have Frank Brehm and Norm Holmes coordinate to secure the building and grounds properly.

### FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Director Brimmer commended Kerry Cochran on the training class being held over the weekend and all the work that proceeded the training session. Director Brimmer also commented on a complaint from Sam Herschbein regarding the web page, it was determined that Mr. Brimmer would write a letter of apology for Director Stiles to sign. Norm Holmes requested the Board consider sending a representative to the Western Regional meeting. The Board declined the request. Hank Stiles and Doug Morgan reported that they had attended the FRA conference which was beneficial. Eugene Vicknair reported that there is a June 30 deadline for grant applications to the Trains Magazine. He noted that he would prepare a grant application for the Zephyr project. It was also suggested that the next Headlight should contain a request for donations for the Zephyr project. Eugene Vicknair reported on the status of the moving of the Magnolia Tower.

Next Meeting: June 2, 2001, 6:00 pm, Portola City Hall

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

### June 2, 2001

Interim President Hank Stiles called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The following directors were present:

Jim Murphy, Ed Wagner, Pat Brimmer (via telephone), Eugene Vicknair, Hank Stiles. Directors Vic Neves, Doug Morgan, Frank Brehm and President Andy Anderson were absent.

Visitors Present: Kerry Cochran, Norm Holmes, Susan Scarlett, Tom Graham, John Risse, Judy McGrath, Gary Hall, Don Borden.

### CONSENT AGENDA:

May 5, 2001 Minutes  
Membership Report  
Operating Department Report  
Gift Shop Sales Report

Pat Brimmer corrected the spelling of HERSCHBEIN in the minutes.

Motion #01-06-01