

**Feather River Rail Society**  
**Board of Directors Meeting – August 14, 2021 – 4:30 PM**  
**Western Pacific Railroad Museum Meeting Room – WPRM, Portola, CA**

President Greg Elems called the meeting to order at 4:32 PM.

**Attendance**

**The following Directors were present:**

Kerry Cochran	Steve Habeck	Eugene Vicknair - phone
Greg Elems	Charlie Spikes	Matt Elems
Bob Sims - phone	Roger Stabler - phone	Janet Steeper - phone

9 directors present at meeting start – Quorum achieved.

**Guests present:**

Bart Hansen – Treasurer  
David Elems – Asst. CMO, Safety Officer

**Election of Officers**

- President
  - Nominations open.
  - Charlie Spikes nominates Greg Elems, Seconded by Kerry Cochran
  - No further nominations. Nominations closed.
  - Greg Elems reelected President.
- Vice-President
  - Nominations open.
  - Charlie Spikes nominates Steve Habeck. Seconded by Janet Steeper.
  - No further nominations. Nominations closed.
  - Steve Habeck reelected Vice-President.
- Secretary
  - Nominations open.
  - Bart Hansen nominates Eugene Vicknair. Seconded by Greg Elems.
  - No further nominations. Nominations closed.
  - Eugene Vicknair reelected Secretary.
- Treasurer
  - Nominations open.
  - Janet Steeper nominates Bart Hansen. Seconded by Greg Elems.
  - No further nominations. Nominations closed.
  - Bart Hansen reelected Treasurer.

**Appointment of Department Heads and Committee Chairs**

- All current department heads and committee chairs are reappointed by President Elems.
- Board consensus to concur with appointments.

**Correspondence**

*G. Elems*

- We had a very interesting visitor to museum today. WP President Mike Flannery's daughter came to visit. She got her portrait taken with her father's official portrait and got a tour around the WP 165 and diesel shop. She really liked the WP SW1500 1503. She has things she wants to donate to us. Very impressed with and appreciative of the museum. She also took a look at the "Charles O. Sweetwood" and confirmed that WP started painting cabooses red again based on a suggestion to their father by her sister

*Vicknair*

- We have been receiving 4 and 5 star Yelp reviews, about 5 this month.

*Habeck*

- Noted typo in CZ blurb on Facebook this morning.

## **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 21-08-01

Approve the minutes of the July 2021 Regular Meeting presented.

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

## **Old Business**

### **1 – 2021 Revised Budget**

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Review and approve revised budget reflecting recently received grants.

- Proposed budget provided.
- Headlight and WP Celebration items changed, plus Fence item.
- Consensus direction to amend.

### **2 - 2021 Western Pacific Convention**

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

- Greg spoke to hotel. We can cancel up to August 16 with 10% fee. Cancel past September 16 for 25% fee. If we postpone, we do not have to pay and can postpone up to 12 months.
- Concerns about low registration due to COVID delta variant.
- Bob Sims did registration report and we only have 13 registrations right now. We are not getting any more registrations recently.
- COVID issues are cropping up again. Hotel is requiring masks right now.
- Kerry Cochran is recommending that we defer the convention until April 2022.
- Janet Steeper and Eugene Vicknair both agree.
- Bob Sims agrees it is a grim picture. We did pick up two new members. There are some people who will probably register who have not yet, but not enough.
- Discussion about break even numbers and attendance.

Motion 21-08-02

Motion that we postpone the convention to April 2022.

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

- SureStay has only one event in April 2022. Most weekends open.
- Discussion and general approval that we need to postpone.
- Bob Sims discussed issues about refunds and cost carrying. Concerns about higher costs in 2022.
- Convention costs and income pulled from 2021 budget.
- Eugene, Bob, Greg and Kerry will coordinate messaging and refunds.

## **New Business**

### **1 – Headlight Magazine**

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Review request for reprint of Issue 17 and increase in retail price.

- Written report provided.
- Kerry Cochran withdraws Headlight issue 17 reprint item, since we still have CZ 70th Anniversary issue copies available.
- Discussion about Headlight retail pricing. Last time cost changed was over 12 years ago. We have not kept up with increase in postage and printing.
- Noted that the Rio Grande Modeling and Historical Society charges \$12 retail for their Prospector Magazine.
- This would be the retail price for sale in Museum Store and at hobby shops.

- Issue 52 is in the mail with no price on the cover.
- Consideration that we raise price on past issues as well.
- Discussion about leeway on Headlight past issue costing. Can we offer volume discounts? Yes, we can set volume discounts in store.

Motion 21-08-03

Increase retail prices on Headlight Magazines, both back issues and future, to \$12 per issue.

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

## **2 - Historical / Archive Publications**

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Discuss proposal for reprints of archival WP material.

- Written report provided.
- Kerry Cochran showed Board samples of booklets that are reprints of WP, SN and TS equipment drawings and information. We have printed 5 copies initially of 7 different equipment drawing books.
- Kerry wants to produce 5 copies of 3 more. Cost for last three will be under \$300.
- We have added line items for expense and income to budget.
- Would like to make this on ongoing program.

Motion 21-08-04

Approve printing program as outlined in the report and authorize additional \$300 to print the remaining 3 booklets.

Vicknair / G. Elems. Aye – 8, Nay – 0, Abstain – 1. Motion carries.

## **3 – Pumpkin and Santa Trains**

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Discuss plans for 2021 Pumpkin and Santa Trains.

- Written report provided.
- Concerns about COVID issues.
- Nevada is again statewide requiring masks indoors and in confined spaces. Same with Bay Area.
- Plumas County has had 77 cases in the last 2 weeks with only 6,000 people in the county.
- Washoe County in Nevada seeing a lot of cases and growing.
- For Santa Train, we need to decide by mid-October.
- Concerns about getting volunteers and visitors for the events. We often get ill people during Santa Trains.
- Opinion is to postpone both events. No one is happy about this, but there are too many concerns.
- Noted that Ally Doty, who typically heads the Pumpkin Patch Trains, is concerned about doing the event this year due to COVID.

Motion 21-08-05

We postpone Pumpkin Patch and Santa Trains from 2021 due to concerns about COVID.

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

- Pull from budget and calendars.

## **Good of the Order**

### **President's Report**

- *Written report provided.*
- ABC did come out and did the annual inspection of the archives car fire system. Servicing performed and system to be inspected again in one year.
- D&D Roofing has had materials shortages and are running behind. They are now expecting to be out in mid-September.

### **Financial Reports**

- *Written reports provided.*
- Eugene Vicknair noted revisions in approved budget due to cancellation of Santa and Pumpkin trains.

- We are having hit or miss days with visitors and income. Some days good, some days dead. We had 3 RALs today and lots of T-shirt sales.
- Bob Sims expressed concerns about income from store and admission. Noted that we are uncertain about future income and we have cushion built into budget and are watching several big ticket items.
- Noted that we will be pushing more RAL advertising once we have more engineers committed and engines running.

### Director's Reports

- *Vicknair* – written report provided.
  - Discussion about brochure printing and need to raise membership dues. Consensus to look at slimming down brochure, maybe drop pricing. New brochure designs and membership cost analysis for next meeting.

### Event Reports

- *2021 WP Historic Convention*
  - Cancelled.

### Department Reports

- *General Superintendent* – written report provided.
- *Historical / Archives* – written report provided.
- *Signal* – written report provided.
  - Discussion about various projects in progress or completed. Internet improvement in progress.
- *Train Sheet* – written report provided.
- *Headlight* – written report provided.
  - Discussion about Headlight status. Thank you to Dave Pires. Noted Mike Mucklin is ill. Issue 52 put together and in the mail.
- *Webmaster* – written report provided.
  - Noted that we announced convention registration first on May 19 and received no registrations until July.
- *Museum Store* – written report provided.
  - Concern about ice machine overheating. Eugene working to get fan working in side room.
- *Mechanical* – written report provided.
  - Lube oil strainer on SP GP9 2873 had some bearing material in it. At some point we will need to inspect bearings on the engine.
  - Planning start of injector work on WP GP7 707.
  - Looking at auxiliary heater for pressure washers. Our current is cold water only. Would increase its utility.
  - We need a new fuel hose and hose reel for the fuel car. New reel with hose will be \$1,000. Also need new nozzle and flow meter, costing about \$300.
  - Adding new specialized tooling needed by the mechanical department.
  - Emphasized that we need to devote funds to fire prevention work and costs for converting tank cars to fire service.
- *RAL* – written report provided.

### Committee Reports

none

### Legal / Insurance Report

none

### Status of Surplus Property Report

- We have an offer to bring a tank car from Nevada that was going to go to NSRM to Portola. NSRM declined donation. Donor wants to know if we are still interested. Willing to donate car and transportation. May be two cars. Consensus to accept. We may be able to use these for fire service cars.

## **Safety Report**

- Reviewed fire train ideas in Mechanical. Still need to service caboose fire extinguishers.
- Smoky and air bad.
- We had a small tie fire we think from a hot piece of brake shoe or a spark from braking. Charlie and Bill were right on top of it and amply flooded it with water. They used the water buffalo tanker to flood the location.

## **Public Comments**

- Noted request on Facebook to access archives. Has been directed to contact Kerry.
- People asking about 2022 Photo Calendar. Eugene already working on it.

## **Notices**

- Steam Dept will have FRA on property September 9-10 for inspection and hydro on WP 0-6-0 165. PUC may also be on property those days. Hydro on Sept 9, internal inspection on Sept 10. Going to do preliminary test hydro on Sept 8. Getting last parts to get steaming in hand. Have some work to do before Sept 8. Goal is to steam up in October.

## **Closed Session – 7:10 PM – 7:26 PM**

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

Motion 21-08-06

The FRRS accepts the long term loan agreement for the Plumas County Museum Narrow Gauge Collection as dated August 14, 2021, revision 9.

Cochran / Vicknair. Aye – 8, Nay – 0, Abstain – 1. Motion carries.

## **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at: 7:30 PM (Habeck / M/ Elems)  
Next Meeting: September 11, 2021 – 1:00 PM  
Location: WPRM Conference Room, Portola, CA

Respectfully Submitted, Eugene Vicknair – FRRS Secretary  
09/07/2021a