

President's Report for June 2019

Again, my report is late (my apologies), but I was set down with a major flare-up of my internals, starting Thursday night, and lasting all day Friday. I am better today, and hope to make the Board meeting and other events.

The two passenger cars that had taken up residence on the West Pass have departed, and made good time to their destinations. Except for some dialog with BNSF regarding customs for the VIA car, there were no issues.

We have received another OSHA letter, citing a number of potential issues, many of which are repeats of prior complaints. This is frustrating, but we will respond as appropriate to the allegations. David Elems, as Safety Committee Chair, is taking the lead on this response, with assistance from the General Superintendent. Our response will also include our contention that we are being harassed by the instigator of these issues; initial conversations with OSHA indicate they are in agreement with us. As part of the response, we have had significant upgrades to our fire extinguishers, having nearly 40 serviced by Alpine, and purchasing several new ones. This work is ongoing.

Due to the daily rain, and cool weather, work on locomotives has been slowed considerably. Refer to the Mechanical report on that status. My frequent absences have not helped getting things done, either.

I have generated a work list of items we need to get done on the property, many of which have already been addressed by Kerry and Paul during their week here at the Museum. There has been a gradual, but continuous, degradation of the appearance of the Museum and grounds that we all need to step up to and work on.

The collapse of an agreement with the City regarding placement of the small engine at the Williams House has created a lot of work for us that should not have to have been done. We will keep this in mind during further discussions with the City.

Recently retired from the railroad, Phil Schmierer has been working with us at the Museum for the last two weeks, and has accomplished a lot of jobs that needed to be done. It's good to have another person around who's not afraid to get his hands dirty.

So, let's continue to take on the challenges presented to us, and remember that we are now in our peak season – attention to our visitors has to be the main priority, for all of us.

Steve Habeck

President, FRRS