

**Feather River Rail Society
Board of Directors Meeting – March 11, 2023 – 1:00 PM
Western Pacific Railroad Museum Meeting Room – WPRM, Portola, CA**

President Greg Elems called the meeting to order at 13:13.

Attendance

The following Directors were present:

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

9 directors present at meeting start – Quorum achieved.

Visitors:

Matt Shuman – Election Chair - ph
David Elems – Asst. CMO, Safety Officer

Correspondence

Vicknair

- Ed Wagner received an email from deceased member with spam load. Wanted to warn everyone to be careful with their email.

David Elems

- Eric Olsen at SF Maritime Museum said that they may have a small lathe that could be donated to the FRRS. David received an email from Museum. It was suggested that we go through the city of San Francisco to arrange donation. David has new info and is going to follow up on this.

Greg Elems

- California Northern / Genesse and Wyoming contacted us about ex-CNW GP15-1 and inquiry for donation. Response is that engine is not available but there may be other possibilities so we should keep in touch.

Habeck

- Still have fundraisers coming in. Received one for \$500 and one for \$250.
- Received a survey from Census Agency. Is a survey sent every five years. Steve completed and sent back. Received confirmation they received.

Consent Calendar

- Minutes – Minutes of the February 2023 BOD Regular Meeting.

Motion 23-03-01

Approve the February 2023 BOD Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.

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

Old Business

WPRM Private Locomotive Lease

Review draft lease agreement.

- Written report / draft contracts provided.
- Question about paragraph 15 – Indemnification.
- Consensus to send drafts to legal.

SP Convention Visit in May

Review plan and requests for group visit in May 2023.

- Greg spoke with Scott Inman. Late last year, we had sent them a price of \$1,500 for running the WP 165. SP group is trying to keep a price for museum excursion that would be affordable to some fixed income attendees. Greg agreed to honor \$1,500 fee for this visit. Scott suggested that convention visitors consider making donations to help up defray additional costs, looking for at least \$1,000 additional.
- SP group will set up catered lunch for their members and will also include our volunteers in the lunch. Need to get count of how many volunteers will be on hand. Estimated as high as 20.
- Discussion of fueling WP 165 and timing for fueling. Need to switch tank car onto the lead where it will be easy to reach.
- David Elems mentioned that we need to coordinate well due to weather and need to switch out equipment and the shop building.
- Roger Stabler suggested switching the 165 and tank car into reach of truck when we fuel it so tender and tank car can both be filled.
- We will need a few days after weather clears up to arrange the yard and shop and line up the fuel truck.
- WP 165 is down to “fumes”. Maybe 100 gallons in locomotive.
- Will not be firing up the locomotive until May 17. Roger will be up starting May 7 to start prep and engine work. Has a lot to do before we need fuel.
- Will have FRA in the week before run for annual inspection, May 11-12. Crew training the weekend before, May 13. Then crew just needs to get things set back for operation following FRA inspection.
- Noted we will need to set up tables and chairs for lunch. Suggestion we have Plumas Sanitation bring in port-o-potties and portable sinks for the convention group. May have 1-2 busses and some folks driving separately. Standard package we get is 2 port-o-potties and 1 wash basin. We will have those for about a week or two so they will be on hand for proposed WP Celebration.
- Requested that Paul put out a call for volunteers and crew for May 18 and May 20 (if approved) events.

New Business

Museum Cleaning

Proposal to bring in professional cleaning crew for building and select cars.

- Written report provided.
- Review of request and idea behind item.
- Discussion of getting a quote from cleaner.
- Discussion of past volunteer cleaning efforts.

- Kerry Cochran commented he picked up a floor blower last year for about \$100 and it worked very well.
- Greg Elems commented that a dehumidifier would be a good idea.
- Roger Stabler suggested that taking portable heater from Edenwold and run in UP 105 and it will have car dry in a week. Can run cord to loading platform from plug inside the Diesel Shop south door. Discussion about power to heater.
- Ed Wagner commented to Greg Elems that he feels this is a good idea.
- Discussion about past cleaning issues.
- Kerry Cochran suggested that we get some different cleaning services to quote and separate costs for building versus cars as separate quotes.
- Noted we still need to cover vent in kitchen on Silver Plate.
- Roger Stabler offered to clean the UP 105 if we have the equipment.
- Eugene Vicknair offered to get proper cleaning equipment and help with UP 105.

Motion 23-03-02

Approve the business item and proceed as outlined

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

- Discussion of equipment and supplies needed.

Media Day

Proposal for a media day on afternoon of May 18.

- Written report / draft contracts provided.
- Kerry Cochran thinks this is a good idea.
- Discussion of inviting political folks.
- David Elems wanted to make clear that we need to caveat this on equipment and facility readiness.
- Eugene Vicknair planning to be at museum from May 13-21 to help out.
- Charlie Spikes offered to get the Model T running for the event if they can get the coils needed. Discussion about model T repair.
- Discussion if we need a motion or just consensus.
- Eugene Vicknair asked for consensus to proceed as outlined.
- Consensus given to proceed.

WP Celebration

Plan for Western Pacific Celebration on May 20.

- Written report / draft contracts provided.
- David Elems does not see any issue with having WP SW1500 1503 operating for the event.
- Rotary could be open and operating. David Elems suggested that we could have rotary running for SP group visit.
- Question if we do caboos train operation that day.
- Concern that we will struggle to get crews. Kerry Cochran feels timing may be wrong.
- Suggestion to do display freight train. Greg Elems asked if we could have SN caboos on the end and give rides. Would require less crew than full caboos train.
- Discussion if we should offer rides or just do display freight.
- Steve Habeck suggested that we do two trains: WP 165 with older freight cars and SN and wood WP cabooses on it, plus newer freight cars with WP 1503 and newer WP caboos. Cycle them back and forth and offer rides.

- Discussion about changing date. School break will be June to August. Matt Elems feels that school issue is not going to be that impactful. Tentative WP steam operation August 5-6. Suggestion to operate first weekend in September.
- Idea behind May date was to use 165 when hot and have big event kick off the season.
- Discussion of crew needs. If we run two trains, we would need 6-8 crew members.
- More discussion of date options. Noted Plumas County Fair will be July 27-30, 2023. Could be out of area vendors available for August 5-6. Could bring in vendors for August 5-6 and still do Celebration on May 20.
- Noted that Eugene, Greg and Janet are available May 20. Eugene and Janet will not be available August 5-6.
- Steve Habeck feels we should take advantage of everything coming together and try for May 20.
- Greg Elems in favor of May 20.
- Consensus to proceed with May 20. Kerry Cochran will put out crew call for May 20 and switching date earlier in week, Monday through Wednesday.
- Volunteer Breakfast will be the morning of May 20.

Discussion about additional operations.

- Question about public rotary run on March 18. Decided we will not do public run on March 18.
- We probably still need to run rotary to clear the yard and that can still operate as needed. Just no public access.
- Discussion about crew and need to clear yard with rotary soon.

Draft Snowplow Lease Contract

Review preliminary draft of lease contract for use of rotary snowplow.

- Written report / draft contract provided.
- Local UP manager in Sparks inquired about using SP MW208 rotary set to clear snow out of Portola Yard. Asked how much it would cost. We realized that we do not have a contract for such services.
- UP MOW crew also wanted to clear snow at Belden. Management denied this.
- Greg Elems feels we need to have a contract in place if this issue comes up again.
- Eugene Vicknair drafted preliminary contract for review by Board.
- Discussion about details of the contract. Steve Habeck wants to delete locomotive clause.
- Matt Shuman asked about insurance concerns. We would need to carry our current liability insurance and then be endorsed on UP insurance just like any other contractor. Noted that line 6 covers insurance questions and can be beefed up.
- Draft contract does need to go before legal counsel for review. Want something in place for next season or next time this issue comes up.
- Requested any changes be sent via email and then Eugene will send to Porter-Simon.
- Put in clause about UP having to follow our directive on any operations, issues with mechanicals and how to deal with issues like derailment.
- Questions about how to handle catastrophic issues with use of rotary.
- Consensus direction to proceed and send to legal after comments.

WCRG Motorcar Visit

Discuss proposal to have West Coast Railway Group motorcars on property Sunday, May 14.

- Written report provided.
- Asked to make sure we get insurance confirmed.

- Discussion about logistics and safety.
- Suggestion we temporarily barricade the sewer and Edenwold crossings for the day of this. Do not let them cross east crossing. Have flagger on pedestrian crossing.
- Consensus direction to proceed with the event. Eugene Vicknair to handle the negotiations on operations and insurances.

Good of the Order

President's Report

- *Written report provided.*

Financial Reports

- *Written reports provided.*
- Noted that Ann Cary goes in for knee surgery in a week or so.
- We are doing well financially. In the black for first two months of the year.
- No further questions or comments.

Director's Reports

- *Vicknair* – written report provided.
 - Several directors received their donation letters. Noted that report has a typo and letters were for donations in 2022, not 2023.
 - 165 RAL info. Deposit is non-refundable from payment. Deposit is \$25.

Event Reports

- *2023 Convention*- written reports provided.
 - Convention hotel is completely booked.
 - Getting bios together for presenters.
 - Noted that all three hotels in the convention area are booked up or getting close.

Department Reports

- *Webmaster* – written report provided.
- *Signal Department* – written report provided.
- *Train Sheet* – written report provided.
 - Deadline for submissions are March 31. Goes to printer that day.
- *Headlight* – written report provided.
- *Mechanical* – written report provided.
- *Facilities* – written report provided, combined with Safety Report.

Committee Reports

- *2023 Election* – written report provided.
 - No responses to postcard yet. March 15 is deadline for write in candidates.

Matt Shuman left meeting at 4:11 PM

Legal / Insurance Report

- Took legal bill to Porter-Simon.

Status of Surplus Property Report

none

Safety Committee

- Written report provided, combined with Facilities Report.

Public Comments

none

Notices

Bob Sims – Just won a steam engine tender tail light on eBay. Reported to be a WP tender light, but Bob has not been able to confirm yet.

Closed Session – requested by Director Vicknair and President Elems – 4:18 PM – 4:26 PM

- *Property Issue* – Museum Property
- *Financial Issue* – Preliminary Grant Report
- *Collection Issue* – Review of Potential Acquisitions

The Board heard a report on a Property Issue – Museum Property. No reportable action taken.

The Board heard a report on a Financial Issue – Preliminary Grant Report. No reportable action taken.

The Board heard a report on a Collection Issue – Review of Potential Acquisitions. No reportable action taken.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at:16:29 (Spikes / Cochran)

Next Meeting: April 15, 2023 – 1:00 PM
Location: WPRM Meeting Room, Portola

Respectfully Submitted
Eugene Vicknair – FRRS Secretary