

## **Board Meeting – Northern Pacific Railway Historical Association – September 11, 2019 – Baxter, Minnesota**

Meeting called to order by President Bill Zidel at 9:04 PM. Board Members present: Golde, Hillard, Makins, Shannon, Woodward, Zidel, and Zieska. O’Neil did not attend the 2019 Convention.

Regarding the issue raised by Jim Dick at the September 11, 2019 Membership Meeting relating to the Rapido NP Boxcar Model: Although Mr. Dick mentioned this issue in emails posted to an NP Modeling group on the internet, Mr. Dick did not raise a formal complaint to President Zidel or other Board member at any time prior to the September 11, 2019 Membership Meeting. It appears that the issue raised by Mr. Dick relates to whether the Rapido model represents the NP Boxcar as originally constructed for the NP, or the car as it existed after many years of use and maintenance by the NP. Since this model represents a family of several hundred cars, it is likely that certain details varied among the family of boxcars. President Zidel will look at the model and ask which generation of the car the model supposedly represents, to see if the model accurately represents the prototype. He will then endeavor, with the help of Ken Zieska, to get Mr. Dick and Mr. O’Neill to resolve the issue. Hopefully, we can continue to enjoy all the positive work and contributions that both Mr. Dick and Mr. O’Neill have provided to NPRHA over the years.

### **2019 Convention Comments:**

It was very convenient that the hotel was able to provide lunches and dinners for our members as part of the convention package.

Bob Makins commented that he had hoped the convention would include a more detailed presentation on the Brainerd Shops. Unfortunately, it did not, although the Tuesday tour of the facility in its current state was very enlightening. Perhaps we can get such a presentation when we return to the area in 2021. Also, there were no presentations relating specifically to Modeling. Mr. Makins also commented that he was disappointed that the convention did not include an activity for spouses. These are issues that the Convention Committee may be able to address for future conventions.

Jim Woodward commented that although the general facilities of the hotel and the food service were fine, the beds were noisy and uncomfortable. Mr. Hillard agreed. Mr. Woodward also expressed frustration with the operation of the air conditioning in his room. Some Board members also mentioned that they would have enjoyed use of the swimming pool and water park, which had very limited open hours. Open hours may vary by season.

Jim Woodward also commented that we should consider asking Convention Presenters to practice their presentations in an attempt to keep presentations within the allotted time slots. Perhaps we should consider having “time monitors” to help presenters stay within their time allotments. We also need to work with folks who are presenting to our group during tours to ensure they are aware of the “base level” of information that is already known to NPRHA members and will confine their presentations to information specific to the depot or facility or other topic relating to the tour. Case in point was the presentation offered at the Wadena depot, where the presenter thought he needed to tell the audience about the entire history of the Northern Pacific, rather than concentrating on the history and pertinent facts related to the Wadena Depot and the Wadena area.

Printing the convention schedule on the back of the name tag information was a great idea, as it allows attendees to keep the schedule information close at hand. However, the print needs to be large enough to facilitate reading by folks with normal eyesight. Perhaps the schedule could be printed on multiple sheets or on a mini-booklet that can be refolded to access information for the date of interest.

Dave Hillard mentioned that in 2018 the Board had directed the Convention Committee to use lanyards that attach to both upper corners of the nametag rather than lanyards that attach to a single point on the nametag via a swivel. What we really had in mind is something like <https://www.namebadgeproductions.com/product/4749/4-1-4-x-6-convention-holder-elastic-cord> These are much less likely to flip over in use. Perhaps we can get it right in 2020.

**More Future Convention Comments:** President Zidel mentioned that Steve Fuller has heard from three people who offered suggestions for locations for future conventions. Ken Zieska also talked with some of them. As the Conventions Committee (Steve Fuller, Dean O’Neill, Jan Taylor, and Ken Zieska) considers suggestions, we need to vet both the potential Convention Chair and the proposed Location to ensure their viability. Everett, WA, Spokane, Sandpoint, Idaho, and Superior, Wisconsin, and Toppenish, WA were mentioned as possible future locations. It generally works better when there is a multi-person team doing the convention, since the logistics and planning are significant workloads. If possible, we should try to get a convention schedule insert into the mailing of *The Mainstreeter*.

**Investment of idle NPRHA Funds:** Dave Hillard provided documents summarizing the Certificate of Deposit “ladder” that has been established to get a reasonable rate of return on otherwise idle NPRHA funds. A Money Market fund and several CDs were purchased from Wells Fargo, with maturity dates ranging from 8/15/2019 to 2/14/2022. Interest yields range from 2.33% to 2.85%. Total value as of 8/31/2019 is \$182,604.42.

**Matching Grants:** Harold Shannon and Doug Shearer commented on the possibility of asking members for matching funds to augment Grant money from the NPRHA Treasury. This has worked well for the Northern Pacific Railway Museum at Toppenish and could work well for some of the projects NPHRA supports with grants. Dave Hillard commented that timing can be problematic, since there is a long lead time for communication with the NPRHA membership via *The Mainstreeter*. Perhaps it would work better to establish a Matching Fund to which members could contribute to augment funds provided by direct NPRHA Grants. Or we might simply suggest to Members that they should consider providing additional direct financial support to projects that have received NPRHA Grants.

**Current Membership Levels:**

Membership	Dues/year	Count	Value	
Veteran	\$20	170	\$3400	7.01%
Regular	\$25	1191	\$29,775	61.39%
Canada / Mexico	\$30	19	\$570	1.18%
Outside North America	\$35	26	\$910	1.88%
Sustaining - Monad	\$50	193	\$9650	19.89%
Sustaining - Pacific	\$100	29	\$2900	5.98%
Sustaining - Mikado	\$150	7	\$1050	2.16%
Sustaining - Northern	\$250	1	\$250	0.52%
Sustaining - Yellowstone	\$500	0		
		1636	\$48,505	

Note that in addition to providing these membership levels, in which the entire amount goes to “Dues”, the current registration forms also provide a separate additional category called “Preservation Contribution”, which is placed in a separate account that is typically used to fund Grants.

**Proposed Bylaws Change relating to the Modeling Committee:**

We discussed and Ken Zieska later emailed the following proposed changes (underlined below) to the NPRHA Bylaws (Note that the Secretary has made a few additional changes):

Article V. COMMITTEES Section 1. Committees. The activities of the Association are carried out principally through Standing Committees and Temporary Committees. The following shall constitute the Standing Committees of the Association: A. Finance Committee B. Publications Committee C. Convention Committee D. Preservation Committee E. Nominating Committee F. Audit Committee G. Membership Committee H. Modeling Committee

Section 4. Reports. Each Committee shall report on the progress and results of its activities at the Annual Membership Meeting and at such other times as specified in these By-laws or directed by the Board of Directors.

Section 13. Modeling Committee. The mission of the Modeling Committee is to support prototypically correct Northern Pacific modeling through various efforts such as special runs with manufacturers, assisting manufacturers in their research, researching and producing our own original kits. The chairperson of the Modeling Committee shall

be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Board of Directors. **The modeling committee is authorized to represent the interests of the NPRHA in communications with manufacturers. Approval to commit over \$200.00 in NPRHA funds to a Modeling Project will require Board of Director review unless the expenditure has been previously approved by the Board of Directors during review of the Modeling Committees annual report.**

The responsibilities of the Modeling Committee are as follows:

A. Collaborate and contribute to the committee's efforts in the research and development of original kits. B. Collaborate and contribute to the committee's support of manufacturers in their development of NP models. C. Research and make recommendations for new NPRHA modeling offerings and materials that are prototypical to NP practices such as, however not limited to, paint, decals, parts, literature. D. Engage with NPRHA members to learn what the membership would like to see produced. E. Develop pricing, inventory, tracking and production templates for any modeling project. F. Support modeling efforts associated with NPRHA conventions. **G. The modeling committee report required in Section 4 will include the status of products currently in production with funds committed to it by the NPRHA. The report will also list, for Board of Director review, projects currently under consideration or research by the committee which will require investment by the NPRHA. Purchase orders for products or services over \$200.00 require the endorsement of at least two of the following individuals: the President, Vice President, and/or Treasurer of the NPRHA Board of Directors.**

Ken will pursue approval of these Bylaws changes via the normal procedures for Bylaws changes.

#### **Rationalization of Collections:**

Zieska commented that NPRHA, (as well as GNRHS, MTM, etc.) often receive donations of books, photos, magazines, timetables, and other documents. Often, these donations are duplicates of the same items already in the collections at PNRA and Jackson Street. We agreed that if duplicate items are received, we should generally keep no more than two copies of the same item at each location. It would probably be wise to compare the quality of the newly acquired copy with the already held copies; but once that is done, excess copies may and should be sold, donated to another museum, or used as raffle prizes, with the proceeds going to the organization that originally received the donation. When possible, we could try to sell appropriate items at swap meets and model railroad shows. Some of these items might be welcomed by other museums; for example, a museum with an NP dining or lounge car might welcome a supply of NP coasters or napkins. President Zidel commented that Ken Zieska of Jackson Street and Bob Kelly and perhaps others from PNRA should have further discussions on this issue.

We also face a daunting task in rationalizing the database that contains the inventory of items at Jackson Street. Unfortunately, the existing paper and computer records contain multiple ways of entering and spelling attributes of items in the collection. For example, we have First and 1<sup>st</sup>, Second and 2<sup>nd</sup>, Third and 3<sup>rd</sup>, Minnesota, Minn, and MN, Washington, Wash, and WA, 2-8-2, 2+8+2, and Mikado, etc. This could be done by a hired clerk; however, it might be better done by someone who also understands at least some of the properties and attributes of railroad-related items and terms. Ken Zieska has a person in mind who has this basic knowledge, but we probably need to provide a listing of standardized terminology that the database should use, so that 1<sup>st</sup> becomes First (or vice versa) everywhere in the data set. Zieska and Woodward will work on providing that listing and could provide consultation and direction to the person doing the clerical work.

#### **Election of Officers for September 2019 – September 2020:**

Earlier in the meeting, Jim Woodward commented that he remembered being asked in 2018 if he wanted to be reelected to the Board and remain as Secretary, but he did not remember being asked a similar question in 2019. He went on to say that he was willing to serve. Harold Shannon offered a similar comment.

After the discussions of other topics documented above, the following nominations for officers for 2019-2020 were offered:

Bob Makins nominated Bill Zidel to serve as President, Ken Zieska seconded. Approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Bob Makins nominated Ken Zieska to serve as Vice President, Dave Hillard seconded. Approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Don Golde nominated Jim Woodward to serve as Secretary, Ken Zieska seconded. Approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Doug Shearer nominated Dave Hillard to serve as Treasurer, Jim Woodward seconded. Approved by a unanimous voice vote.

President Zidel will announce via the President's column in ***The Mainstreeter*** who has been appointed to serve as Chairman for each of the standing committees (Conventions, Modeling, etc.)

**Adjournment** moved by Woodward, second by Zieska. Unanimously voted to adjourn at 10:44 PM.

Jim Woodward – Secretary, NPRHA