

Board Meeting – Northern Pacific Railway Historical Association – April 25, 2021 via GoToMeeting

Meeting called to order by President Bill Zidel at 3:05 PM CDT. All Board Members were virtually present: Golde, Hillard, Makins, O'Neill, Shannon, Shearer, Woodward, Zidel, and Zieska. Jan and Bill Taylor were also present to report on arrangements for the 2021 Convention.

2021 Missoula Convention (September 21 – 25):

Jan Taylor reported that as of April 20, 2021, 38 persons have registered for the convention, and have registered 17 guests for a total of 55. Over half of the block of rooms at the Downtown Holiday Inn have been reserved to date. All presenters originally planned for the 2020 version of this convention are still planning to present at the 2021 gathering. Involvement of Montana Rail Link in the Convention will depend on the MRL's situation with COVID-19 at the time of the convention. Another potential rail-related activity might be a visit to the restoration of the Willamette logging locomotive at Fort Missoula. The Missoula Model Railroad Club has scheduled their show and swap meet for September 26, the day after our convention concludes.

Many state and local COVID restrictions on group sizes and indoor activities have been or soon will be removed for Montana and Missoula; hopefully, the COVID situation will not require reimposition of restrictions. The hotel's presentation room can hold 500 people, so we should have sufficient space.

Shearer commented that <http://www.nprha.org/Lists/Convention%20Information/Standard%20View.aspx> does not include a link to the on-line registration page. To access on-line registration, one must currently go through <http://store.nprha.org/convention>. Some NPRHA web site users may find this confusing. O'Neill will request an update to provide a link to convention registration from the Convention page.

Minnesota Transportation Museum – Jackson Street – St Paul, Minnesota:

Bill Zidel mentioned that after the Missoula Convention, he and Kent Sullivan will travel to Minnesota to get another portion of Larry Schrenk's collection and transport it to the Pacific Northwest Railroad Archive. Ken Zieska will be seeking Larry Schrenk's signature on donation form for items previously donated.

Ken Zieska commented that MTM has a new leadership team that has proven to be much friendlier to NPRHA and has taken a businesslike approach to addressing Jackson Street's mission as a historical museum. They are very receptive to allowing us and the other historical groups to meet there and present to our members and the public. We have two very nice display areas and they are giving us one very nice video kiosk to use for a display piece. They have a second which we could use to support our Nurse Stewardess display.

They have received our support check for renovating the NP Caboose they have on display and are quite happy with us. I am assisting them with several of their public outreach projects. Ken has color chips available to help MTM choose correct colors for any painting they may do on the caboose. Mike Borkan is back at work at Jackson Street.

Grants:

We had some discussion on how to provide Grant Request forms to Duane Durr, so Duane can facilitate a request for a Bonanzaville project. At the time of the meeting, the NPRHA web site was reluctant to provide the form, but would do so if the request was repeated several times. And for requestors who lack access to computers, the process is even more daunting.

Harold Shannon mentioned that we may get a grant request to help pay for a project to convert the current Bismarck – Mandan Missouri River Bridge into a trail, if BNSF proceeds with plans to build a new bridge for that crossing.

We also have continuing discussions with the Foss Waterway Seaport Museum in Tacoma about possible support from NPRHA. We have repeatedly given them instructions on how to apply for a grant, but they seem to want to approach the matter from some alternative angle. We may receive a request from them regarding plans for an upcoming celebration of Northern Pacific's initial activities in Tacoma, which occurred nearly 150 years ago in 1873.

NPRHA received a \$3000 donation from Jeff Forrest on behalf of his father Donald Forrest.

A donor sought NPRHA's assistance in transporting a locomotive he had purchased in the eastern US to the Inland Northwest Rail Museum at Reardan, Washington; however, that museum said it was not interested in receiving the locomotive, so that request was denied.

Many of the Grant requests that Harold receives often need additional preparation (scanning, compiling, and organizing) in order to put together a package that can be shared with the other members of the Grants committee and submitted for Board approval. Bill Zidel commented that NPRHA has been a bit more flexible regarding Grant deadlines and procedures in the past year in an attempt to accommodate everyone's interaction with COVID. In the coming year, we will be more likely to enforce all the rules and deadlines regarding Grants.

Doug Shearer mentioned that the Northern Pacific Railway Museum at Toppenish plans to request a Grant to facilitate purchase of a new steam dome for 4-6-0 #1364. That request is nearly ready for submission.

So, we will likely have a total of two Grants for 2022— one for the NP Caboose at MTM and one for #1364's steam dome. There were no other requests in the past year.

2021 Convention Raffle:

Ticket sales to date total \$3905 for 31,240 tickets. We typically sell another \$1000 at the convention.

Board Membership:

Board Members whose terms expire at the 2021 Missoula Convention: Dean O'Neill, Harold Shannon, Jim Woodward, Bill Zidel, Ken Zieska. Zidel is willing to serve another two years. Zieska is willing to serve another two years, but would welcome replacement by a qualified new member on the Board. O'Neill is willing to serve another two years. Shannon has not decided if he's willing to serve another two years. Woodward is willing to serve another two years but would also be happy to hand off responsibility to another person.

Although he is willing to continue on the Board until 2022, Dave Hillard would be happy to see another qualified person assume his Treasurer's role. There was consensus that we need to get some new people on the Board, and that we need to actively recruit new Board members at the Missoula Convention, concentrating especially on some of the younger members who attend that convention. O'Neill suggested that we obtain the lists of registrants for the Missoula convention and do some research to see if we can identify potential board members to recruit.

Modeling Committee:

Dean O'Neill reported that the Modeling Committee has worked with many manufacturers, including Walthers, Athearn, Broadway Limited, Atlas, Rapido, Moloco. They have released two new structure kits – the Ice House, and the Signal Bungalow. They considering a resin kit for a solid-bottom gondola. They did a freight-car survey and received 180 responses. They are investigating custom tooling to produce North Coast Limited cars.

Vista-Dome Package:

Dean O'Neill reported that the Vista-Dome Membership Package has proven quite popular, with 85 sold so far with little advertising. Dean plans to start advertising the package in Model Railroader, Railroad Model Craftsman, and similar publications. This will provide additional revenue, as well as increasing NPRHA membership rolls. Dave Hillard commented that 7 of the 85 are new members of NPRHA, and another 3 are people who were previously members but had let their memberships lapse. The remaining 75 were renewals of existing active memberships. We agreed that we need to emphasize that this is a *Membership* package.

Swap Meet and Railroad Show Participation:

Bill Zidel commented that he, along with Paul Anderson and John Lincoln, plan to return to participation in Swap Meets and Railroad Shows, and Modeling Meets just as soon as show organizers resume holding those shows.

Mainstreeter:

Bob Makin said he liked the recent issues. Several Board members commented that they found it difficult to maintain interest in some of the highly detailed technical articles on dispatching. There were also comments on the lack of content that might interest modelers, as well as a desire to see more photos, either associated with articles, or just presented on their own to help readers remember and better understand the Northern Pacific. Dean O'Neill related a

conversation he had with the current Mainstreeter editor regarding a potential modeling article and how many photos could be included with the article. Dean suggested five or six photos, the current editor said he felt fewer would be allowed. There was also interest in more coverage of industries and markets that the NP served. Bill Zidel will discuss the importance of including modeling and other historical content with the editor. Bill encouraged other Board members to share their feedback with the editor as well.

Emojis:

Harold Shannon asked if anyone knew where we might find a Monad emoji. No quick answers were available.

Brainerd Convention Dates:

Ken Zieska asked for assurance that we should plan the 2022 Convention to begin on Wednesday, with departure on Sunday. Currently, he has arranged for hotel availability for the nights of Tuesday, September 6 through Tuesday, September 13. Consensus was that we should have at least a week between Labor Day (September 5, 2022) and the beginning of the Convention. Ken will proceed accordingly, with the Convention probably beginning on September 14 or 15 (depending on number of speakers and activities) and running through the evening of Saturday, September, 17, 2022.

Scanner Purchase:

Over the past three years, Bill Zidel has cataloged 4500 Northern Pacific engineering documents that are stored at the PNRA. Some date back as far as 1871. They are printed on sheets as large as 11x 17 inches. They now need to be scanned for digital storage. Bill would like to purchase a scanner and mentioned a price as high as \$500. Dean O'Neill mentioned the Epson Workforce scanner line, which research after the meeting disclosed includes of three scanners with prices ranging between \$1400 and \$3700 that are capable of 11"x17". The Workforce line also includes scanners for less than \$500, but they are limited to documents no more than 8.5 inches wide. Dave Hillard moved to purchase a scanner capable of 11"x17". There was a second, and the motion carried unanimously, with Zidel abstaining.

Adjournment moved by Zieska, second by Shannon. Unanimously voted to adjourn at 4:57 PM CDT.

The Board should plan for one more virtual meeting prior to the September 2021 Missoula Convention.

Jim Woodward – Secretary, NPRHA