

PACIFIC COAST REGION
NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Wednesday, April 28, 2004
Embassy Suites Hotel, Napa, Calif.
PCR Annual Convention "Napa Valley '04"

MINUTES

•• *These minutes are subject to change until approved by the Board of Directors on Nov. 6, 2004* ••

The meeting was called to order at 1:17 PM by President L. E. "Gene" Mayer.

A. Roll Call and Quorum Verification. The following officers and directors were present: President Mayer, Vice-President Dave Connery, Secretary Rich Kolm, Daylight Division Proxy Doug Wagner for Director Brewster Bird, Coast Division Director Jack Wall, Sierra Division Proxy Dick Witzens for Director Jesse Menefee, Jr., and Redwood Empire Division Director Ron Plies.

B. Adoption of the Agenda.

MOTION: It was moved by Director Wall and seconded...
THAT the Agenda for this meeting be adopted.
MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote.

C. Written Communications. None.

D. Member Comments. None.

E. Approval of Minutes.

MOTION: It was moved by Director Wall and seconded...
THAT the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on October 25, 2003 be approved.
MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote.

F. Officers' Reports.

1. President Mayer summarized his written report. He particularly noted receiving the Special Committee report by Stephen Johnson on PCR's relationship to the NMRA (see Item I.2.). He is still looking for volunteers to fill a number of PCR department and committee vacancies. A welcoming letter requested by NMRA has been drafted for Board approval. NMRA will send out the letter to new members in PCR. Bill Swindell, David Turner, and Al Rowe were appointed to the Audit Committee, with Bill Swindell the Chairperson. Keith Gillette will process PCR's application for IRS 501(c)3 status for out-of-pocket expenses (Item

I.3). John Edgington will assist him. PCR has not been notified of the status of the Keith Heinsohn estate. (Item I.5).

2. Vice-President Connery summarized his written report, focused on Long Range Plan implementation and By-Laws and Manual of Operations updates (see Item H.1 below).

3. Treasurer Larry Altbaum was not present, but submitted a written report which says the assets of the Region remain healthy; however, he pointed out that *Branch Line* costs are exceeding budgets by a significant amount.

Board members commented that costs of the *Branch Line* need to be controlled, but to stay with the 40 pages as understood at the previous Board Meeting. A budget deficit will continue until we know what NMRA is doing regarding dues.

4. Secretary Kolm had no report.

5. Trustee Ray deBlieck was not present.

G. Directors' Reports.

1. Daylight Division: Director-Proxy Wagner commented on Division activities. He noted that communications are difficult because the Division is spread out geographically.

2. Coast Division: Director Wall had no report.

3. Sierra Division: Director-Proxy Witzens commented on Division activities. He said that Director Menefee has been in the hospital.

4. Redwood Empire Division: Director Plies summarized his written report. He said the Division is doing well and there is an optimistic and positive outlook.

5. Hawaiian Division -- no director, no report.

H. Department and Related Committee Reports

1. Administration Department. President Mayer said he is working on filling the position of Chairperson of the Nominating Committee.

• **Ballot Committee:** Chairperson Jim Providenza was not present but submitted his report on the election of Directors. The winners were Kermit Paul in Coast Division, Doug Wagner in Daylight Division, Ron Plies in Redwood Empire Division, and Jesse Menefee, Jr. in Sierra Division. There was no election in Hawaiian Division.

MOTION: It was moved by Vice-President Connery and seconded

THAT the report of the Ballot Committee be accepted and order the ballots be destroyed.

MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote.

• **Long Range Plan (LRP) Implementation Committee:** Vice-President Connery, the Chairperson, said the Redwood Empire Division has provided feedback on the LRP. He would like other divisions to also act on the recommendations of the LRP. He pointed out that things can only be implemented at the Division level. He sent out a letter regarding implementation strategy to Directors, Superintendents, and Division Membership Chairs.

• **By-Laws and Manual of Operations Committee:** Vice-President Connery, the Chairperson, said that at some point the By-Laws and Manual will have to be revised if the proposed NMRA Regulations are approved. Director Wall said that he has resigned from the Committee; President Mayer then appointed Secretary Kolm to replace him.

2. Membership Department. No reports.

At this point the Board moved the Agenda to Item H.4 and then Item I.1, while Jim Long was available, and then returned to the order of the Agenda.

3. Publication Department. Gus Campagna, Publication Department Manager, reported that his application to the USPS for a non-profit bulk mailing permit for the *Branch Line* was denied. The existing permit is still valid, and he was told the *Branch Line* can include paid advertising under that permit. This would be a source of revenue for the Region. It requires an ownership statement printed in the *Branch Line*.

4. Convention Department. Jim Long, Manager of the Convention Department, submitted a written report on the status of conventions:

- Current 2004 convention, “Napa Valley ‘04”. Convention Chairperson Harold Mentzer commented on the initial attendance figures.
- 2005 in Concord, “Devil Mountain ‘05”, at the Sheraton Concord Hotel, May 11 - 15. It will be hosted by the Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society. Bill Swindell is the Convention Chairperson and Bob Ferguson is the Registrar.
- 2006 in Sacramento at the Double Tree Sacramento Hotel, May 3 - 8. It will be hosted by Sierra Division, Sacramento Model Historical Society, and Sacramento Modular Railroad Club. Gene Mayer is the Treasurer and is currently handling things. He said co-chairpersons will be appointed.
- 2007 will be in the Coast Division and the Santa Cruz area is under consideration. Kevin Hurley and Dave Loveless are working on it.
- 2008 will be in the Daylight Division in the Fresno area. John Houlihan, the Convention Chairperson, talked about his plans for the convention for which the theme will be the San Joaquin & Eastern Railroad. The convention car may be a Southern California Edison refrigerator car.

Manager Long said he has the new PCR Convention Handbook on a CD and he will distribute it. He talked about pursuing joint conventions with PSR or PNR, or both.

MOTION: It was moved by Director Plies and seconded...

THAT Jim Long continue negotiations with PSR on joint conventions.

MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a unanimous voice vote.

Manager Long said he is resigning effective today, but will stay on until a successor is appointed. (Subsequent to the meeting, Dennis Stokely was appointed the new Manager.)

5. Contest Department. Manager Bill Scott reported on activities. He is looking for someplace to store all contest data. He talked about the risers used on the contest room tables (from the hotel) and plans to make risers for use at future conventions.

6. Achievement Program Department. No report.

7. Non-Rail Activities Department. No report.

I. Unfinished Business

1. Purchase of digital projectors. Special Committee Chairperson Jim Long summarized his written report. He purchased two Sharp PG-A10 projectors at \$998 each by mail order (no sales tax). He recommends that spare bulbs not be purchased at this time because they may not be needed (life of 2,000 hours) and they cost between \$345 and \$440 each. The projectors are stored with Gus Campagna and John Marshall. Jim Long said the remote control unit with each projector does not control the laptop computer connected to the projector. He will investigate and buy an additional remote unit for each if appropriate at a cost of \$100.

Jim Long will write up a standard rental agreement and procedures for handling rental of the projectors, for review by President Mayer and legal counsel.

2. Effects of changes at NMRA on the Pacific Coast Region. Chairperson Stephen Johnson summarized the report of the Special Committee appointed by President Mayer to evaluate PCR's position with respect to the NMRA. Members of the Committee included Gus Campagna, Dave Connery, Al Dalcher, John Edginton, Chuck Harmon, and Peter Weiglin.

The Committee concluded that PCR benefits from being part of a vibrant national organization; separation from NMRA would have no guarantee of success; and, there is a concern as to whether NMRA's organizational problems and financial conditions will be corrected. The Committee recommended that the PCR Board of Directors periodically assess the operational and financial conditions and establish a set of actions should it have to respond to significant changes at the NMRA.

Board members commended Johnson for his thorough report and noted that there is nothing for the Board to do right now, until the results of the vote on the proposed NMRA Regulations are known and then seeing what the NMRA does from there.

3. Change PCR's non-profit organization status to IRS 501(c)3. See President's report (Item F.1).

4. Joint activities with Pacific Southwest Region. See Jim Long's comments and the motion under Convention Department (Item H.4).

5. Bequest from Keith Heinsohn estate. See President's report (Item F.1).

6. Creation of a new separate division in the northern part of the Sierra Division. Dwayne Coate, the lead on this, was not present and there was no information available. This will not be carried over to the next meeting.

7. Revenue from "21st Century Limited" Convention account; consider programs and projects of benefit to PCR members. To be carried over to the next meeting.

J. New Business

1. Elected Division Directors assume office. Directors Kermit Paul of Coast Division, Doug Wagner of Daylight Division, Ron Plies of Redwood Empire Division, and Jesse Menefee, Jr. of Sierra Division assumed office (Director Menefee was not present and there was no election in Hawaiian Division).

2. Request that NMRA develop and carry out a training program for regional leaders. Vice-President Connery described the recommendation of the Long Range Plan Implementation Committee. He said this training would be particularly useful during these times of change at the NMRA.

MOTION: It was moved by Vice-President Connery and seconded...

THAT the Board of Directors of the Pacific Coast Region of NMRA requests the NMRA Trustee from the Pacific Coast Region area propose that the NMRA develop and carry out a training program for all Regional Officers, Directors, Managers, and Committee Chairpersons.

MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a unanimous voice vote.

K. Announcements

1. Next Board Meeting. President Mayer said the “mid-year” Board Meeting will be on November 6, 2004 at 1:00 pm at the Sheraton Concord Hotel in Concord.

L. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Rich Kolm
PCR Secretary

Attachment

RLK 10/18/04

ATTACHMENT

Minutes, Board of Directors Meeting, April 28, 2004

WRITTEN DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD

Listed by Agenda Item:

- F. • President's Report, L.E. "Gene" Mayer
 - Vice-President's Report, Dave Connery
 - Treasurer's Report, Larry Altbaum

- G. • Redwood Empire Division Director's Report, Ron Plies

- H.1. • Ballot Committee Report, Jim Providenza

- H.3. • Convention Department Report, Jim Long

- I.1. • Report on Projector Purchase, Jim Long

- I.2. • Report of the Special Committee to the President, Stephen Johnson
 (Effects of changes at NMRA on the Pacific Coast Region)

Copies of individual reports in Acrobat PDF format may be obtained from the Secretary by e-mail (IronHorseK@aol.com).

Rich Kolm 10/18/04