

**PACIFIC COAST REGION
OF THE NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Wednesday, May 11, 2005
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Concord, Calif.
PCR Convention “Devil Mountain 2005”**

M I N U T E S

•• *These minutes are subject to change until approved by the Board of Directors* ••

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 PM by Vice-President Dave Connery who presided until President L.E. “Gene” Mayer arrived at 1:30 PM.

A. Quorum Verification.

The following voting members of the Board were present: President Mayer, Vice-President Dave Connery, Daylight Division Director-proxy Bill Scott (for Director Doug Wagner), Coast Division Director Kermit Paul, Sierra Division Director Jesse Menefee, Jr., and Redwood Empire Division Director Ron Plies. The other Board members present were: Secretary Rich Kolm and Trustee Ray deBlicke.

B. Adoption of the Agenda.

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

C. Written Communications.

Vice-President Connery received a letter from John Ralston, Redwood Empire Division *Callboard* newsletter editor, regarding the *Branch Line* and imposition of a subscription fee, which was distributed prior to the meeting.

D. Member Comments. None.

E. Approval of Minutes.

MOTION: It was moved by Director Paul and seconded...
THAT the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on November 6, 2004 be approved.
MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote.

F. Officers’ Reports.

1. **President Mayer** had no report.
2. **Vice-President Connery** summarized his written report regarding proposed amendments to the Manual of Operations and funding the *Branch Line* newsletter.

3. **Treasurer Larry Altbaum** submitted his written report with a proposed revision of the FY 2005 Budget and an estimated projection for FY 2006.

4. **Secretary Kolm** had no report.

5. **Trustee Ray deBlieck** announced that Bob Ferguson has been elected the Director representing the NMRA Regional Advisory Council on the new NMRA Board of Directors.

G. Directors' Reports.

1. **Daylight Division: Director Wagner** submitted a written report.

2. **Coast Division: Director Paul** had no report.

3. **Sierra Division: Director Menefee** had no report.

4. **Redwood Empire Division: Director Plies** submitted a written report.

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

H. Department Reports

1. Administration Department

• **By-Laws and Manual Committee.** Vice-President Connery, Chairperson, described the proposed additional wording change in Article 1 of the By-Laws. He also summarized the proposed amendments to the Manual of Operations which will clarify and update various provisions throughout the Manual.

Action on these proposed amendments will be under New Business.

• **Ballot Committee.** Jim Providenza, Chairperson, submitted a written report with the results of the election of President and Vice-President. President Mayer and Vice-President Connery were re-elected.

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

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

MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote

• **Audit Committee.** President Mayer said the Committee is expected to audit the PCR financial accounts this summer.

• **Storekeeper.** Steve Skold submitted a written report on the status of developing an inventory of all PCR property.

2. Membership Department

• **Member Services Committee.** Bob Ferguson, Chairperson, submitted his Final Report. The NMRA is assuming the function he has been handling for so many years. His report includes a sample letter that can be sent to all NMRA members in PCR informing them of the need to purchase a subscription to the *Branch Line* if they want to receive it.

3. Publications Department. Manager Gus Campagna submitted his detailed written report on publishing the *Branch Line* under the new NMRA Regulations, including financing and the need for a subscription fee. He recommended that the *Branch Line* be provided to all NMRA members within the PCR for at least one year with no subscription fee.

Some Board members had concerns about financing the cost of the *Branch Line* over the longer term. There was considerable discussion of PCR's finances as related to this issue. The alternative recommendation, which came out of the Finance Committee, would establish a subscription fee for the *Branch Line* at \$6.00 per year to be billed along with the NMRA dues.

The *Branch Line* will continue to be available on the PCR website.

Another concern was funding the costs of the Division newsletters with the increased number of members in each Division beginning in September.

Action on these recommendations will be under New Business.

4. Convention Department.

- **2006 Convention.** Bob Warner, Chairperson of the Convention Committee, submitted a written report on the status of planning this convention in Sacramento, now called "River City Express 2006." The dates will be May 3-7, 2006.

- **2007 Convention.** Jim Long, representing Coast Division, submitted a written proposal to sponsor the 2007 PCR Convention at Santa Cruz. Kevin Hurley, Chairperson of the Convention Committee, described the proposal. The dates will be May 2-6, 2007.

MOTION: It was moved by Director-proxy Scott and seconded...

THAT the proposal submitted by Coast Division for the 2007 Convention at Santa Cruz be accepted

MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote

- **2008 Convention.** John Houlihan, Chairperson of the Convention Committee, and Bill Scott, commented on the planning underway for the convention at Fresno.

I. Unfinished Business

1. Bequest from Keith Heinsohn estate. President Mayer said there has been no word from the heirs. The model railroad equipment covered by the bequest is in the hands of PCR, currently in storage. An inventory needs to be done before a decision can be made about its disposal. Volunteers are needed to assist with the inventory.

J. New Business

1. Amendment to the By-Laws Article 1. Vice-President Connery explained that this is an additional wording change for the amendments adopted by the Board on November 6, 2004.

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

THAT the proposed wording change to the PCR By-Laws Article 1 be adopted for submittal to the membership at the 2005 Annual Business Meeting along with the other changes to the By-Laws adopted at the November 6, 2004 Board Meeting.

MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote.

2. Amendments to the Manual of Operations. Vice-President Connery summarized the proposed changes recommended by the By-Laws and Manual Committee to clarify and update various provisions throughout the Manual.

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

THAT the Manual of Operations be amended as recommended by the By-Laws and Manual Committee.

MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote.

3. New program of PCR Publications.

(a) **Branch Line funding and subscription fee.** Earlier in the meeting, Gus Campagna, Manager of the Publications Department, presented his report on publishing the *Branch Line* under the new NMRA Regulations (see Item H.3). He recommended that the *Branch Line* be provided to all NMRA members within PCR for at least one year with no subscription fee.

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

THAT the recommendation in Gus Campagna's report be accepted and that the NMRA be told that for the first year the subscription fee will be zero.

MOTION FAILED with 2 votes in favor and 3 opposed.

The alternative recommendation of a \$6.00 subscription fee was discussed. Manager Campagna pointed out that 800 copies of the *Branch Line* will cost about \$5,200 to print and mail, and that \$6.00 would cover the cost of mailing one issue to all members and 3 issues to subscribers only. Some portion of the annual \$2.00 per member that NMRA will reimburse to PCR would also be available.

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

THAT the *Branch Line* subscription fee be set at \$6.00 per year.

MOTION WAS ADOPTED with 4 votes in favor and 1 opposed.

Vice-President Connery pointed out that conversion of the *Branch Line* newsletter to a subscription-based publication requires some clarifications.

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

THAT all current PCR memberships be converted to PCR newsletter (*Branch Line*) subscriptions effective September 1, 2005; Regular and 5-Year Members would have a subscription until the end of their term of membership, and Life Members would become life subscribers.

MOTION WAS ADOPTED with 4 votes in favor and one abstention.

[Secretary's note: The following New Business items are listed here in numerical order, but were taken up in the order 4, 6, 7, 8, 3(b), 5, and then 9.]

(b) **Official communications for all members.** Vice-President Connery proposed that the annual official communications sent to all members be combined with the first issue of the *Branch Line* each calendar year.

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

THAT the January-March issue of the *Branch Line* be sent to all NMRA members in PCR as the official communications regarding the Region.

MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote.

4. Financing Division publications. The Board recognized that there will be an additional cost to each Division to print and send its newsletter to all NMRA members in the Division. More information is needed on this before the Board of Directors can take any action. The President will appoint a committee to study the problem and make recommendations at the mid-year Board meeting.

5. Proposal for model contests. Director Plies presented his proposal to promote and facilitate the displaying of models at PCR contests. He proposes that a venue be provided at PCR conventions to encourage members to show and explain what they have done, separate and apart from the competitive judging and achievement program evaluations. President Mayer asked Director Plies and Contest Department Manager Scott to develop a more specific proposal and bring it to the mid-year Board meeting.

6. PCR memberships. Vice-President Connery pointed out that NMRA has discontinued life memberships and PCR should immediately do the same since PCR's membership provisions remain in effect until the new NMRA membership structure replaces it on September 1, 2005.

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

THAT no new PCR Life Memberships or Life Subscriptions be accepted.

MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote.

7. Member Services function. Vice-President Connery said that even though the current member services function (under Chairperson Bob Ferguson) will cease under the new NMRA organization, there is still a need for interface between PCR and NMRA regarding the membership data base, to be able to convert it to useable form for PCR, and to help keep the NMRA data base up-to-date. [*Secretary's note: Under the amendments to the Manual approved earlier in the meeting, the Member Services Committee is still a standing committee of PCR, but without the duties previously specified.*]

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

THAT the Board authorize the PCR President to spend funds needed, up to a maximum of \$400, to get a new Member Services function operating to include printing of labels for the Region and Divisions and publication of member lists for Officers, Directors, Division leaders, and Department Managers who require them and working with the NMRA home office in maintaining up-to-date information on members within PCR.

MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote.

8. Frequently Asked Questions regarding changes in PCR and NMRA. Vice-President Connery distributed a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) he put together to help members understand the changes that will occur when NMRA single membership is implemented beginning September 1, 2005.

9. Status of the Hobos. Dwayne Coate explained that he has been the “quasi-chairperson” of the Hobo function at PCR conventions, which historically had been under the control of Karl Busch. Other than a one-line mention in the Convention Handbook, he doesn’t know what the status of the Hobos is within PCR. He asked that guidelines be provided, especially with regard to the funds that are collected each year.

K. Budget

1. Update the FY 2005 budget to reflect changes in operations required by the NMRA. Treasurer Altbaum proposed a revised Budget in his report (Item F.3). Publications Manager Campagna pointed out that the printing and mailing costs in the revised Budget may be too high, but he would not change them at this point.

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

THAT the revised FY 2005 Budget be approved as proposed by the Treasurer.

MOTION WAS ADOPTED on a voice vote.

L. Announcements

1. Next Board Meeting. President Mayer said the next Board Meeting will be on November 5, 2005, probably in the Sacramento area.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Rich Kolm
PCR Secretary

Attachment

ATTACHMENT

Minutes, Board of Directors Meeting, May 11, 2005

WRITTEN DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD

Listed by Agenda Item:

- C. • Letter from John Ralston
- E. • Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on Nov. 6, 2005, Rich Kolm
- F. • Vice-President's Report, Dave Connery
• Treasurer's Report, Larry Altbaum
- G. • Daylight Division Director's Report, Doug Wagner
• Redwood Empire Division Director's Report, Ron Plies
- H.1. • By-Laws and Manual Committee Report (*see Vice-President's Report*)
• Ballot Committee Report, Jim Providenza
• Storekeeper Report, Steve Skold
- H.2. • Member Services Committee Final Report, Bob Ferguson
- H.3. • Publications Dept. Report, Gus Campagna
- H.4. • 2006 Convention in Sacramento, Status Report, Bob Warner
• 2007 Convention in Santa Cruz, Bid of the Coast Division, Kevin Hurley
- J.1. • Amendment to the By-Laws, Article 1, Rich Kolm
- J.2. • Amendments to the Manual of Operations, Dave Connery
- J.3. • New Program of PCR Publications, Background for Decisions, Rich Kolm
• Recommendation regarding the *Branch Line* (*see Publications Dept. Report*)
- J.5. • Proposal for Model Contests, Ron Plies
- J.8. • Frequently asked questions regarding changes in the PCR and NMRA, Dave Connery
- K. • Proposed Revision of the FY 2005 Budget (*see Treasurer's Report*)

Rich Kolm
PCR Secretary
7-1-05