

THE FEVR FLASH

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEBRASKA RAILROAD MUSEUM

1835 N. SOMERS, FREMONT, NE 68025 NOVEMBER, 2007

POINTS OF CONTACT:

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For excursion only- 402-727-0615.

Fremont Dinner Train - 650 N. H St., Fremont, NE 68025

For Dinner Train only- 402-727-8321 (The Fremont Dinner Train is a separate business for which the FEVR provides motive power and trackage.)

BACK ISSUES:

All back issues of the FLASH may be viewed at www.fremontrailroad.com.

In addition, numerous links to other websites of commercial railroads, tourist railroads, the Fremont community, and more information on the FEVR history and equipment may be found there.

BOARDS OF DIRECTORS:

NOTE: The **FEVR** (Fremont and Elkhorn Valley Railroad) and **NRM** (Nebraska Rail Road Museum) are separate businesses and their respective Boards meet separately. All NRM Board members belong to the NRHS and are also members of the FEVR Board. The FEVR Board has additional members who do not belong to the NRHS and are not on the NRM Board. Items of business reported here may be from either or both Boards.

The FEVR and the NRM Boards of Directors met Wednesday evening, November 7, at the Wilderness Lodge and Conference Center in Fremont. FEVR Board members attending were **Shirley Angermund** (President), **Maynard Porter** (Vice-president), **George Blessing**, **Lee Wilmart**, **Al Schlapfer**, **Ron Spahni**, **Erik Mutthersbaugh**, **Bud Miller**, **Jeff Blackmore**, and **Charles L. Sedlacek**.

The treasurer's report was presented and approved.

The resignation of **Sean Powers** due to personal and business reasons was accepted with regret. His past contributions to the Board were acknowledged.

The hiring of **Charles Egbers** as a contractor to finish the remaining work on the Maple Creek bridge was approved.

He will be paid an hourly rate with a cap on that total expenditure. To reduce expenditures, he will be allowed to use NRM equipment with the responsibility of putting that equipment in good working order and maintaining it in that condition.

As announced in a recent FLASH EXTRA, **a Day Out with Thomas™** is scheduled come to the railroad for the last two weekends in July 2008.

Maynard Porter reported that all currently due FRA reports are turned in. The monthly reports no longer need to be notarized.

He also emphasized the importance of volunteer workers accurately reporting the hours they work at the museum/railroad. Forms are provided for this. The equivalent value of the hours can be used for matching purposes in grant applications.

Mr. Spahni presented the results of calculations made in estimating the yearly income amount needed to service the current loans held by the organization.

The FEVR Board meeting was adjourned and the NRM Board meeting was opened with **Angermund, Porter, Blessing, Wilmart, Schlapfer, Mutthersbaugh, Blackmore, and Sedlacek** attending. **Miller** attended as an Observer.

The principal decision item was the consideration of the offer by **Mark Vaughn** for purchase of all railroad and museum assets. In return, he would assume all current financial obligations of NRM/FEVR and the FEVR would operate only the excursions as a lessee. He also proposed some improvements in the railroad's infrastructure. A portion of the gross revenues of the FEVR and the NRM would be paid to Mr. Vaughn in lieu of rent. In addition, the NRM and FEVR would need to repair and maintain his equipment which they would use.

The discussion about this proposal centered around a review of yearly

expenditures which indicated that NRM/FEVR would not have **sufficient income** to remain in operation under the terms of the proposal.

Subsequently, a vote to **decline** the acceptance of the proposal was taken and passed unanimously. The Board president was to communicate the result to Mr. Vaughn.

There was discussion about diversifying the NRM/FEVR income sources beyond those of the excursion and dinner train track and equipment fees. It was noted that there are currently at least two such possibilities.

The funds for the purchase of the **tree chipper** have been received and acquisition is underway. This unit, mentioned in the FLASH previously, will be owned by NRM but shared in use with surrounding communities. The purpose of the **DEQ** grant which provided funding is the production of mulch instead of input to landfills. Training of all users will be carried out and extensive use and maintenance procedures are to be in place.

Other items included discussion of the year's passengers counts (down), an increase of \$1.00 person for the school runs next season, and matching funds.

BOARD ELECTIONS:

Three NRM Board members are ending their current three year terms at the end of 2007. They are **George Blessing**, **Erik Mutthersbaugh**, and **Charles L. Sedlacek**. The incumbents have all filed for re-election. NRHS members will receive ballots in the mail. Write-in candidates are accepted. Members should follow ballot instructions closely to avoid disqualification of ballots. Results will be available at the December Board of Directors meeting. The Board will elect its officers at the January meeting.

EXCURSION SEASON ENDS:

The regular excursion season ended **October 28** and will resume in May, 2008.

Charter opportunities will continue depending upon weather and operational conditions. Charter scheduling for 2008 is now available.

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