

THE FEVR FLASH

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEBRASKA RAILROAD MUSEUM
1835 N. SOMERS, FREMONT, NE 68025 FEBRUARY, 2008

POINTS OF CONTACT:

Nebraska Railroad Museum (NRM) and Fremont and Elkhorn Valley Railroad (FEVR) 1835 N. Somers, Fremont, Nebraska, 68025, (www.fremontrailroad.com), voice and fax - 402-727-0615 (office)

For excursion only- 402-727-0615

Fremont Dinner Train (FDT) - 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 :

The Boards of Directors for FEVR and the NRM met February 13, 2008, at the Wilderness Lodge in Fremont. Those in attendance for their respective board positions were **George Blessing, Darrel Miller, Maynard Porter, Al Schlapfer, Charles L. Sedlacek, Bob Ueberrhein, Lee Wilmart, Erik Mutthersbough, David Jorgensen, and Shirley Angermund.** President Angermund conducted the meeting. The special guest was **Ron Weakland**, Executive Vice-President, First State Bank of Fremont..

Minutes of previous meetings and the treasurer's reports were presented, reviewed, and approved.

Mr. **Weakland** discussed the several loans that his bank holds on FEVR/NRM. He indicated that the net worth of the entire railroad/museum operation exceeds the loan obligations and that the bank continues to support those operations. There is need to provide additional income sources besides that of the Dinner Train. He made suggestions as to how the loans might be combined.

His suggestions and observations will continue to be topics for BOD discussion and action. Mr. Weakland was thanked by the BOD for his support

and advice.

Ms. Angermund was authorized by the board to work with the bank in the loan consolidation as suggested by Mr. Weakland.

Charles Sedlacek asked for an update on the status of the line bridges, the RPO genset, the running gear on the excursion cars, and repair status of 1219. The golf course bridges have been inspected and some repairs made as possible considering weather conditions. The progress on most such work has been seriously hampered by adverse weather. An estimate on needed repairs on locomotive 1219 should be available soon.

The forthcoming **Day Out with Thomastm** in the last two weekends in July was discussed. Materials for the event have been received and are being processed. Ticket sales currently are scheduled to start **April 1**. More information in the next FLASH edition. George Blessing reports many inquiries about the ticket sales on the NRM website.

George Blessing was elected to serve in the position of **National Director** for the NRM. He has submitted the activities report for 2007 for NRM. This position is responsible for chapter communications with the **National Railway Historical Society (NRHS).**

GRANT RECEIVED:

A grant totaling **\$25,000** has been received from the **Dodge County Convention and Visitors Bureau** for track repair and infrastructure improvement. \$10,000 is scheduled for immediate receipt and the rest for receipt after business and development plans are completed. Our organization appreciates the support of our contributions in promoting tourism for the Fremont area. Special recognition goes to **Ms. Angermund** for her work in developing the necessary contacts needed to secure the grant.

WORK DAYS:

Dennis Whelan organized two Saturday work groups which mainly were involved in brush clearing along the right-of-way south of the Highway 275 bypass

crossing. This work, particularly west from Yager road, is badly needed to prevent damage to the sides of the passenger cars, especially for the Thomas event. Some of the brush was brought to the depot area for use in the wood chipper training/demo day.

TREE CHIPPER:

The tree chipper obtained through a **Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Grant** worth **\$30,000** from the **Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality** arrived at the Somers Street depot grounds Saturday, February 23. The unit is a **Bandit Model 1290 Intimidator** capable of chipping tree limbs to 15 inches in diameter. (see the website at www.banditindustries.com for machine details.)

The vendor - **Ditch Witch** - demonstrated the unit and provided instruction on its use to the FEVR personnel. The unit is intended solely for use by both the railroad and surrounding sharing communities for the conversion of wood waste into mulch rather than into landfill material. Instruction sessions will be scheduled for representatives of the user communities.

The quiet operation of the unit was very impressive, considering its capabilities.

23RD STREET OVERPASS:

No further information on this at present - as indicated previously, the overpass construction was approved by the Fremont voters on January 15.

Replications of city documents for the overpass, including a color map, are at www.fremontrailroad.com/overpass.

CHARTER SCHEDULES:

Current **2008** schedules include:

School charters - April 11,
May 2, and
May 9

The Orphan Train - April 26
and 27.

EXCURSION SEASON:

The regular **2008** excursion season will resume in May.

Charter opportunities will continue until then depending upon weather and operational conditions.