

THE FEVR FLASH

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

POINTS OF CONTACT:

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For excursion only- 402-727-0615.

Fremont Dinner Train (FDT) - 350 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 January 9, 2008, at the Wilderness Lodge in Fremont. Those in attendance for their respective board positions were **Jeff Blackmore, George Blessing, Darrel Miller, Maynard Porter, Al Schlapfer, Charles L. Sedlacek, Bob Ueberrhein, and Lee Wilmart.** President **Shirley Angermund** was absent due to another business commitment so the meetings were conducted by Vice-President Porter.

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

A member indicated that he will donate at least \$300 toward the purchase of a new **cellular telephone** for locomotive 1219. This is needed to replace the currently installed unit which is an analog unit which will become inoperative, like all analog-only units later this year when all carriers change to digital-only operation. The phone in 1219 is vital for communication in case of an emergency.

Motions to accept the members of the **NRM** board as members of the **FEVR** board and to retain the current advisory members from local

organizations on the FEVR board were made and approved.

The 23rd Street overpass across the BNSF and FEVR tracks was discussed.

The delivery of the **wood chipper** and the need to set up a training date for operators from the **local communities** that will share in its use was discussed. The date is set for **Saturday, February 23rd** (new date) and the participating communities will be notified.

The operation of locomotive **1219** was brought up. The results of the oil sample test were not received yet. The near failure of the New Year's Eve FDT trip because of difficulties of starting 1219 due to cold conditions was discussed. **Maynard** indicated that this event underscored the need for regular maintenance of the furnaces in the engine room of the depot. Several members familiar with the operation of the locomotive will develop a "playbook" for starting the unit in cold weather.

Officers were elected for the Boards: **Shirley Angermund** - President; **Maynard Porter** - Vice-President; **George Blessing** -Secretary; **Shirley Angermund** - Treasurer. The position for **National Director** will be filled at the February meeting.

The results of the recent **survey** sent to members and ex-members were discussed. There will be more information on this after further analysis but there is a common major concern about supplying more information to the community about the railroad and finding ways to keep present members and to attract prospective members.

Charles Sedlacek brought up the possible disposition of unused and inoperative equipment in Hooper including the privately owned steam locomotive. No consensus was obtained on the subject. He also mentioned that the Main Street crossings in Hooper need repair as soon as conditions permit.

The new **FDT** contract is being developed. Due to high prices, the diesel fuel surcharge will be a topic.

George Blessing was in contact with a wireless Internet provider with the object of gaining high-speed service.

However, the obstacles in obtaining line-of-sight availability with the provider's tower may eliminate that opportunity.

23RD STREET OVERPASS:

On **January 15**, the citizens of Fremont voted on whether the city should proceed with construction of an **overpass** for 23rd street over the tracks of the BNSF and the FEVR.

The project was **approved** by a 203 vote margin out of 3551 total votes after a sometimes controversial set of opinions. The principal objection appeared to center about the closing of the Linden Street vehicular crossing which was mandated if the Federal and State funding sources were to be made available.

The **FEVR** particularly will benefit by the closing of the crossings at 23rd Street and at Somers Ave. The **alignment** of the FEVR trackage is not affected in the plan but the BNSF tracks will be moved closer to the FEVR. The financial impact on NRM is indeterminate at this time.

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

DAY OUT WITH THOMAS™:

The contract for the event planned for the last two weekends in July has been received and is being processed. More information later.

WORK DAY:

A work day is planned for **Saturday, February 9**, for all members. The activities are to include tree trimming along the right-of-way and a session on safety.

CHARTER SCHEDULES:

Current **2008** schedules include:

School charters - April 11 and May 9
The Orphan Train - April 26 and 27.

A group of riders from Norfolk, NE on the Dinner Train will visit the depot museum after their trip on February 14.

EXCURSION SEASON ENDS:

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

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