

THE FEVR FLASH

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

POINTS OF CONTACT:

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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 March 5, 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, Erik Mutthersbough, Ron Spahni, and Shirley Angermund.** President **Angermund** conducted the meeting.

There was a short Executive Session held to discuss a personnel matter. As a result of that discussion, one of the Board members was asked to accept recusal from board meetings until a matter involving him personally is resolved. He accepted that recusal.

Minutes of previous meetings and the treasurer's reports were presented, reviewed, and approved. (Note: it was learned subsequent to the meetings that **Mr. Weaklend's** name was mis-spelled in those minutes - apologies extended.)

Ms. Angermund was authorized to seek counsel for representation to reply to a legal action involving a personal injury accident.

Reports were presented on the status of the Maple Creek bridge repair work, the status of reports to the FRA, a possible environmental cleanup in a shed

in Hooper, and the status of a new contract with the Dinner Train operator.

An ad will be placed in the **June, July, August, and September** issues of *Trains Magazine*, particularly to advertise the Thomas event. (publication date is approximately one month ahead of cover date) *Trains*, with a monthly circulation of over **90,000** copies is a leading publication in the tourist railroad industry. A member of the Board is donating funds to cover the cost of advertising.

It was reported by **Erik Mutthersbough** that the cost of repairs needed for the RPO generator would make that option economically not feasible. He presented several options for a replacement unit.

The FEVR business plan was discussed and work was done in updating the content. The revised edition should be available at the next Board meeting.

Erik Mutthersbough discussed the need for adequate traffic warning signs for use when crossing repair work is being carried out. A Board member said that he would donate the funds for the needed signs.

GRANT:

The **Dodge County Convention and Visitors Bureau** grant for track repair and infrastructure improvement did not receive funding approval from the **Dodge County Board of Supervisors** pending their receipt of more information from all parties that might be affected. A special meeting was held the evening of March 18 at the Courthouse where parties from the railroad, from Hooper, and others met. A meeting in Hooper with a representative from the Bureau occurred in the days preceding. The Board will consider the matter after another meeting of concerned parties.

WORK DAYS:

Dennis Whelan again organized Saturday/Sunday work groups which mainly were involved in brush and tree clearing along the right-of-way between **Yager Road and US 77**. This will be the route that trains will operate upon for the Thomas event so it is essential that the work be finished prior to a visit by

officials from the sponsoring organization.

The value of mechanized assistance for right-of-way work was realized through the use the newly acquired tree chipper in turning the waste wood into mulch.

VOLUNTEER WORK HOURS:

Vice-President **Porter** reported his records show a total of **3458.75** hours of volunteer work reported for 2007. This total is undoubtedly less than the actual as not all volunteers have been consistent in recording hours worked and the records kept privately by **Jerry Morris** were lost due to his untimely death last year. The importance of volunteers submitting reports in a timely and complete manner cannot be over emphasized. The equivalent monetary value of their work can be used as an "in-kind" match for many grants.

OFFER TO PURCHASE:

Another offer to purchase and privatize all the assets of NRM has been received from Mark Vaughn.

DAY OUT WITH THOMAS™:

This event, which is expected to bring at least 10,000 visitors to Fremont, is scheduled for **July 18,19,20,25,26 and 27**. The entire Fremont area will benefit and many businesses, including restaurants, service stations, and retail stores will profit from this event. The museum and railroad will need community volunteers to help with the programs in progress during the visit.

Tickets will be available starting **April 1** on the Internet at www.Ticketweb.com or by telephone at **1-866-468-7530**.

CHARTER SCHEDULES:

Current **2008** schedules include:

School charters - April 11, 18,
May 2, 7,
and 9.

The Orphan Train - April 26
and 27.

EXCURSION SEASON:

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

Charter opportunities are continuing for schools and other groups..