

# THE FEVR FLASH

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEBRASKA RAILROAD MUSEUM

1835 N. SOMERS, FREMONT, NE 68025, DECEMBER, 2010

## 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)

## BACK ISSUES:

Back issues of the FLASH and links to numerous railroad related sites may be viewed at [www.FremontRailroad.com](http://www.FremontRailroad.com).

## MAILING LIST:

If anyone wishes to be added to or removed from the FLASH email list send a request to [NPTCHM@Hotmail.Com](mailto:NPTCHM@Hotmail.Com).

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

The NRM Board of Directors met at the Clarion Inn (formerly the Wilderness Lodge) on **December 1**. Present were BOD members **Blessing, Sedlacek, Eveland, Porter, and Wallen**. Treasurer **Angermund** and guest **David Fachman** were also present.

Nineteen valid ballots for the election of Board members were returned by Chapter members. The ballot count indicated the election of two incumbents – **Blessing** and **Blackmore** – and that of a new member – **Richard Swetnam**. Mr. Swetnam resides in the Sioux City area.

The officer positions will be selected at the meeting of the Board in January.

Charles L. **Sedlacek**, who is leaving the Board, was thanked for his many years of excellent service on the Board. Also, thanks were expressed to the members of the election committee.

Previous meeting minutes and the current treasurer's report were approved.

The status of the business plan being developed as a class project at the Midland University was discussed. The completed plan is to be presented at the January meeting.

The sale of the International dump truck and the Ford boom truck for salvage value was approved. Both have mechanical problems the repair of which would not be economically justified.

Approval was given for President **Wallen** to sign the quit claim deeds to very small parcels of property left in West Point from the abandonments by the CNW.

The offers presented by Mark **Kothenbeutel** at the November meeting

regarding his ex-Milwaukee passenger cars were declined because of financial considerations, with thanks to him for considering the NRM.

There will be an attempt to secure funding for a new railroad **radio** system which will be needed to comply with the narrow band FM requirements coming in 2013.

There was discussion involving an improved Internet Website and of a possible grant for improvements for the depot and grounds.

The Board members were disappointed to hear that President **Wallen** intends to resign his Board positions effective on 12/31/10. Family plans which have been developed over a long time period are now coming to fruition.

The Board members expressed thanks to both him and his wife for their contributions to NRM and FEVR.

## SALE COMPLETED:

The transfer of ownership of the line from Fremont to Hooper and the portions of the line within those cities and the facilities in Hooper to Mike **Williams** was completed on December 27. This segment will be known as the **Fremont Northern** railroad. Also included in the sale were all the locomotives owned by NRM and spare rail and hardware.

Mr. **Williams**, who has residence in Missouri, owns several other short lines and has been associated with the railroad business since the 1980's (see the August 2010 issue of the FLASH, archived on the NRM website at [www.FremontRailroad.com](http://www.FremontRailroad.com) for more details).

NRM retains ownership of the **Fremont** depot, depot tracks, and the surrounding parking grounds and all its rolling stock except the locomotives.

Information and discussion of the situations leading to the sale may be found in the archived previous issues of the FLASH. The lending institution, under the demands of the banking regulators, found it necessary to call for the **resolution** of many outstanding loans, including those held by NRM. Since early in 2010 the NRM Board **pursued** several possible entities that might have, or did have, an interest in purchase. One of the overriding concerns of NRM was the **preservation** of the 1869 line between Fremont and Hooper in its entirety and was the reason for rejection of several possible purchasers. Also, NRM did not have funds needed to properly address the needed infrastructures **repairs** on the line.

Under the **terms** of the sale, NRM will continue to operate the excursions, using motive power owned by Mr. Williams on the

usual track segment. It is anticipated that the **Fremont Dinner Train** will make its arrangements with Mr. Williams for the use of track and his motive power. NRM will supply qualified volunteers for train crews, as it does now.

Mr. Williams intends to **repair** and **improve** the line and to use the portion beyond Nickerson for rail car storage, mainly for multi-car unit trains. The proximity of the line to two Class 1 railroads provides an advantage for this operation. NRM will not provide crews for those operations.

Although the sale resulted in the loss of the line, it was the only **arrangement** that kept the Fremont depot and much equipment in NRM possession, resulted in the resolution of all debts, and provided funds upon which to pursue and enhance the avowed goals of railroad preservation and public education. NRM looks forward to a positive future as a member of the Fremont community in 2011 and beyond.

## TAMPER DONATION:

One of the Board members has donated a Jackson Model 2800 railroad **ballast tamper** to NRM. It was purchased by him from the NRM predecessor – the ENCNRHS – and used for a time on the line. It is currently in need of repair needing a modest investment.

## DOUBLE TRACK:

The Union Pacific double track project west from Blair, NE is underway as described in the October, 2010, Flash issue (see the Flash archives at [www.FremontRailroad.com](http://www.FremontRailroad.com)).



(Photo by George Blessing)

View east about two miles east of Kennard showing earth removed to accommodate the second track. Track departs here from highway US30 and turns north toward Blair.

## SHOW SCHEDULE:

NRM is scheduled to at be the: **World's Greatest Hobby on Tour** Quest Center, Omaha, NE Jan. 15/16 Contact the show site for times.