

Mid-Continent Railway Historical Society, Inc.  
MINUTES of Regular Members Meeting, April 3, 2004  
[approved November 13, 2004]

Meeting was called to order in the North Freedom depot waiting room by president Bloohm at 3:03pm. Roll call was taken. 24 voting members were present. 4 non-voting members were present. It was determined that there was a quorum in accordance with the By-Laws.

Secretary Swanson read the minutes from the November 1, 2003 annual members meeting. The minutes were accepted as read with no changes.

Acting Treasurer Steve Brist gave preliminary financial rundown on the museum. The museum was given a clean audit for the 2003 fiscal year. Financial reports were printed in the last issue of the Gazette. Steve reported on results for the 2004 year so far, beginning November 1. Total income was up \$7,000 to \$26,000 for the year thus far. Expenses were down \$7,000 for the year thus far. Our situation has continued to improve. We have not had to draw on the line of credit yet. We make most our money in July and August, so in the wintertime we often have to draw on the line of credit to cover winter operating costs. Accounts payable is significantly improved compared to last year (down \$12,000). Long-term liabilities are down by \$60,000 compared to last year at this time. Our equity has improved by \$100,000. \$13,000 has been spent on the WC&C #1 since November 1, 2003. \$8,322 has been raised for the Copper Range #29 acquisition. Pete Deets moved, Dave Schumacher seconded to approved the treasurers report. Passed unanimously.

Sharon Crary, Supt. of Member Services was introduced to the members and invited everyone to attend the banquet that evening.

Dave Schumacher, Supt. of Buildings reported that the LaRue depot would receive a new roof this spring. Maintenance man Larry Tourdot has been doing a good job painting buildings this past summer.

Supt. Operations John Sorrel asked that May bid sheets be submitted. Trainmen training class will take place the third weekend in May.

Pete Deets, General Foreman of Shop Services thanked everyone who have donated time and money to help with the WC&C #1 program. He reported that the first course patch has been completed. The second patch has been cut out, the new replacement piece was not suitable and was sent back to the contractor for correction. Jeff Bloohm, Mike Wahl, and Pete Deets traveled to the Twin Cities several weeks ago to meet with a company that might possibly be contracted to rebuild #1385's boiler. Work is continuing on diesel #988. Water-oil intercooler was replaced, governor is being rebuilt. Next work weekend will be Spring Fling weekend. Skip Lichter has been working on the Polson Timber #2 with items that are no-cost. #7 and GE diesel will both need inspections before the operating season begins.

Phil Blinderman, Car Foreman reports some brake work will be needed for opening of the season. This is the time of the year that repairs can be made to the operating fleet.

Dave Bierman, Roadmaster, reported that bridge timbers have not been replaced on the Seeley Creek bridge. The locomotive crane will be made operational after Rick Peters obtains a cable. Bridge pilings were originally sunk about 1927. In the 1950's, the pilings were cut off and a mudsill placed over them. Replacement will be needed soon. Fund raising efforts and design work will be needed. The other big issue for the Engineering Dept. will be replacing the Pettibone which broke down before Snow Train. Another machine had to be rented for Snow Train to remove snow. To buy a replacement will cost nearly \$20,000. We can't do any lifting without it. Some surfacing will be done around the yard this spring. Jim Busse is interested in donating a 1980 GMC dump truck which has been used for hauling 90 loads of ballast screenings from Rock Springs quarry in the past few years, if a \$3,000 challenge grant is raised.

Paul Swanson, for SSLRPC talked about its most recent meeting in March where plans were made for building a Second Coach Shed. Planning continues and when some concrete plans are approved, information will be presented in the Gazette and the museum website.

Jeff Bloohm reports that fares will be raised for next year, \$1 across the board. Special event fares for the Santa Express will be raised a dollar across the board to have same fare as Snow Train to help cover additional costs of operating during cold weather. We still are not in a position to hire a general manager or executive director as the line of credit has not yet been paid off. We currently only have one fulltime employee, Nancy Miller, Administrative Assistant.

Jeff Bloohm thanked all the donors, monetary and in-kind, for supporting the museum.

President Bloohm then allowed any matters other than specifically described in agenda to be considered.

Doug Crary moved, Dave Bierman seconded to show member support for a donation challenge that members raise \$3,000 for the Engineering Dept. in exchange for the donation of Jim Busse 1980 GMC dump truck. Passed unanimously.

A member asked about what help or plans will be needed at the museum the weekend that the circus parade will take place in Baraboo.

The next meeting of the members will be the Annual Meeting, held in November. Date, time, and location will be determined by president Bloohm.

Motion by Bryon Schumacher, second by Phil Blinderman to adjourn. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:28pm.

Submitted by Paul Swanson, Secretary