

Mid-Continent Railway Historical Society, Inc.
MINUTES of Regular Members Meeting, April 9, 2005
[approved November 12, 2005]

Meeting was called to order at the North Freedom village hall by president Bloohm at 3:04pm. Roll call was taken. 23 voting members were present. 7 non-voting members and 1 visitor were also present. It was determined that there was a quorum in accordance with the By-Laws.

Secretary Swanson read the minutes from the November 13, 2004 Annual Members Meeting. The minutes were accepted as read with one change to a date for the annual meeting.

Three more voting members and one visitor joined the meeting.

Pete Deets gave an update on steam progress. The second course patch has been completed. The third course patch has been fitted in and is awaiting welding when Becker Boiler can schedule. Since the last meeting, a new smokebox has been fabricated. 140 staybolts have been installed. About a third of them have been "driven home" in the firebox area. A couple driver wheel cracks have been welded. We are expecting a set of drawings from Deltak very soon for the new #1385 boiler. Pete thanks everyone who has helped with the steam effort. A member asked an estimated time that steam would return. Pete replied it will be known when the locomotive rolls out of the shop. Skip was asked about progress on PL #2. The boiler is in Milwaukee. It will be good for 180 lbs when completed. A new dome cap will need to be made to accommodate three safety valves. Two braces need to be added to the front flue sheet. Skip is working on the running gear in the shop presently. The rear truck will be trammed.

Dave Schumacher talked about Buildings & Grounds. The water tower needs another coat of paint.

Dave Bierman, roadmaster addressed the meeting. Two culverts collapsed after Snow Train. One was half cast iron and petrified pipe, just east of the pit. Two new culverts have arrived and have been installed. We are out of 60lb repair rail. We will now have to replace it with heavier rail. 350 feet at Quartzite Lake and 350 feet at Ulrich Road will be replaced. This will supply us with repair rail that can be used elsewhere on the line. Weed spraying will be done. Normal tie replacement will begin once the repair rail project is completed.

Roger Hugg, Supt. of First Class Services reported Snow Train was very successful. He has talked to the caterer about producing railroad-authentic menus, being as accurate as possible. Both dinner trains at Snow Train were sold out months in advance. First Class service was nearly sold out.

Sharon Crary announced that people could still sign up for banquet dinner this evening. Cocktail hour will begin at 6:00pm, at the Farm Kitchen.

Bloohm reported on work done to #7. He says very little money has been put into it other than regular maintenance. The wheels will need some attention. One wheel has been found to be slightly larger in diameter than the others. This will need to be reduced to match the other wheels. Flanges also need to be cut. This will be done before opening day May 7.

Paul Swanson announced that the March Gazette is being printed and should be mailed next week. The Gazette should be back on schedule by the June issue. Swanson also explained how to join a new members chat room on the members page of the Mid-Continent website.

Judy Gasser told the group about the WC&C #1 boiler rivets that they are selling on ebay to raise money for the Steam Fund and awareness of Mid-Continent to the online community. The rivet sales have received as many as 195 hits when placed on ebay. The last show the Gassers attended for MCRM was the Madison Train Show in February. Over \$400 in donations and purchases were received at that show.

Bloohm further reported that we did very good last year, expenses vs. income. We are hoping to further increase visitors this year. Bloohm personally thanked all help, paid and unpaid, and for donors for supporting the museum.

Dave Schumacher asked for offsite labor help to reclaim some rail for movement to the museum.

Don Meyer, managing consultant addressed the group. Longtime member Vince Matthews, 93, passed away Thursday evening after a stay in the hospital. A public visitation will be scheduled on Friday. The audit and tax returns are completed. The audited results will be in the March Annual Report of the Gazette. The actual audit report may be viewed in the office. April is a very busy month for us as we get ready for the opening of the season. The May Day Special will be operated May 1 to offer a training session for new brakemen with the public riding on the train. A TV commercial will be filmed during the day. 12 candidates will be in the brakeman training class. We have reached an agreement with the Bank of Prairie du Sac to pay for a newspaper ad promoting Mid-Continent during Sauk Days in early June. It is hoped that other area banks can support similar advertising in the future. A new art gallery will be displayed in the depot. The artist who created the steam shop poster will be selling his artwork on commission. Steam is our number one priority for fund raising. We have been able to keep up with expenses of the current work going on in the shop. Friends and members have contributed about \$9,000 this FY thus far. Another \$25,000 donation is imminent from a single donor which will be used toward the Becker Boiler welding bill. The second fund raising priority is development of the SW Quadrant to begin drainage design work. The A-22 restoration plan is being prepared by Don Ginter. Four grandchildren of Louis Hill will be meeting with Don Meyer at the home of Louis Hill in the Twin Cities to hear our pitch about the restoration of this railroad car. It is hoped that they will fund the restoration of the car. Tom Jeffris will be on the property this coming week for a tour of potential future projects for his Jeffris Foundation. Bill Buhrmaster, newly appointed Restorations Manager, in consultation with Curator Dept. people, has identified twenty smaller cosmetic projects that will be worked on this summer to improve the appearance of the property. Pete Bunde asked if the "rust bucket" in front of the Coach Shed could be painted. Meyer replied that a restoration proposal is in the works for Copper Range #29. So far we are on budget for FY 2005. Unrestricted contributions are about half of budget. Increase in Gift Shop and ticket revenue is way up, offsetting this difference. Expenses are down. We are outperforming the budget by about \$4,000. We are in a fairly comfortable spot. We have drawn on the line of credit to pay for the culvert project.

Judy Gasser explained the money raising program through Pic N Save grocery store chain. Mid-Continent's Pic N Save number is 506475. Shoppers have to sign up for the program. The store's donation amount must be at least \$50 for us to receive anything from the store chain.

Dave Schumacher thanked Don Meyer for a letter he wrote to cement the deal for a rail donation.

Pete Bunde asked for the status of the track between the wye and Badger Ordnance plant. Dave Bierman said that the track is owned by the state of Wisconsin. The previous contractor who was serving Badger Ordnance has vacated the property.

Next meeting will be in November, time, location to be determined.

Roger Hugg moves, Dick Gruber second to adjourn. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:14pm.

Submitted by Paul Swanson, Treasurer