

Mid-Continent Railway Historical Society, Inc.  
MINUTES of Annual Members Meeting, November 4, 2006  
[approved April 14, 2007]

Meeting was called to order at the Farm Kitchen restaurant, Baraboo, WI by president Bloohm at 8:33pm. Roll call was taken. 30 voting members were present. 7 non-voting members and 10 visitors were also present. It was determined that there was a quorum in accordance with the By-Laws.

Bloohm discussed report of April 8, 2006 meeting at which there was not a quorum. Motion by Bill Parker, second by Kelly Bauman that the report of the April 8, 2006 meeting only include roll call, results of the board election and By-Laws change vote, and the manager's report. Passed unanimously.

Bob Ristow reported on results of board member election. All ballots were valid, 142 ballots were returned. 136 votes were cast for board position: Paul Swanson 128, Roger Hugg 6, Doug Crary 1, and one was blank. 6 returned ballots did not vote for the board position. Both By-Laws passed. For the first By-Laws change to Section 2.3 (changing age requirement for Associate Membership), 131 ballots were cast, 111 for, 20 against, 0 were blank; Section 2.15 (wording for age of volunteers), 131 ballots cast, 110 for, 20 against, 1 was blank. Byron Schumacher moves, Bauman seconds to accept the results of the election and destroy the ballots. Passed unanimously.

Treasurer Brist reported that we finished FY 2006 with attendance down by 3,000. Attendance fluctuations seemed to follow the price of gas at the pump. A decrease in gas prices in the late summer and fall was accompanied by an increase in attendance. We ended the year \$27,000 in the red on a cash basis. But audited financial statements will reflect that we are in the black taking into account donation pledges and depreciation of capital expenditures. We were current in paying all our bills off at the end of FY, and also have paid off the line of credit in its entirety. At the last board meeting, the board approved taking a loan of \$125,000 to help finish the work on WC&C #1. We hope to see the locomotive done by the end of 2007, but it is difficult to predict the actual timeline. We do anticipate drawing on the line of credit again next spring.

Bloohm returned to the podium. He was asked what total attendance was. Total for 2006 was a bit over 30,000. It was asked what the interest rate was on our line of credit. Bloohm stated that it is usually half a point above prime. At today's rates, that would work out to about 9%. Brist pointed out that the line of credit on the WC&C #1 loan is at prime. Bob Ristow moves, Pete Deets seconds to accept the Treasurer report. Passed unanimously.

Richard Dipping addressed the group about a boxcar that he is bringing onto the property. It will not arrive until next year. Another boxcar being acquired for the collection will also arrive next year.

Ed Ripp reported on a new generator installed under C&NW #440. It made its operational debut during Pumpkin Special weekend with a few glitches. Jim Busse reported on the camp car track extension. 400 feet of new track were gained. Switching was done on October 20 to put the camp cars back in position. Jim thanks all to helped, especially Bob Ristow and Dave Bierman. Tom Batz donated the use of his dump truck to haul 2,200 yards of rock from Rock Springs quarry to the museum property.

Lichter talked about the boiler work to the #2. Firebox sidesheets are installed, door sheets inside and out have been fitted but not welded. Belly and throat sheets need to be finished yet.

Bill Parker commended the president for his financial leadership.

C&NW combine received a new roof. C&NW drovers had siding replaced, a new roof, and carbody was painted. DM&IR reefer has been worked on as well this year.

Mike Wahl reported on steam progress. Since the publication of the WC&C #1 restoration report in March, we have stepped up fund raising. Donors coming forward asking what they can do can look at the report

and chose specific items they can sponsor. Bob Ristow now is working in the shop fulltime. Dave Lee will be joining him in a few weeks. This will help with volunteer efforts as there will be someone there most every day of the week, if someone wants to work during the week. Bob will have tools and materials ready for workers on the weekend as well. The steam dome has been refaced. Wahl thanked Al Joyce for taking on the stud project which has been a major part of the project. The engine will operate at 160 lbs when completed.

Superintendent of Operations Kelly Bauman wished to thank all the volunteers who have helped out in the Operating Dept. this past year. Art Eggert and his wife are working to clean the interior of our active coaches. We have two new trainmen and two new conductors this year. There will be a new timetable issued for the 2007 operating year.

Dave Bierman said that tie prices have increased two-fold in the last few years. We purchased 250 ties in FY 2006. About 190 were installed. The display track that the rotary is sitting on is being extended to give us additional display space. 350 feet of track was surfaced. A sun kink developed in the new track at Quartzite Lake. The rail was cutout and realigned. The rail from the old Janesville Parker Pen spur has been fully delivered to the museum: 1,800 feet of 85 lb rail and one switch. This will be used on the passing track at North Freedom.

Jim Connor reported that the power car is ready for the winter season. Work has been done on the steel coach fleet. Next year the roofs will be repainted. C&NW #440 will be repainted. More running gear work will also be needed.

President's message. We are holding our own. Ridership is not as good as we would like it, but other area attractions are down—not that that is an excuse. U.S. Army diesel locomotive from Badger Ordinance plant has been moved to the museum property. Some members banded together to place a bid on purchasing it. The locomotive was acquired and can now be used to augment the #7 in regular service. It will hopefully open the season next spring. It weighs 60 tons (as compared to 45 tons for the GE, and 99 tons for the #7). Bloohm wishes to thank the members Kelly Bauman, Dave Schumacher, Pete Deets, Jim Connor, Tony Hawke, Jeff Bloohm, Fern Bloohm (Jeff Bloohm's mother), and Doug Crary who chipped in the funds to purchase the locomotive. Several waivers are required before it can be FRA. Bloohm thanked all the volunteers and donors, and even non-members for their support. We have two new professional board members on the board: Roth Schleck and Bob Anderson.

Don Meyer observed that it takes a lot of people to make things happen at Mid-Continent. We have only one fulltime employee and one parttime employee plus seasonal employees. All else has to be accomplished by volunteers. Then there is the planning for things that we can't see, such as all the planning work that Dave Bierman put into the LS&I building. It is impossible to not talk about Mid-Continent without thinking of all the people that makes everything happen. Our cash position has improved. Don believes that annual contributions last year were about \$150,000. This year we may top \$250,000. When Meyer first came to Mid-Continent in 1995, annual donations were about \$20,000. Outsiders are amazed at what we accomplish with the small paid staff that we have. Audit should be complete and available to the board at the December meeting and published in the annual report of the *Gazette* next March.

Next meeting will be in April 2007, time and location to be determined.

Paul Swanson moves, Steve Brist seconds, to adjourn. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:34pm.

Submitted by Paul Swanson, Treasurer