

Mid-Continent Railway Historical Society, Inc.  
MINUTES of Regular Members Meeting, April 14, 2007  
[approved 11/3/07]

Meeting was called to order at the Farm Kitchen, Baraboo, by president Bloohm at 8:08pm. Roll call was taken. 29 voting members were present. 5 non-voting members and 3 visitors 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 4, 2006 annual members meeting. There were no additions or corrections to the minutes. They stand as read.

Roger Hugg reported on Snow Train First Class service. Dinner train was sold out several months in advance. First Class was also sold out in advance on a few trips—for the first time in several years.

Kelly Bauman thanks all the volunteers who helped out with the special events. A new timetable has been completed and goes into effect May 12. Kelly thanks the timetable committee of Jeff Bloohm, Dave Bierman, and Doug Crary. A new brakeman class was held today for seven students. Engineer recertification classes have already been held this spring.

Sharon Crary, Supt. of Members Services, reminded everyone that there will be lunch provided on Saturday of Spring Fling weekend.

Jim Connor reported on roof painting beginning on DL&W #425 in the shop. All four Lacks, the C&NW #440, and the power generator car will be completed before the season begins. Power car boiler has been retubed. It steams a lot better now. Thanks to Pete Deets, Bob Ristow, Jim Busse, Roger Hugg, Ed Ripp, Doug Crary, and Jim Connor. A new compressor was purchased for the shop.

Skip Lichter says belly and throat sheets are being fitted on the boiler of Polson Logging #2.

Jim “The Preacher” Baker and a group of interested individuals have been plugging away on the MILW #988. Long hood wiring has been completed. But as work progresses, they find more things that need attention.

Manager Don Meyer reported on mid-fiscal year financial condition. We are performing on budget. We are current on our bills. We have not drawn on the line of credit as much as last year at this time (\$10,000 less). Revenue is up so far, due to Santa Express and Snow Train. 23 members have upgraded from associate to regular. The big story, financially: A year ago this time, we had raised \$75,000 in restricted donations. This year we have raised \$170,000 thus far. Most of this is for the Steam Fund. The Badger #2 campaign has begun. A lot of activity has been taking place down at the enginehouse—on WC&C #1, the Army diesel, and the operating passenger car fleet. Nicolas Verstein will be working on the summer train crew (a third generation). Sandra Pate is working in the office 30 hours a week as business manager. Both Lois and Judy are returning to the gift shop. Maintenance man Larry Tourdot is working on the property already, getting things painted for the season. Equipment is looking better. The Sauk County Master Gardners Program will be doing some landscaping on the property. As a unique twist, they will be doing “heritage plantings”—species of shrubs and flowers from the era of our railroad operation. Train rides will be offered on Earth Day. Regular season opens May 12. We have been giving passes to our vendors as a token of our appreciation. Our list of donors keeps growing. Don received an extra round of applause for all he has done for Mid-Continent.

President Bloohm spoke about the people who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to maintain the diesel fleet. The Army engine #1256 will open the season. Doug Crary, Ed Ripp, Pete Deets, Jim Connor, Bob Ristow, Kelly Bauman, and Dave Bierman have all helped. #7 is down for heavy repairs.

The next annual meeting of the members will be held on November 3, 2007. Place and time to be determined by the president.

Jim Connor asked volunteers to be sure to turn in their volunteer hours.

Dave Schumacher moves, Roger Hugg seconds to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:01pm.

Bob Ristow presented a program on WC&C #1 work after the meeting.

Submitted by Paul Swanson, Secretary