

MINUTES OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING, JULY 15, 2007
GRAND INTERNATIONAL HOTEL, MINOT, ND

The meeting was opened at 8:08 am by President Duane Buck.

The following persons were in attendance: **Directors:** Duane E. Buck, Robert R. Bye, James F. Chinquist, Lindsay Korst, William C. Sornsin, Beverly Tracy. **Officers and Staff:** Duane V. Amdahl, Raymond A. Chappell, Phillip Gjevre, Stuart Holmquist, James Knollmiller, Jams Larson, Kenneth Middleton, John Thomas, John Tracy, Max Ulver. **Members:** Tom Arms, Paul Boening, Tm Carr, Caroline Chinquist, Earl Currie, Robert Downing, Andy Kern, Don McGolthlin, Lee Moyer, Cordell Newby, Jack Sheldon, Marylin Thomas.

After determining a quorum was present, President Buck continued with the meeting.

Item 01: On motion by, Bye, seconded by Chinquist the minutes of the Director's Meeting of July 16, 2006, at Kalispell, MT were **accepted**.

Item 02-13: Reports were received, either written or oral from the following:

02: President's Report: President Duane Buck stated that his report was mostly the accomplishments of other Society Officers or members. Painting of "Hustle Muscle"; Acquisition of AFE files from BNSF; Archives storage lease agreement with MTM; Acquisition of archive material; Movement of AFE files to Jackson Street; Starting inquires into grant requests; Revised and updated GNRHS Bylaws; and began work on the Operating Manual.

03: Publications: Phil Gjevre reported that the Goat has been published in 2006 with a total page count of 348 pages. Phil said that the Goat is the collaborative effort of a lot of dedicated people. Much of the material comes in "press ready", but it still takes a lot of work. Costs: the printing has been moved to a new printer to save money and improve service, also, the paper quality has been improved. The Goat now consumes most of the Society's income. Phil explained costs of using color and how the cost has been kept down. Ken Middleton stated that most people join the GNRHS because of the publication.

04: Ask Bev: Bev Tracy reported that this year she had 130 inquires. She said that it takes a lot of time to research the answers and that she passes some of the inquires on to others who are more knowledgeable than she is.

05: Operating Manual: Included in report on Operating Manual.

06: Archive Committee: Stu Holmquist passed out his report and John Thomas explained the moving of the archives (almost 250,000 files) from the shopping center to Jackson Street. Almost 90,000 items will be entered into the computer.

07: Web-Site: Bill Sornsin explained the Website handout. He said that one of the best thing we all can do is to mention the website in places other than the website. The question was asked, why should a person join the GNRHS if they can buy reference sheets without being a member? The answer is that they are not sold to nonmembers. Lindsay Korst then explained how Pay-Pal works and explained that to date, \$8,655.51 has been transferred to the bank. Lindsay also said that he had a 5 foot section of original 1892 rail from Skykomish for Jackson Street that was donated by BNSF and is looking for someone driving from Seattle to St. Paul to transport it. The rail weighs 300 pounds.

08: Back Issues: John Thomas reported that he is now handling back issue sales. A question was raised about the sale price of back issues. John explained the duplication process and its costs.

09: Freight cars and Mugs: No report.

10: Convention Chairman: John Tracy handed out a preliminary 2007 Convention report and proposals for the 2008 and 2010 conventions. He went on to explain the 2007 preliminary report, pointing out that as of July 13 there are 121 members registered, with a total attendance of 174. John pointed out that those figures may change after today. He talked about a portable public address system he had purchased to use at conventions and trips.

John then went on to present a preliminary proposal for the **2008** convention at **Wenatchee, WA**, from **July 20 to 23**. He thanked Cordell Newby, Mike Bartenstein and Bob Kelly, the local convention team, for their help.

John next presented a proposal for the **2010** convention at the **Glacier Park Lodge in**

East Glacier, MT, to be held in mid September. He explained that the only way we could do this is by renting the entire 161 rooms of the lodge. That way we can get a better deal on rooms and have all of the red busses available to us. John went on to explain that the way to do this is to offer the following: 1) a room/meal package deal consisting of 4 nights, 3 breakfasts and 2 dinners, 2) registration would begin advertising in the December 2007 Goat, 3) there would be a 10% rate increase in December, 2008 for those not already registered, 4) a \$300.00 deposit would be required and the balance would be due on January 1, 2010, 5) on June 30, 2009 a status review would be held to determine if the convention should be held. He also reported that Glacier Park Inc. is requiring a \$20,000.00 deposit for this event, but John was able to negotiate payments of \$5,000.00 on each anniversary date of the contract.

President Buck explained that the payments will be from the profits made from the conventions, starting with 2006. He said that he had talked to a number of people who do not usually come to the conventions, and they want to come to this one. He also noted that 2010 is the 100th anniversary of the building of the Glacier Park Lodge.

11: Apparel Sales: John Tracy reported on apparel sales and said that he thought they would be about the same as last year. Jim Chinquist reported that all of the apparel he had been selling has now been sold.

12: Membership Committee: Duane Ahmdal reported that things look good. There has been a small increase in membership, some of it coming from renewing members who have skipped several years. He commented that it looks like the excellent quality of the Goat may have helped. Phil Gjevre explained a sample letter that was sent to non-renewers.

13: Hustle Muscle: President Buck reported for Ron Erickson, who could not be here, that Hustle Muscle is outside the roundhouse and hasn't been fired up in over a year. Ron was going to attempt to get it started and it will be on display for the commemorative ceremony for the Jackson Street Roundhouse on Friday. Jim Larson reported that he and Ron had worked on the engine and found the batteries were dead. Ron was continuing to work on the batteries and hoped to have them charged and the engine running for the celebration,

14: Insurance: Phil Gjevre explained his report on insurance and risk management. Phil reported that he questioned some of the coverage and whether we are covered or scheduled on the MTM policies. Jim Larson explained his information about insurance and the lease at Jackson Street and MTM. Discussion followed as to how we are covered and how to pay MTM. It was decided that the Board needs to research and decide future insurance coverage. Could special fundraising be used to cover the insurance costs?

Phil introduced Bruce Goeser who has developed a project for a lighted, animated Great Northern miniature sign. Bruce explained that this will be a prepaid project.

15: Archives: Stu Holmquist reported on the accessibility of the archives. He said that the files should be accessible to the members, but members will not be allowed to take the files out. Stu suggested that as much of the files as possible be converted to PDF format as quickly as possible. This way, someone seeking information from the files could be shown that file on the computer and make a copy if necessary. He said that he has scanned about 10,000 photos so far and cataloged about 6,000 them. Stu feels that he should not do research for people, but will direct them to where that research material is available. GNRHS telephone system at MTM was discussed. Are we being billed for a system we are not tied in to? More investigation is necessary. Stu noted that a copy machine is needed to allow copies of files to be made and possibly a new server is needed. How a member can access the archives and acceptance of copyrighted material was discussed.

16: 2006 Survey Results: Bob Bye reported on the report that was mailed to the Board members. Jim Larson commented that the survey was compared to a previous 1997 survey. A short discussion followed. Some of the survey will be published in the Goat. Jim Larson stated that there would be a bill coming for some of the compiling.

17: Finances: President Buck talked about the Financial report published by Jim Knollmiller, dated June 14, 2007 which showed that we could have a deficit if we kept spending as we did last year. He pointed out that we had a number of one time expenses last year. The outlook for our finances in 2007 is very good because we did have the one time expenses. Jim Knollmiller commented on the report and highlighted that a main issue is insurance. President Buck proposed that the Financial Report be accepted. The motion was seconded by Bob Bye. The motion was **approved**. President Buck then proposed a motion to redistribute the \$5.00 of membership dues that now goes to the Archive fund and give \$4.00 to the Archives fund, \$1.00 to the Hustle Muscle Preservation and Maintenance Fund and to cancel the \$1,000.00 donation to the Hustle Muscle fund that was approved at Fergus Falls. The motion was seconded by Bob Bye. After discussion, the motion was **approved**.

18: Caboose X-240: Jim Larson explained the proposal from Jim Larson, Mike Lunak and John Robinson to restore Caboose X-240. He listed the following items in the proposal:

1. GNRHS would temporarily release the X-240 to the requesting individuals for restoration.
2. X-240 to be moved to Minnesota Commercial Yards for restoration.
3. John Robinson has donated material and access to a shop for restoration.
4. A fund raising campaign will be developed to pay for the work. No GNRHS funds will be used.
5. Caboose will be returned to Jackson Street at completion of restoration.

A motion was proposed by Bob Bye and seconded by Buck to approve the proposal. The motion was **approved**.

19: Grants: Max Ulver talked about seeking grants to further our cause and how to do that. The Archives need to be in shape and a qualified grant writer is needed. It was noted that every volunteer should be recording their volunteer hours because these hours need to be reported so they can be used when applying for matching grants.

20: Heritage Fund:

President Buck reported on a request from Montana Museum of Railroad History for a \$1,500.00 grant. A motion to approve the request was made by Bye and seconded by Bev Tracy. The motion was **approved**.

He also reported on a request from the Inland Empire Railway Historical Society for a \$1,500.00 grant to move equipment. A motion to approve the request was made by Bye and seconded by Chinquist. The motion was **approved**.

A motion was made by Chinquist and seconded by Bye to grant \$750.00 to the Iron Goat Trail for one year. The motion was **approved**.

A motion was made by Bev Tracy and seconded by Chinquist to grant \$1,500.00 to the Lake Superior Transportation Museum. The motion was **approved**.

21: 2009 Convention Site: President Buck discussed the site for the 2009 convention. Hibbing, MN was discussed. Is there a hotel large enough for our convention? It was reported that there is on shown one Hibbing's web site. Earl Currie reported on activities in the mines and possible tours. After discussion, President Buck made a motion, seconded by Chinquist to approve Hibbing, MN as the 2009 convention site. The motion was **approved**.

22: On-Line Financial Transactions: Previously discussed in the officers reports.

23: Hustle Muscle Operating Policy: President Buck related that he had discussed the established policy with Ron Erickson about the Board of Directors controlling the movement of the engine outside the Twin Cities area and that Ron would have control of the engine within the MTM complex and if he has to move it to North Yard or anywhere else for maintenance. Ron has agreed to this policy.

24: GNRHS Committees: Purposes and Assignments: This needs to be addressed in the Policy Manual. The committees listed are: Archives, Auditing, Budget, By –Laws and Operating Manual, and Nominating and Ballot. All of these committees have to be listed in the Operating Manual and will have to have a job or functional description for each one.

25: Goat and Reference Sheet Sales: Previously discussed in Officers Reports. Phil Gjevre reported about Goat sales in hobby shops. We need someone to get more Goat sales in new hobby shops. Goats could be sold at the Jackson Street Roundhouse.

26: By-Law Changes: By –Laws were approved in May, 2008 by electronic vote and are retroactive to October 2, 2006. This now needs to be gotten out to the general membership.

27: Operating Manual: President Buck passed out a brief outline of the Manual. He stated that this is a hard job and will take some time. He hopes to present a more complete form before next years Board Meeting. The committee consists of Bev Tracy, Phil Gjevre, Max Ulver, Cliff Salmon and Duane Buck. Stu Holmquist also volunteered to join the committee.

28: Plaque for Izaak Walton Inn: Ray Chappell reported that the plaque commemorates the first organized convention of the Fraternal Order of Empire Builders, now the Great Northern Railway Historical Society, at the Izaak Walton Inn on July 23, 1979. Ray stated that he was one of those members and is trying to get a copy of a photograph of the 33 members that was taken of those who were there.

29: Additional Items:

a. Dave Thorsett has requested to be replaced as Freight Car Marketing Agent. President Buck stated that Dave's replacement should be called the Marketing Officer and should be responsible for all sales except Publications, Goats, and Back Issues.

b. Recruitment Displays: President Buck reported on the status of Recruitment Displays. President Buck made a motion seconded by Sornsin to allocate up to \$500.00 for 3 displays, one each for Montana, British Columbia and Minnesota to be followed up by Phil Gjevre. Discussion of what should be included in the displays followed. The motion was **approved**.

c. Jim Larson explained the Chinquist-Larson Reorganization plan that was handed out to the Board members. He asked that every member read the proposal and at some future date the Board vote on the plan.

30: Motion to Adjourn: On motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 12:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond A. Chappell, Secretary