

**MINUTES OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING, JULY 19, 2009  
RADISON – HARBOR VIEW HOTEL, DULUTH, MN**

The meeting was opened at 8:00 am by President Duane Buck.

The following persons were in attendance: **Directors:** Duane Buck, James Chinquist, Lindsay Korst, John Langlot, William Sornsin, and Beverly Tracy. **Officers and Staff:** Duane Amdhal, Raymond Chappell, Edward Erickson, Ronald Erickson, Phillip Gjevre, Stuart Holmquist, Donald McGlothlin and John Tracy. **Members:** Paul Boening, Bruce Goeser, Dan Mitchell, Cliff Morse, Greer Neilsen, Jack Porzig, Bob Randazzo, Jerry Sahagian, Robert Showers, Bob Ulberg, Tim Victor, and Ron Weiske.

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

**Item 01:** On motion made by Sornsin and seconded by Langlot, the minutes of the Director's Meeting of July 20, 2008 at Wenatchee, WA. were **accepted**.

**Item 02:-11:** Reports were received, either written or oral from the following:

**02: President's Report:** President Duane Buck reported on the following:

Most of the Society's business is transacted through electronic means so there is no sense in rehashing things that have already been gone over. We now have a new Convention Officer and a new Membership Secretary and in response to Jim Knollmiller's request for additional people to sign checks, we now have Jim Knollmiller, Duane Sebelius and John Thomas listed as authorized signers. He also said that we need to elect a replacement Vice-President to replace Max Ulver. This will be handled by a later agenda item. President Buck reported that the Operating Manual is moving very slowly. He then announced that he will not be running for President in 2010.

**Item 03:** See Item 15.

**Item 04: Ask Bev:** Bev Tracy reported that she had 162 inquires this year. She said that it takes a lot of time to answer all the inquires and she has found that she no longer has the time to devote to this project due to the requirements of the upcoming 2010 convention. Bev asked that a replacement be found for her as soon as possible, but will step down after the December issue of the Goat. She feels that this function should continue as it is very worthwhile.

**Item 05: Archive Activity/Goat Hobby Shop Sales and Advertising:** Bill Sornsin reported that the digital scanning of the BN aperture card collection has been completed. Bill also talked about the status of selling the Goat in hobby shops and was pleased to announce that 8 more shops have been added in the last year. He went on to report the status of advertising in "Classic Trains". It seems that we might be at about a breakeven point at this time. We need to discuss whether to continue this program.

**Item 06: Web-Site and Paypal sales:** Lindsay Korst reported that online membership joining or renewal is at 228 for the first half of 2009, which is up considerably from 2008 and 2007. He went on to report that the GNRHS Online Store produced \$8,5410.65 in 2008 and \$3,753.95 in the first half of 2009.

**Item 07: Back Issues:** John Thomas reported that since July 1, 2008, 160 orders have been processed. He thanked Ray Wozniac for his help with the back issues. John suggested that the cost of a single reference sheet should be raised by \$.50 to cover costs.

**Item 08: Freight Cars and Mugs:** Don McGlothlin reported about the chemical tank car kits and the weed spray car. The chemical tank car sold out and we may have an additional run. The weed spray car will be on sale at the 2009 convention. Don went on to talk about a proposed structure kit. After research by several people, a GN section house was selected and the plans were forwarded to the manufacturer. The Society will need to decide how many to order and what the cost will be. Don noted that the mugs do not sell very well.

**Item 09: Conventions:** Phil Gjevre reported on the status of the 2009 convention and said that everything looked good for a great convention. He noted that there was a signup sheet for those who wished to operate "Hustle Muscle". John Tracy then reported on the 2010 convention at Glacier Park. He said that the convention was sold out and walk-ins will not be allowed because of the capacity of the meeting rooms.

**Item 10: Archival Site in the Pacific Northwest:** A proposal was made to set up an archival site in the Pacific Northwest because some donated collections had stipulations that the material must remain in the Pacific Northwest. After discussion, a motion to support a resolution setting up an Archive in the Pacific Northwest was made by Buck and seconded by Korst. The motion was **approved**.

**Item 11: Hustle Muscle:** Ron Erickson, Superintendent of Motive Power, reported that he was very upset that he was not notified about the proposed extra use of Hustle Muscle at Duluth. He said that his understanding of his position was that he was to be notified before any use of the engine. He explained that this extra use of the engine would now lose the GNRHS a free replacement of two wheel sets that need to be changed. Because of the way this was handled, he felt that he could no longer remain as Superintendent of Motive Power and was submitting his resignation. After discussion with the Board, Ron was asked to reconsider his resignation. At that time he agreed to rethink his position. At this point, President Buck related that the contract for extra use of Hustle Muscle probably would not happen, as the contract is not acceptable to the GNRHS. John Langlot talked about setting up a fund to maintain Hustle Muscle.

**Item 12: Caboose X-240:** President Buck reported on the disposition of the caboose. Jim Larson reported that he has a lead on someone who might take on the project. John Thomas will try to get something going with MTM.

**Item 13: Membership:** Duane Amdahl reported on the status of the membership. We had 2,083 members at the end of June, down 12 from the previous year. He noted that the hardest thing is to get members to renew. They have to be reminded multiple times, which costs extra money. A question was asked wondering if it was possible to send out the dues renewal notices earlier. Usually the notices are sent in the December Goat. The

subject of the ad in "Classic Trains" was again raised by President Buck. A motion was made by Buck and seconded by Langlot that the Society continue the ad in "Classic Trains", at Society expense, for one more year. The motion was **approved**.

**Item 14: Finances:** President Buck presented the Financial Report submitted by Jim Knollmiller, who could not be present. He said that any questions should be directed to Jim Knollmiller. President Buck also said that our goal should be to play catch up with the other Historical Societies and produce 2 rolling stock kits and 2 laser cut structure kits a year.

**Item 15: Publications:** Phil Gjevre reported on his handout. He talked about the cost of producing the "Goat". Phil also said that one of the major expenses, aside of printing the "Goat", is mailing. We have experienced unacceptable delays in delivery in Canada and Europe. The Canadian delay seems to have been fixed and we are now trying a new mailing vendor with acceptable results. He noted that all "Goats" delivered from September on will be in poly bags. Phil went on to talk about the book "Steam Locomotives of the Great Northern Railway" which is being published as a reference sheet. Because of the cost of printing, the members will be asked to pay \$15.00 for the first copy and \$30.00 for an additional copy shipped at the same time. Norm Priebe thanked Phil Gjevre and Bill Webb for their work on the book. He also thanked the members for their help.

**Item 16: Conventions:** Ed Erickson, Convention Chairman, reported on the selections for the 2011 and 2012 conventions. He proposed that the 2011 convention be held in St. Cloud, MN, and that the 2012 convention be held in Klamath Falls, OR. A motion to approve both sites was made by Langlot and seconded by Buck. After discussion, the motion was **approved**.

**Item 17: Election of Vice-President:** President Buck said that we should elect an interim Vice-President to replace the late Max Ulver. President Buck then made a motion to elect John Langlot to the position of Interim Vice-President to serve until the next election. The motion was seconded by Chinquist. The motion was **approved**.

**Item 18: Allocation of Heritage Funds:** The following grants were discussed:

- a. \$1,000 for the Sterns County Pioneer Club to help move the depot and repair the foundation.
- b. \$1,500 to the Montana Museum of Railroad History to expand their program.
- c. \$1,500 for the Lake Superior Railroad Museum for their support of the Duluth convention.
- d. \$1,000 to the Minnesota Transportation Museum to help with a matching grant.

a. Motion by Chinquist, seconded by Sornsin to approve \$1,000 for the Sterns County Pioneer Club. The motion was **approved**.

b. Motion by Chinquist, seconded by Langlot to approve \$1,500 for the Montana Museum of Railroad History. The motion was **approved**.

c. Motion by Chinquist, seconded by Sornsin to approve \$1,500 for the Lake Superior Railroad Museum. The motion was **approved**.

d. Motion by Chinquist, seconded by Langlot to approve \$1,000 for the Minnesota Transportation Museum. The motion was **approved**.

**Item 19: Archives-Condensing AFE Files:** Stu Holmquist explained his report stating that most of the photo collections have been almost completely scanned except the Martin Evoy collection. He went on to explain how the various collections are managed. Stu said that most of the GNRHS reference sheets have also been scanned. John Thomas then reported on the scanning and cataloguing of the Norman Keyes and Martin Evoy collections. President Buck related that he had a long conversation with James J. Hill III who offered the services Eilene McCormack to help as a consultant at the Jackson Street Roundhouse. Mr. Hill will assume the cost of her services. Jim Larson spoke of Eilene's vast knowledge of the Great Northern and said that she will be a great help.

**Item 20: Nominating Committee:** President Buck reported that Jim Chinquist is the Committee Chairman and has asked John Langlot and Duane Amdahl to assist him.

**Item 21: Additional Items:** The following additional items were presented:

- a. Jim Chinquist presented a document of 1950 era station locations. He explained how this came about, and what was shown. Jim went on to say that he hopes, in the future, to do the same thing for the 1960 era. He thanked all those who helped him.
- b. Our new Membership Secretary, Duane Sebelius, was asked to stand and was welcomed.

**Item 22: Motion to Adjourn:** A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 12:10 pm by Korst and seconded by Buck. The motion was **approved**.

Respectfully Submitted:

Raymond A. Chappell  
Secretary