Mid-Continent Railway Historical Society, Inc.

Minutes of the December 13th, 2025 Annual Board of Directors Meeting

Date: December 13th, 2025
Location: MCRHS Office

Roll Call:

Directors:

R. Anderson, Treasurer
D. Bierman
G. Bjorge
A. Clussman
R. Colby - Absent
C. O'Brien, Vice President
C. Salmonson
P. Schierloh
N. Vertein, Secretary

Other Officers:

A. Spinelli, President

Other Guests:

J. Lentz, Office Manager
R. Madero, Office Assistant
E. Ripp
C. Taylor, Office Assistant
M. Wahl

12:01 PM: Meeting is called to order by President Spinelli.

The next regular meeting will be held on March 14th, 2026 at 12:01 PM.

The next planning meeting will be at the MCRHS office on March 14th, 2026 at 10:00 AM.

Directors R. Colby and N. Vertein were elected and seated as of November 1st, 2025. Their new term expires in 2028.

12:02 PM: G. Bjorge moves and R. Anderson seconds to thank Jeff Huttenburg for his dedication and service to the museum. Motion passed unanimously.

12:02 PM: C. O'Brien moves and D. Bierman seconds to reappoint R. Anderson to the Board of Directors for a term expiring in 2028. Motion passed unanimously.

12:03 PM: N. Vertein moves and P. Schierloh seconds to approve the minutes of the September 6th, 2025 Board meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

12:04 PM: C. O'Brien moves and R. Anderson seconds to go into closed session. Motion passed unanimously.

12:37 PM: G. Bjorge moves and P. Schierloh seconds to come out of closed session. Motion passed unanimously.

Election of Officers:

Vice President: N. Vertein nominates and R. Anderson seconds the nomination for C. O'Brien as Vice President of MCRHS. G. Bjorge moves and P. Schierloh seconds to close the nominations and elect C. O'Brien as Vice President. Motion passed with C. O'Brien abstaining.

President Spinelli turns the meeting over to Vice President O'Brien.

President: G. Bjorge nominates and R. Anderson seconds the nomination for A. Spinelli as President of MCRHS. P. Schierloh moves and N. Vertein seconds to close the nominations and elect A. Spinelli as President. Motion passed with A. Spinelli abstaining.

Vice President O'Brien returns the meeting to President Spinelli.

Secretary: C. O'Brien nominates and P. Schierloh seconds the nomination for N. Vertein as Secretary of MCRHS. G. Bjorge moves and A. Clussman seconds to close the nominations and elect N. Vertein as Secretary. Motion passed with N. Vertein abstaining.

Treasurer: G. Bjorge nominates and P. Schierloh seconds the nomination for R. Anderson as Treasurer of MCRHS. N. Vertein moves and D. Bierman seconds to close the nominations and elect R. Anderson as Treasurer. Motion passed with R. Anderson abstaining.

12:43 PM: D. Bierman moves and N. Vertein seconds to thank Jeff Huttenburg for his dedication and service to the museum. Motion passed unanimously.

Legal Motions:

12:44 PM: C. O'Brien moves and P. Schierloh seconds to set the Registered Office as E8948 Museum Road, North Freedom, WI, and to set the Registered Agent as Jeffrey Huttenburg and the official depository as Community First Bank, Baraboo, WI. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports:

The 1385 report was presented.

The Office report was presented.

The President/Manager's report was presented.

The Financial report was presented.

The Endowment Committee report was presented.

The Elections Committee report was presented.

2:05 PM: P. Schierloh moves and D. Bierman seconds to destroy the ballots from the election. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

2:07 PM: G. Bjorge moves and A. Clussman seconds to distribute the endowment fund in the amount of $112,054.42 from the Board Endowed Account (Ford Porter) to Mid-Continent Railway Historical Society, Inc. Motion passed unanimously.

2:08 PM: P. Schierloh moves and C. O'Brien seconds to distribute the endowment fund in the amount of $3,553.68 from the Donor Endowed Account (MC Foundation) to Mid-Continent Railway Historical Society, Inc. Motion passed unanimously.

2:11 PM: R. Anderson moves and D. Bierman seconds to approve contract from Fabick Cat to do top end engine work to the 1256 prime mover in the amount of $25,056.96. Motion passed unanimously.

2:13 PM: G. Bjorge moves and C. O'Brien seconds to approve contract from Long Life Roofing Company to replace the roof on Soo 2017 diner lounge car in the amount of $36,790.00 using $6,701.21 from the 1st Class Cars Tip Fund and $30,088.79 from the General Fund. Motion passed unanimously.

2:27 PM: R. Anderson moves and N. Vertein seconds to approve Quote 22595 from Staufer Diesel INC for $47,562.66 for new complete Stadco generator set for under the Great Northern power car. Motion passed unanimously.

2:28 PM: P. Schierloh moves and G. Bjorge seconds to have the 2026 operating schedule match the 2025 schedule. Motion passed unanimously.

2:29 PM: D. Bierman moves and P. Schierloh seconds to approve the President's committee appointments for 2026 as listed below:

General Manager - Andy Spinelli (ch), Robert Anderson, Colin O'Brien, Jeff Huttenburg (advisor)

Private Equipment Oversight Committee - Jim Busse (ch), Gary Bjorge, Jay Slinde

Collections Committee - William Buhrmaster (ch), Pete Becker, Andy Spinelli, Casey Thiele, Rick Thiele

Election Committee - Chris Salmonson (ch), Pete Deets, Colin O'Brien

Management Committee - Andy Spinelli (ch), Robert Anderson, Colin O'Brien, Jeff Huttenburg (advisor)

Endowment Committee - Robert Anderson (ch), Jeff Huttenburg, Colin O'Brien, Andy Spinelli

Grant Writing Committee - Vacant

Ground Equipment Committee - Gary Bjorge (ch), Perry Anderson, Jim Busse, Larry Stanley

Shelter Building Committee - Jeff Huttenburg (ch), Jim Busse, David Bierman, Gary Bjorge, William Buhrmaster, Pete Schierloh

Steam/Diesel Training Committee - Colin O'Brien (ch), Pete Deets, Robert Dischler, Ed Ripp, Chris Salmonson, Andy Spinelli

Motion passed unanimously.

2:30 PM: A. Clussman moves and D. Bierman seconds to maintain the $5 admission to just view the display buildings. Motion passed unanimously.

2:31 PM: P. Schierloh moves and N. Vertein seconds to authorize Jeff Huttenburg to destroy documents that are beyond the required retention time. Motion passed unanimously.

2:31 PM: C. Salmonson moves and P. Schierloh seconds to approve the Superintendent, General Foreman, and Department Head appointments for 2026 as listed below:

Collections Manager – Rick Thiele
Restorations Manager – William Buhrmaster
Museum Store Administrator – Jeffrey Haertlein
General Foreman of Diesels – Andy Spinelli
General Foreman of Steam Power – Ed Ripp
General Foreman of Rolling Stock – Vacant
Training Officer for Trainmen/Conductors - Colin O'Brien
Training Officer for Diesels - Bob Dischler/Rusty Schramm
Training Officer for Steam Power - Steam/Diesel Training Committee
Superintendent of Operations – Adam Clussman / Assistant - Jeffrey Lentz
Dispatcher - Rick Thiele
Superintendent of Buildings and Ground – Andy Spinelli
Superintendent of Engineering – Nick Vertein
Roadmaster – Dave Bierman
Director of Visitor Services – Vacant
Member Services – Office Staff
Superintendent of Dining Services – Vacant
Educator – Richard Colby
Gazette and Mid-Continent News – Becca Madero / Andy Spinelli

Webmaster – Office Staff
Montana Western #31 Restorations Manager - Rusty Schramm

Motion passed unanimously.

2:32 PM: N. Vertein moves and C. Salmonson seconds to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Colin O'Brien
Vice President
Mid-Continent Railway Historical Society, Inc.