Mid-Continent Railway Historical Society, Inc.

Minutes of the December 14th, 2024 Annual Board of Directors Meeting

Date: December 14th, 2024
Location: Virtual

Roll Call:

Directors:

R. Anderson, Treasurer
D. Bierman
G. Bjorge
A. Clussman
R. Colby
J. Huttenburg, Vice President
C. O'Brien, Secretary
C. Salmonson
P. Schierloh

Other Officers:

A. Spinelli, President

Other Guests:

N. Vertein

12:04 PM: Meeting is called to order by President Spinelli.

The next regular meeting will be held on March 15th, 2025 at 12:01 PM.

The next planning meeting will be at the MCRHS office on March 15th, 2025 at 10:00 AM.

Directors C. O'Brien and P. Schierloh were elected and seated as of November 2nd, 2024. Their new term expires in 2027.

12:05 PM: G. Bjorge moves and P. Schierloh seconds to thank Roberta Wagner for her dedication and service to the museum. Motion passed unanimously.

12:06 PM: C. O'Brien moves and C. Salmonson seconds to reappoint Gary Bjorge to the Board of Directors for a term expiring in 2027. Motion passed unanimously.

12:07 PM: R. Anderson moves and J. Huttenburg seconds to approve the minutes of the September 14th, 2024 Board meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Election of Officers:

Vice President: C. O'Brien nominates and G. Bjorge seconds the nomination for J. Huttenburg as Vice President of MCRHS. C. O'Brien moves and G. Bjorge seconds to close the nominations and elect J. Huttenburg as Vice President. Motion passed with J. Huttenburg abstaining.

President Spinelli turns the meeting over to Vice President Huttenburg.

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

Vice President Huttenburg returns the meeting to President Spinelli.

Secretary: J. Huttenburg nominates and R. Colby seconds the nomination for C. O'Brien as Secretary of MCRHS. G. Bjorge moves and J. Huttenburg seconds to close the nominations and elect C. O'Brien as Secretary. Motion passed with C. O'Brien abstaining.

Treasurer: J. Huttenburg nominates and C. Salmonson seconds the nomination for R. Anderson as Treasurer of MCRHS. G. Bjorge moves and P. Schierloh seconds to close the nominations and elect R. Anderson as Treasurer. Motion passed with R. Anderson abstaining.

Legal Motions:

12:15 PM: C. O'Brien moves and D. Bierman 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 President/Manager's report was presented.

Vice President Huttenburg assumes control of the meeting.

The Financial report was presented.

The Endowment Committee report was presented.

The Elections Committee report was presented.

12:41 PM: D. Bierman moves and President Spinelli seconds to destroy the ballots from the election. Motion passed unanimously.

Vice President Huttenburg returns the meeting to President Spinelli.

New Business:

12:43 PM: A. Clussman moves and G. Bjorge seconds to distribute the endowment fund in the amount of $108,999.84 from the Board Endowed Account (Ford Porter) to Mid-Continent Railway Historical Society, Inc. Motion passed unanimously.

12:44 PM: P. Schierloh moves and C. Salmonson seconds to distribute the endowment fund in the amount of $3,509.42 from the Donor Endowed Account (MC Foundation) to Mid-Continent Railway Historical Society, Inc. Motion passed unanimously.

1:51 PM: G. Bjorge moves and J. Huttenburg seconds to approve Knapp quote for rail relay project Alternate #2 of $1,106,679.20. Motion passed unanimously.

1:52 PM: P. Schierloh moves and A. Clussman seconds to approve the Knapp quote for the replacement of crossings at Highway PF and Highway W of $135,700.00. Motion passed unanimously.

1:53 PM: P. Schierloh moves and G. Bjorge seconds to purchase 2,200 railroad ties, or 8 truckloads, at a cost of $50.90/tie for a total of $111,980.00. Motion passed unanimously.

2:11 PM: J. Huttenburg moves and G. Bjorge seconds to approve the 2025 proposed budget. Motion passed unanimously.

2:20 PM: C. O'Brien moves and P. Schierloh seconds to approve the proposed designated days open in 2025. Motion passed unanimously.

2:21 PM: D. Bierman moves and R. Colby seconds to approve the President's committee appointments for 2025 as listed below:

General Manager/Management Committee - Andy Spinelli (ch), Robert Anderson, Jeff Huttenburg

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

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

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

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

Grant Writing Committee - Richard Gruber (ch), Richard Colby, Mike Laabs, Jeff Lentz, Andy Spinelli

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

Shelter Building Committee - Jeff Huttenburg (ch), Robert Anderson, 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

2:32 PM: P. Schierloh moves and G. Bjorge seconds raising MCRY membership dues to $50 for Associate, $70 for Regular and $1,200 for Life. Motion passed unanimously.

2:57 PM: C. O'Brien moves and D. Bierman seconds to a one year trial of an advertised $5 admission to just view the display buildings and to evaluate the data from this offering after that timeframe. Motion passed unanimously.

3:25 PM: C. O'Brien moves and R. Colby seconds that Rail Car Enterprises LLC charge a $15 fee for use of bunks in Rock Island #1094 and that the fee be reviewed after one year. Motion passed unanimously.

3:27 PM: P. Schierloh moves and D. Bierman seconds to approve the Superintendent, General Foreman, and Department Head appointments for 2025 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 – Richard Colby
Training Officer of Trainmen/Conductors - Colin O'Brien
Superintendent of Operations – Jeffrey Lentz / Assistant - Adam Clussman
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 – Pat Weeden
Montana Western #31 Restorations Manager - Rusty Schramm

Motion passed unanimously.

3:27 PM: C. O'Brien moves and G. Bjorge seconds to authorize Jeff Huttenburg to destroy documents that are beyond the required retention time. Motion passed unanimously.

3:28 PM: J. Huttenburg moves and P. Schierloh seconds to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Colin O’Brien
Secretary
Mid-Continent Railway Historical Society, Inc.