Mid-Continent Railway Historical Society, Inc.

Minutes of the March 14th, 2026 Regular Board of Directors Meeting

Date: March 14th, 2026
Location: MCRHS Office

Roll Call:

Directors:

R. Anderson, Treasurer
D. Bierman
G. Bjorge
A. Clussman
R. Colby
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
M. Wahl

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

The next regular meeting will be held on June 13th, 2026 at 12:01 PM.

The next planning meeting will be at the MCRHS office on June 13th, 2026 at 10:00 AM.

New Business:

Reports:

The President/Manager's report was presented.

The Financial report was presented.

The Endowment Committee report was presented.

The Office report was presented.

The Track Department report was presented.

The Shelter Building and Restoration Building report was presented.

The Steam/Diesel Training Committee report was presented.

Membership Upgrades:

1:21 PM: G. Bjorge moves and A. Clussman seconds to approve the upgrade of Kimberly Coughlan, Gary Gylund, Grant Hoppel and Steven Krause to Life Member status and Chris Burdick, Thomas Doyle, Kimberly Johnson, Ruth Rupp, Ken Rupp, Pete Schierloh, Colton Taylor and Dean Vandenberg to Regular Member status. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business (continued):

1:22 PM: C. O'Brien moves and P. Schierloh seconds to approve the minutes of the December 13th, 2025 Board meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

1:22 PM: P. Schierloh moves and R. Colby seconds to approve the minutes of the February 16th, 2026 Special Board meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

1:23 PM: D. Bierman moves and G. Bjorge seconds to approve the Corporate Resolution. Motion passed unanimously.

1:27 PM: C. O'Brien moves and G. Bjorge seconds to approve Knapp Railroad Builders Mid-Continent Railway Depot Yard Track 2 Rehabilitation Quote November 2025 with MCRY providing ties from current supply on hand in the amount not to exceed $39,363.00 from the Rail Relay Fund. Motion passed unanimously.

1:32 PM: C. O'Brien moves and N. Vertein seconds to approve Knapp Railroad Builders Mid-Continent Railway Engine House Yard Coal Track Rehabilitation Quote November 2025 with MCRY providing ties from current supply on hand in the amount not to exceed $20,850 from the Rail Relay Fund. Motion passed unanimously.

1:35 PM: C. O'Brien moves and R. Colby seconds to approve Knapp Railroad Builders Mid-Continent Railway Quartzite Lake 100-foot End of Track Construction Quote November 2025 with MCRY providing ties from current supply on hand in the amount not to exceed $5,930.00 from the Rail Relay Fund. Motion passed unanimously.

2:00 PM: G. Bjorge moves and D. Bierman seconds to approve $50,000.00 from the Robert Chesney

Fund for a matching grant of the membership and public to fund the 1385 Restoration. Motion passed unanimously.

2:14 PM: P. Schierloh moves and G. Bjorge seconds to approve MCRY Throttle Time Program with pricing and schedule to be determined by Management. Motion passed unanimously.

2:15 PM: C. O'Brien moves and R. Colby seconds to approve the hiring of the seasonal employees listed (below) and to allow the President to hire additional employees not yet known to fill vacant jobs and to report the names of the new employees to the Directors via email. Motion passed unanimously.

2026 Seasonal Positions

Gift Shop Clerk 1: Lily Brown
Gift Shop Clerk 2: Landon Retzlaff
Grant Hoppel, Mary Spinelli - Saturday or Sunday to fill in when needed
Engineer: Rusty Schram, Robert Dischler (Tuesday-Friday)
Conductor: Grant Hoppel (Tuesday-Friday)
Trainman: Working on filling this position (Tuesday-Friday)
Custodian: Tina Hinze
Ticket Agent: Lori Liegel

Current Employees

Office Manager: Jeffrey Lentz
Office Assistant: Becca Madero
Restorations Department: Larry Tourdot, Richard Potthast
1385 Project Laborer: Thomas J. Doyle
Signal Maintainer: Joseph Slatter

2:15 PM: G. Bjorge moves and P. Schierloh seconds to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Nicholas Vertein
Secretary
Mid-Continent Railway Historical Society, Inc.