

# NEW JERSEY SHORT LINE RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

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## *MEETING MINUTES JULY 6, 2011*



THE NEW JERSEY SHORT LINE RAILROAD ASSOCIATION IS AN ORGANIZATION MADE UP OF RAILROADS SERVING THE GREAT STATE OF NEW JERSEY. THE PURPOSE OF THE ASSOCIATION IS TO ADDRESS CONCERNS AND PROBLEMS WHICH FACE SHORT LINE RAILROADS AND TO FIND MEANS OF MITIGATING PROBLEMS AND FINDING SOLUTIONS THROUGH COLLECTIVE EFFORT AND COOPERATION.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [WWW.NJSHORTLINE.COM](http://WWW.NJSHORTLINE.COM)**

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After meeting on April 7 during TransAction 2011, the New Jersey Short Line Railroad Association returned to the Conrail offices at 1000 Howard Blvd. in Mount Laurel, NJ for our July meeting. As usual, we are thankful to Karen Rosella and Ron Batory of Conrail for hosting the meeting and providing lunch. We also want to thank Ray Stahl of Conrail for helping KS Engineers to set up their audiovisual presentation.

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**Next Meeting:** Wednesday September 14, 2011  
**Location:** Conrail offices, 1000 Howard Blvd., Mount Laurel, NJ

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

<b>October 1-4, 2011</b>	<b>ASLRRA Eastern Region Meeting, Cleveland, OH</b>
<b>April 11-13, 2012</b>	<b>TransAction 2012, Atlantic City, NJ</b>
<b>April 21-24, 2012</b>	<b>ASLRRA Annual Convention, Indianapolis, IN</b>

## MEETING ATTENDEES

<u>NAME</u>	<u>COMPANY/ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>TELEPHONE NUMBER</u>
Kel MacKavanagh	MacKavanagh RR Consulting	609-704-1270
Joe Zarriello	KS Engineers	609-613-8646
Jack Perlmutter	KS Engineers	973-943-3603
Paul Gessner	GTC LLC	908-591-4418
Bill Robinson	PBF Energy	302-293-3282
Erik DeLine	Morris County	973-829-8125
Joe Bowen	NJDOT	609-530-3103
Kamal Shahid	KS Engineers	973-623-2999
James Badgley	Eastman Linnett Assoc.	609-314-4678
John McCreavy	SMS	856-467-4800
Shawn Gannon	East Jersey Railroad	201-823-5352
Rich Green	FRA	973-209-4316
Bob Dedow	FRA	732-422-5851
Bob Bailey	Port Jersey Railroad	201-232-0389
GeorgeAnne Tutunjian	Orgo-Thermit.	732-657-5781
Jim Purcell	AID, RAS, MPI	609-498-5753
Thomas Noon	FRA	732-438-6843
Tony Macrie	Seashore Lines	609-602-1264
Anne Strauss-Wieder	A. Strauss-Wieder Inc.	908-654-5144
Melissa Raduns	The Castle Group	609-261-2268
Bob DeSando	NJDOT	609-530-5032
Robert Goslin	STV Inc.	609-530-9607
William Sheppard	Atlantic Rail Services	856-983-9226
Ron Weening	ASW Inc.	908-686-8491
Scott Douglas	NJDOT-OMR	609-530-4773
Fred Winkler	Winchester & Western	856-451-6400
Harold Neil	HDS	609-638-3731
Steve Kerr	SRNJ	609-567-4190
Rick Parisi	W.J. Castle & Assoc.	609-261-2268
Miki Krakauer	NJDOT	609-530-4574
Mahendra Patel	KS Engineers	973-623-2999
Joe Conrey	NJ-OHSP	609-631-7570
William Goetz	CSX	215-209-1350
Tony Giobbie	CSX	856-778-5119
Dave Luvara	RCC of SJ	856-423-2220
Donald Hutton	NYNJR	716-553-5674

## MEETING MINUTES

NJSLRRA President Bob Bailey called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m. He followed this with a safety briefing and a round of introductions.

### **1. Presentation on bridge management programs by KS Engineers.**

Joseph Zarriello of KS Engineers was the primary presenter on behalf of his company.

Under the new federal regulations (CFR Title 49, Part 237) for Bridge Safety Standards, all Class III track owners must adopt a bridge management program by September 13, 2012. Anything longer than 20' feet is a bridge; anything carrying a load is also a bridge.

The bridge management program should:

- Contain an accurate inventory of railroad bridges.
- State the load rating –record of the safe load capacity of each bridge.
- Maintain design documents of each bridge, if available.
- Maintain documentation of all repairs, modifications, and inspections.
- Establish a bridge inspection program.

KS Engineers has developed an electronic program known as BIMS (Bridge Inspection and Management System) which can accomplish all of these tasks. The PowerPoint presentation used Metro-North Railroad's Port Jervis Line to illustrate how the program works.

If you are interested in seeing the full PowerPoint presentation, please send an email to [kelmack@verizon.net](mailto:kelmack@verizon.net) and I will send you the presentation.

KS Engineers is interested in talking to the NJSLRRA as an organization and doing a comprehensive bridge management program for our members. KS Engineers, PC is based in Newark, NJ, has 190 employees, and is a full service engineering, survey, and construction management firm. Clients include NJ TRANSIT, Amtrak, the MTA railroads and transit systems, PATCO, PATH, NJDOT and NYSDOT.

### **2. Presentation of the 2011 Benjamin J. Friedland Award to Jack Lettiere.**

Due to car suspension damage suffered in going through a construction zone while returning from a meeting in Harrisburg on July 5, former NJDOT Commissioner Jack Lettiere was unable to attend the meeting and accept the award. He will be at the September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting to finally receive the award.

### **3. Election of officers for the 2011-2013 term..**

There being no other nominations for any of the offices, the following incumbents were nominated and re-elected for new two-year terms expiring in July 2013:

President	Bob Bailey	NYNJ Rail, Port Jersey Division
Vice President	Jeff Sutch	SMS Rail Service

Secretary  
Treasurer

Kelvin MacKavanagh  
Steven Friedland

MacKavanagh Railroad Consulting  
Morristown & Erie Railway

**4. Review of the 2011 ASLRRA Annual Convention in San Antonio, TX.**

1,700 people attended the annual convention in San Antonio; this was a new record. The number of railroaders attending also established a new record.

The education portion of the convention is starting to work; the FRA has been extremely helpful.

The 2012 ASLRRA Annual Convention will be held in Indianapolis, IN on April 21-24. The Eastern Region will be hosting the convention; Steve Friedland is the convention chair. The location will be a new Marriott hotel.

Members said that Indianapolis now has many more attractions than it did years ago.

**5. Plans for the 2011 ASLRRA Eastern Region Meeting in Cleveland, OH on October 1-4.**

A conference call for this meeting was scheduled for July 7. Dave Collins of the Genesee & Wyoming is the meeting chairman; Steve Friedland will help.

The meeting will have some educational portions.

**6. Update on state and federal legislation.**

There has been no action on the two railroad-related bills introduced in the NJ Legislature in 2010, namely A.1584 which would criminalize certain actions in or on railroad property, and S.860, a bill which would increase railroad franchise and property taxes to support improvements to railroad capital facilities.

In Congress, bills proposing increases in truck sizes and weights are a concern; these would put more trucks on the highways and do further damage to highways and bridges.

PennDOT and NJDOT are opposed to increases in truck sizes and weights. An AASHTO proposal in favor of increasing truck sizes and weights failed to pass at its recent meeting.

**7. Railroad Day on Capitol Hill on July 14, 2011.**

This annual event which draws representatives of short lines, regionals, Class I railroads, rail labor, suppliers, and some customers from all over the country, will focus on the following legislative issues this year:

- Support for the extension of the 45G Short Line Tax Credit (H.R. 721 and S. 672).

- Opposition to bigger and heavier trucks by requesting senators to oppose S.112 and S. 747 and representatives to oppose H.R. 763 and H.R. 801.
- Preservation of reasonable regulation through opposition to S. 49 and S. 158.
- Preservation of the Section 130 Grade Crossing Safety Program through the support of H.R. 825 and S. 918.

The New Jersey lobbying delegation will divide up so that all of our Congressional and senators are covered.

### **8. Proposed FRA training seminar for NJ short lines.**

The proposed FRA regional seminar for NJ short lines and other passenger and freight carriers, as well as consultants and contractors, now has tentative dates of October 18-19, 2011. The location will depend on where the attendees are coming from and the availability of hotel/motel space. We will also need to have a rail yard or siding nearby for the field training. Other training will be in breakout rooms in the hotel or motel.

Training will be tailored to specific needs and request. This will include Sections 240 and 243, hazmat, PTC, signals and operating practices, etc. Since the new conductor certification rule will be out in September, Rich Green wants Joe Riley to attend. Joe is now responsible for the development and publication of this rule.

Rich Green will work with Kel MacKavanagh on arranging this seminar. Kel will be sending out more information and a detailed questionnaire to prospective attendees in the near future.

Rich Green said that a similar training seminar in Syracuse, NY in June had 60-70 people there. This was done in cooperation with the New York, Susquehanna & Western and used the NYSW yard for hands on training.

### **9. Status of NJDOT rail program grants.**

NJDOT still has \$10M in the 2012 budget for the rail program. No decisions have been made yet as to how it will be allocated. The old FY 2011 projects are still in Commissioner Simpson's office.

Bob DeSando, the new director-multimodal planning and development at NJDOT, described his duties. In the longer term he is to focus on the vision; in the short term, he is focusing on how to get things done quickly.

Bob Bailey commented that most short line projects are great economic development tools and can be accomplished in a relatively short amount of time.

### **10. Member reports.**

#### **a. CSX.**

Tony Giobbie said that 21 short lines had attended CSX hazmat training in Selkirk.

Business is good; CSX's short line connections are doing better than CSX itself.

Tony reported the following CSX personnel changes:

- Dean Piacente has been named vice president of finance. He has been vice president-chemicals and fertilizer.
- Fredrik Eliasson, who has been vice president of emerging markets, will be the new vice president of chemicals and fertilizer.
- Derrick Smith returns to sales and marketing as vice president-emerging markets. He had been vice president of finance.

**b. FRA.**

Tom Noon said that PTC is a hot item. A lot of audits are also being conducted. They are waiting for the conductor certification regulations to come out.

Bob Dedow talked about track leases for hazmat cars; these leases must be exclusive. The owning company of the track is responsible for everything , including maintenance.

**11. New business.**

Kel MacKavanagh recommended that the NJSLRRA join the ASLRRRA Legislative Policy Committee as an association. As the official photographer at the ASLRRRA Annual Convention in San Antonio, Kel had attended most of the Legislative Policy Committee meeting and participated in some of the discussion.

Joining the Legislative Policy Committee would give the NJSLRRA more of a voice in the discussion of national issues important to short lines. Among the present members of the Legislative Policy Committee are the Genesee & Wyoming, Rail America, and WATCO.

Following some discussion, the topic was tabled for further consideration at the next NJSLRRA meeting on September 14.

**Next meeting:**

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, September 14, 2011 at 10:30 a.m.** at the Conrail offices at 1000 Howard Blvd. in Mount Laurel, NJ.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:17 p.m.

Kel MacKavanagh  
Secretary, NJSLRRA  
609-704-1270

