

# NEW JERSEY SHORT LINE RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

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*MEETING MINUTES JUNE 13, 2012*



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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Once again, we thank Ron Batory and Karen Rosella of Conrail for hosting the meeting and furnishing lunch.

We were very pleased to welcome Gordon Davids and Carl Belke to the meeting. Gordon was the FRA person responsible for structures until he retired last year. Carl Belke is the president and chief operating officer of the Western New York & Pennsylvania Railroad. Carl, who still lives in New Jersey, was a regular attendee at our meetings when he worked in the area.

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**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, September 12, 2012  
**Location:** Hilton Garden Inn at Raritan Center, Edison, NJ

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

<b>July 18-20, 2012</b>	<b>Norfolk Southern Short Line Meeting, Roanoke, VA</b>
<b>September 12, 2012</b>	<b>NJSLRRA Meeting, Edison, NJ</b>
<b>October 13-16, 2012</b>	<b>ASLRRA Eastern Region Meeting, Scranton, PA</b>
<b>November 7, 2012</b>	<b>NJSLRRA Meeting, Mount Laurel, NJ</b>
<b>March 14, 2013</b>	<b>Railroad Day on Capitol Hill, Washington, DC</b>
<b>April 27-30, 2013</b>	<b>ASLRRA 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention, Atlanta, GA</b>

## MEETING ATTENDEES

<u>NAME</u>	<u>COMPANY/ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>TELEPHONE NUMBER</u>
Kelvin MacKavanagh	MacKavanagh RR Consulting	609-704-1270
Bob Bailey	NYNJ Rail	201-434-8373
Steven Friedland	Morristown & Erie Ry.	973-267-4300
Dominick Critelli	NJDOT	609-530-2847
Wendy J. Buckley	Specialty Transportation	267-324-4002
Taimur Shamali	NJDOT	609-530-3715
Joe Zarriello	KS Engineers	856-206-0892
Shri Iyer	Rutgers Univ.	732-445-6243 Ext. 274
Miki Krakauer	NJDOT	609-530-4574
Denise Bailey	Norfolk Southern	215-756-1497
John McCreavy	SMS	609-467-4800
Joe Connelly	Specialty Transportation	443-466-8190
John K. Fiorilla	Capehart & Scatchard	856-914-2054
John Scullin	Conrail	856-231-2010
Tom Bilson	Conrail	856-231-2043
Bruce Allen	Univ. of Pennsylvania	856-906-3761
Bob Tomaszewski	FRA	732-548-1809
Gordon Davids	C&S Engineers	410-647-4466
Carl Belke	WNYP Railroad	908-625-7776
Paul Mulligan	Seashore Lines	732-770-7186
Gary A. Brennfleck	NJDOT Grants Program	609-530-2912
Charles Barker	NS	215-280-8928
Tony Macrie	Seashore Lines	609-602-1264
Michael Allen	NJ Operation Lifesaver	616-218-3212
Matt Campo	Rutgers University	732-539-7425
Bob DeSando	NJDOT	609-530-5032
William G.M. Goetz	CSX	215-209-1350
Michael Fesen	NS	717-319-6870
Tom Washbon	NS	215-485-3300
John Fenton	NYSW RR	607-592-2816
Bob Celenze	CSX	856-778-5115
Arthur C. Ivins, Jr.	Hatch & Kirk, Inc.	215-499-3275

## MEETING MINUTES

Bob Bailey, the NJSLRRA president, called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. A safety briefing and round of introductions followed.

### **1. Review of the ASLRRA Annual Convention in Indianapolis on April 21-24, 2012.**

Steve Friedland, the convention chair, reported that the 99<sup>th</sup> ASLRRA Convention was the biggest ever. There were 504 railroaders in attendance. There were also 205 exhibit spaces and over 180 individual companies represented. The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary convention in Atlanta will be even bigger and set more new records.

The smooth and efficient way the convention was run was due to the work of a lot of people. Steve said that over 200 people were involved in the arrangements and operation of the convention.

### **2. Plans for the ASLRRA Eastern Region meeting in Scranton, PA on October 13-16, 2012.**

John McCreavy, the chair for this year's Eastern Region meeting, said that there is a lot of railroad history and shopping opportunities in the Scranton area. He expects over 300 people to attend the meeting. There will be a shipper panel.

The meeting will be based at the Lackawanna Station Hotel; the new convention center is across the street.

There will be a service project on Saturday, October 13.

### **3. Bridge management program presentation by Gordon Davids, chief engineer-bridges, C&S Companies.**

Gordon Davids, who was responsible for structures, including bridges, for the FRA until his retirement, made a PowerPoint presentation on the role of the bridge inspector in railroad safety and bridge management. His presentation is attached to these minutes.

Gordon began his presentation by mentioning that the ASCE report on bridges for the federal government rates railroad bridges as a C-. Gordon is the railroad representative on the ASCE infrastructure committee.

Gordon spoke about the advantages of public/private partnerships. He will be talking to the AAR, ASLRRA, and Amtrak about these.

Gordon stated that C&S Companies has sent letters to all of the railroad bridge engineers; a lot falls on their shoulders.

The FRA does not normally inspect bridges; there are only six people in the FRA bridge program.

AREMA Committee 10 publishes a comprehensive bridge inspection manual; these manuals are mailed to every railroad in the country.

**A railroad bridge** means any structure with a deck, regardless of length, which supports one or more railroad tracks, or any other undergrade structure with an individual span length **of 10 feet or more** located at such a depth that it is affected by live loads.

Class III railroads with no passenger service are required to have their bridges rated for load capacity by September 13, 2017. Class III railroads are supposed to have their bridge management program in place by September 13, 2012.

**The track owner** is responsible for the bridge management program and the safety of the bridges. The track owner may be an industry or state department of transportation. The operating railroad is only responsible if it owns the track.

More information is in the PowerPoint presentation.

One final comment Gordon Davids made is not to let a person touch bridges with a welder cutting torch. Any bridge constructed before 1916 cannot be welded.

#### **4. Report on the Villanova University Railroad Engineering Program by Leslie McCarthy, Ph.D, P.E.**

Leslie McCarthy was at the AREMA Railway Engineering Education Symposium in Kansas; this presentation has been rescheduled for our November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting in Mount Laurel.

Leslie is teaching a graduate level railway engineering course at Villanova this summer. There are 19 students in the class!

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

Dom Critelli said that the FY 2011 grants will be advanced by the end of June or early July. He can't talk about monies yet.

The goal is to have one single program. Grants will have to be requested through the SAGE (System for Administering Grants Electronically) electronic program. There will be many similarities with the old program.

Recipients will have a unique ID. Backup information will not have to be transmitted.

Railroads receiving grants will have to send progress reports before sending vouchers; NJDOT is doing its best to automate the process. SAGE should be up and running for rail within 4-6 weeks.

Applications for the FY 2013 grants should be able to begin in 4-6 weeks. There will be a public hearing shortly thereafter.

Dom Critelli again introduced Taimur Shamali, the new rail grants manager.

#### **6. Critique of TransAction 2012.**

Kel MacKavanagh stated that TransAction 2012, which was held in Atlantic City on April 11-13, went very well. There were again over 800 attendees.

TransAction 2013 will take place on April 17-19. It will also be at the Tropicana.

#### **7. Status of federal and state rail-related legislation.**

Especially since there are no more earmarks, the efforts of the House and Senate Conference Committee to pass a comprehensive transportation bill are still at a standstill after five weeks of negotiations. Senator Robert Menendez and Reps. Jerry Nadler (NY) and Bill Shuster (PA) are among the 47 members of the conference committee. The present legislation expires on June 30, 2012. There will probably be another extension of the present legislation.

NJ Assembly Bill A.1551 was discussed. This bill would shorten time periods for adverse possession of real estate to 20 years for any real estate excepting woodlands or uncultivated tracts and 30 years for woodlands or uncultivated tracts.

The bill is sponsored by Assembly members Wisniewski, Chivukula, and Coutinho. It was approved by the Assembly Judiciary Committee on June 14, 2012 and passed along to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. None of the sponsors are members of the Assembly Judiciary Committee or the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Mike Fesen of NS said that the railroads are trying to get this straightened out.

Senator Loretta Weinberg's bill, S.966, which would increase railroad franchise and property taxes to support improvements to railroad capital facilities, is the other railroad-related bill. No action has been taken on this bill since its introduction on January 17, 2012 and referral to the Senate Transportation Committee.

#### **8. Discussion of updated and expanded NJSLRRA website.**

Mike Klass, who lives in Washington State and who has been a pioneer in the development of short line railroad websites, has been updating and expanding the

NJSLRRA website ([www.njshortline.com](http://www.njshortline.com)). The website now includes much more information and links to other websites.

Dues-paying and ex officio members of the NJSLRRA have been urged to submit their information for inclusion on the website.

**9. Discussion of 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2012 SOFA Report.**

The latest SOFA (Switching Operations Fatality Analysis) report was discussed briefly. There was a short line fatality on the Gary Railway in Gary, IN on January 30, 2012, apparently as a result of close clearances and shoving as the direction of movement. Railroad members were reminded to avoid close clearances by placing cars to avoid these. Close clearances have caused fatalities for employees of all ages and years of service.

Conrail was commended for its emphasis on SOFA reports, including posting on bulletin boards in yard offices.

**10. Member reports.**

**a. Norfolk Southern.**

The NS Annual Short Line Meeting will be on July 18-20 at the Hotel Roanoke in Roanoke, VA.

**b. FRA.**

Railroads have six months left to change over to the narrow band radio frequencies.

**c. NJDOT.**

Miki Krakauer reported that the 286K gross weight on rail study is drawing to a close. The NJ freight rail plan study may be beaten by the NJ state rail plan study.

**11. New business.**

Any new business was covered under the previous items..

**Next meeting:**

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, September 12, 2012 at 10:30 a.m.** at the Hilton Garden Inn at Raritan Center in Edison, NJ.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Kel MacKavanagh  
Secretary, NJSLRRA  
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