

# NEW JERSEY SHORT LINE RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

---

*MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 12, 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)**

BOB BAILEY—  
President  
1764 Union Ave  
Hazlet NJ 07730  
732-264-7264

JEFF SUTCH—  
Vice President  
PO Box 711  
Bridgeport NJ 08014  
(856) 467-4800

STEVEN FRIEDLAND—Treasurer  
PO Box 2206  
Morristown NJ 07962-2206  
(973) 267-4300

KELVIN MacKAVANAGH -  
Secretary  
PO Box 294  
Cedar Brook NJ 08018-0294  
(609) 704-1270

We appreciate Eyal Shapira and his staff at the Raritan Central Railway hosting the meeting again and for paying the meeting and luncheon expenses at the Hilton Garden Inn. Thanks, Eyal!

We also thank Miki Krakauer of NJDOT for providing the projector and laptop for the two audiovisual presentations.

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

List of Attendees	Page 3
Meeting Minutes	Page 4

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, November 7, 2012  
**Location:** Conrail offices, 1000 Howard Blvd., Mount Laurel, NJ

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

<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 17-19, 2013</b>	<b>TransAction 2013, Atlantic City, NJ</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
Wes Weis	Morristown & Erie Ry.	973-267-4300
Dominick Critelli	NJDOT	609-530-2847
Ron Baile	Cape May Seashore Lines	609-828-9881
Taimur Shamali	NJDOT	609-530-2715
Mike Luczkiewicz	Winchester & Western RR	856-451-6400
Shri Iyer	Rutgers Univ.	732-445-6243 Ext. 274
Miki Krakauer	NJDOT	609-530-4574
Jonathan Babbitt	ACS LLC	401-864-9009
John McCreavy	SMS	609-868-1342
Joe Connelly	Specialty Transportation	443-466-8190
Bob Dedow	US DOT/FRA	732-422-4876
Martin Robins	Rutgers	908-233-3891
Jack Lettiere	Lettiere Consulting	609-217-5266
Bruce Allen	Wharton School	856-429-3391
Bob Tomaszewski	FRA	732-548-1809
Eyal Shapira	Raritan Central	617-388-3446
GeorgeAnne Tutunjian	Orgo-Thermit	732-773-5037
Brian Dry	Orgo-Thermit	609-280-8057
Gary A. Brennfleck	NJDOT Grants Program	609-530-2912
Charles Barker	NS	215-280-8928
Chris Mazzei	M&E Rail	973-2674300
Michael Allen	NJ Operation Lifesaver	609-929-6421
Joe Bowen	NJDOT	609-947-9409
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
Ronald S. Weening	AS-W Inc.	908-654-5144
Arthur C. Ivins, Jr.	Hatch & Kirk, Inc.	215-499-3275
Donald B. Hutton	NYNJR	201-433-0360
Alan Kearns	NJ TRANSIT	973-491-8582
Jim Blaze	Harsco Zeta-Tech	856-340-8671 (cell)
Paul Gessner	GTC LLC	908-591-4418
Dave Luvara	Railroad Construction Co. of South Jersey	856-423-2220
Tom Noon	FRA	732-438-6843
Trevor Hengehold	Raritan Central Railway	617-459-8533

---

---

## MEETING MINUTES

Bob Bailey, the NJSLRRA president, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. This was followed by a safety briefing and a round of introductions. Bob then thanked Eyal Shapira for hosting the meeting.

### **1. Presentation by Joe Connelly of S.T.A.R.S. (Specialty Transportation and Regulatory Services Consulting).**

Joe Connelly previously worked for the Federal Railroad Administration and Rep. Oberstar in the House of Representatives as a staff member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

During his PowerPoint presentation, Joe Connelly highlighted the following areas:

a. Safety and Security Plans (49 CFR 172.800).

The railroad must consider risk vs. vulnerability.

b. Unauthorized access (49 CFR 802(a)2).

Joe recommended that the railroad talk to its local police so that they will be alert to persons attempting to access the railroad property.

c. Training Requirements (49 CFR 172.704).

STARS has six people. These individuals have EPA, FRA, and ISO certification backgrounds.

STARS has handled \$250,000 in fines in South Jersey during the past seven months.

The STARS website is [www.STARSConsulting.org](http://www.STARSConsulting.org). The contact phone number is 267-324-4002.

### **2. Critique of Norfolk Southern Short Line Meeting on July 18-20, 2012.**

Charlie Barker reported that 380 people attended the meeting in Ro; they ran out of hotel rooms. There were 337 breakout sessions. There was also a tour of a local municipal solid waste landfill.

Norfolk Southern's short line and regional railroad connections account for 13-15 percent of all NS carloads.

Wes Weis of the Morristown & Erie said that the meeting was a big improvement over previous years.

### **3. Update on the ASLRRRA Eastern Region Meeting in Scranton, PA on October 13-16, 2012.**

John McCreavy, the meeting chair, outlined the highlights of the meeting program:

- A service project on Saturday, October 13.
- A train ride through the fall foliage on Sunday afternoon, October 14.
- Conductor certification compliance training.
- Shipper panel.
- Energy independence panel.
- Panel on doing business with a short line.
- Class I short line panel.

The dinner on Monday evening will honor Bob Bailey, who is in his final term as ASLRRRA's vice president of the eastern region.

### **4. Plans for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ASLRRRA Convention in Atlanta, GA on April 27-30, 2013**

The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention will be the largest ASLRRRA convention ever. It will be held at the Marriott Marquis in Atlanta. Atlanta was selected as the site because the Southern Short Line Conference, a predecessor of the ASLRRRA, held its first meeting there in 1913. Over 2,000 people will be attending the convention; lots of these will be from railroads.

Site visits have already been made by the planning staff. Exhibit space is expected to go quickly once it opens up to registrants.

### **5. NJSLRRRA website updates.**

Mike Klass, our webmaster, is continuing to update the website. Members who have paid dues should add their information to the website.

### **6. Status of NJDOT rail grants.**

Dom Critelli announced that he learned minutes before leaving the office for the meeting that eight rail projects from FY11 had just been approved for a total of \$6.6 million in grants. The recipients are:

- Belvidere & Delaware River Railway
- J.P. Rail (Southern Railroad of New Jersey)
- Morris County DOT
- Salem County
- New York, Susquehanna & Western Ry. (2 projects)

- Winchester & Western
- SMS Rail Service

Details of the grants have since been announced in a NJDOT press release.

The recipients will receive formal offer letters from NJDOT. NJDOT will also follow up with state grant agreements. Dom hopes to use the SAGE (System for Administering Grants Electronically) system for these grants. He also hopes to open SAGE for the next program year.

Dom Critelli would like to do online training for SAGE. The SAGE letter is archaic, but not that difficult to use; it is similar to the current version of Windows. Dom suggests printing out the entire agreement.

Dom recommended that the grant recipients not incur any costs until the agreement is executed. They should wait for the next construction season. NJDOT grants fund only construction. The recipient is responsible for costs of design, permits, legal fees, etc.

Dominick said to send him an email ([Dominick.Critelli@dot.state.nj.us](mailto:Dominick.Critelli@dot.state.nj.us)) if you want to know about SAGE for electronic agreements.

#### **7. Presentation of the current draft of the NJ State Rail Plan by Miki Krakauer.**

Miki began her presentation by explaining why there is a rail plan. It is being done for the following reasons:

- Meet federal mandates.
- Advance rail funding.
- Providing a framework for investment.
- Summarize and focus New Jersey' rail planning.

The 16-slide PowerPoint presentation is attached to the minutes.

#### **8. Update on Conrail safety meetings.**

Kel MacKavanagh attended the Conrail South Jersey safety meeting at Pavonia Yard in Camden on July 12. Mike Kraft is the new chair of the Conrail South Jersey Safety Committee.

The Conrail safety committee procedures have been revamped. All members will only gather quarterly. During the intervening months individual members will inspect specific situations in the field in groups of two or three persons.

At the meeting, members were urged to check customer sidings for wide gauge and tripping hazards.

There was a lot of discussion at the meeting about keeping employees' minds focused on their job and also about ways to recognize employees for safety achievements.

Kel mentioned that there is a great article about Conrail in the October issue of Trains Magazine.

**9. Status of federal rail-related legislation, including the 45G tax credit extension.**

MAP-21, the two-year transportation bill passed by Congress in June, did little for the railroads except keep truck sizes and weights at the current limits.

Regarding the 45G tax credit extension, although the number of co-sponsors now includes majorities in both the House and Senate, it will have to become part of an extenders bill in order for its provisions to go back into effect. The 45G tax credits expired at the end of December 2011.

**10. NJ legislation, including stormwater runoff bills.**

A.2641, an active bill in the NJ Legislature, would authorize creation of stormwater utilities for certain government entities. These would be financed through user fees. Mike Fesen of NS said that other states are also looking at these. CSXT is looking at where stormwater runoff comes from.

There has been no action on Senator Weinberg's bill (S.966) on railroad franchise taxes.

**11. FRA rules:**

Since Rich Green was unable to attend the meeting, there was no discussion about these.

**12. Member reports.**

**a. CSXT.**

Bill Goetz said that a new second rail is being installed at Port Reading Jct. He also commended Dominick Critelli of NJDOT for his help.

**b. Norfolk Southern.**

NS second quarter income was down 6 percent. The Portland, PA and Martins Creek, PA coal-fired power plants are switching to gas.

**c. NJDOT.**

Miki Krakauer said that NJDOT is moving ahead on the 286K issue.

**13. New business.**

Any new business was covered under the previous items.

**Next meeting:**

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, November 7, 2012 at 10:30 a.m.** at the Conrail offices at 1000 Howard Blvd. in Mount Laurel, NJ.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:09 p.m. Before adjournment, Bob Bailey again thanked Eyal Shapira for hosting the meeting.

Kel MacKavanagh  
Secretary, NJSLRRA  
609-704-1270



