

# NEW JERSEY SHORT LINE RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

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*MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 10, 2014*



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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We want to thank once again Ron Batory and Karen Rosella of Conrail for hosting this meeting and providing lunch. We also thank Conrail's Zachary Maras for his help with the audiovisual presentations.

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**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, December 10, 2014 at 10:30 a.m.  
**Location:** Conrail Offices, 1000 Howard Blvd., Mount Laurel, NJ

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

<b>March 28-31, 2015</b>	<b>ASLRRA Annual Convention, Orlando, FL</b>
<b>April 21-23, 2015</b>	<b>TransAction 2015, Atlantic City, NJ</b>

## MEETING ATTENDEES

NAME	COMPANY/ORGANIZATION	TELEPHONE NUMBER
Kelvin MacKavanagh	MacKavanagh RR Consulting	609-704-1270
Bob Bailey	NYNJ	201-434-8373
Arthur C. Ivins, Jr.	Hatch & Kirk	215-499-3275
Michael Fesen	Norfolk Southern	717-319-6870
Polina Knaster	HDR Engineering	201-310-8521
Jim Blaze	Zeta Tech Harsco	856-828-9681
Ron Baile	Seashore Lines	609-781-3062
Bob Robie	ANA Laboratories	856-931-0011
Paul Mulligan	Seashore Lines	732-770-7186
Steven Harl	Conrail	856-231-2075
Allen Richter	Conrail	856-231-2261
Joe Zarriello	KS Engineers, PC	609-613-8846
Thanh Le	NJDOT	
Jakub Rowinski	NJTPA	973-639-8443
John K. Fiorilla	Capehart & Scatchard	856-914-2054
Tony Macrie	Seashore Lines	609-602-1264
Steve Friedland	M&E	973-267-4300
Lee Onyx	R.L. Banks	609-313-7394
Taimur Shamal	NJDOT	609-530-3715
Gary A. Brennfleck	NJDOT	609-530-2912
Miki Krakauer	NJDOT	609-530-4574
Michael R. Weinman	PTSI Transportation	201-933-5530
Carol Staubach	HCM	610-701-0629
John Ward	PS Technology.	610-212-3670
Tony Giobbie	CSX (Retired)	609-932-4528
Kristen Nitschke	SMS Rail	856-467-4800
Joe Bowen	NJDOT	609-847-9409
John B. Fenton	NYSW Railway	607-592-2816
Tom Noon	FRA	732-397-3095
Ronald S. Weening	AS-W, Inc.	908-686-9082
Rich Semenick	HDR	212-542-6028
GeorgeAnne Tutunjian	Orgo-Thermit	732-657-5781
Michael Allen	NJ Operation Lifesaver	609-929-6421
Robert Farrar	Maser Consulting	609-675-8181
Michael Burns	Maser Consulting	856-797-0412

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## MEETING MINUTES

NJSLRRA President Bob Bailey called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. After a safety briefing, there was a moment of silence in memory of the victims of the attacks on 9/11. A round of introductions followed.

### **1. Presentation on the new proposed revision to Part 219 (Drug and Alcohol) of the FRA Regulations (John Ward, PS Technology).**

John Ward's PowerPoint presentation is attached with the minutes. Some of the highlights of his presentation are:

- The NPRM modifies the term "Joint operations."
- While the small railroad (15 or fewer covered employees) definition remains, federal reasonable suspicion testing and federal pre-employment drug testing will now be required, as well as training for supervisors.
- The major train accident threshold for FRA post-accident testing will be raised to \$150,000.
- Small railroads will remain exempt from random testing.
- MofW personnel will now be classified as "regulated employees."
- HOS employee work will still be referred to as "covered service," but will now also be called "regulated service."

### **2. NJ Short Line Participation Opportunity (Jim Blaze, Harsco).**

Jim Blaze of Harsco actually made two PowerPoint presentations, both of which are included with the minutes.

The first presentation describes how technology can be used to test the capability of bridges to handle heavier axle loadings of 286K gross weight on rail. These electronic sensors are more accurate than the typical strain gauges. Ten of these devices can be purchased for \$16,000.

The second presentation covered the technical training offered by Harsco Rail. As part of this technical training, Harsco Rail is offering to the NJ Short Line Railroad Association an opportunity to participate in a one day **free** technical seminar on continuous welded rail maintenance (CWR); this seminar has a value of \$15,000.

This seminar would be open to one student from the NJSLRRA membership, including CR, CSX, and NS as NJSLRRA members, and two NJDOT representatives.

Further information about both of these subjects is available from Jim Blaze at [jblaze@harsco.com](mailto:jblaze@harsco.com) or by calling his mobile phone (+1-856-340-8671).

**3. Review of NS Short Line Meeting on June 18-20 in Roanoke, VA.**

Steve Friedland (ME) and John Fenton (NYSW) both attended the meeting. They reported that NS did a good job; there were lots of meetings and discussions.

**4. Latest SOFA report: 2014 is not a good year for short lines and regionals.**

There has been one fatality on the Alabama Warrior Railroad and two very serious injuries (amputations) on the Pan Am Southern and Nashville & Eastern.

Bob Bailey again reminded everyone to be safe; the critical years for employees are their first five years and the last five years.

**5. Canadian Transportation Safety Board Final Report on the Lac-Megantic, Quebec tragedy.**

The Board has issued a comprehensive report of 191 pages regarding this accident. The report, which includes maps, photographs, and timelines, is available on the website, [www.tsb.gov.ca](http://www.tsb.gov.ca) The report is titled **Railway Investigative Report R13D0054**.

**6. Report on ‘Managing Derailments over Rivers’ USCG presentation in Bensalem Twp., PA on September 9, 2014.**

Michael Allen of NJ Operation Lifesaver attended this meeting along with 50 firefighters and first responders. There were positive comments about CSX and NS. The Coast Guard said the railroad is our friend.

**7. Upcoming Conrail Table Top Training Exercise on September 11 and 13.**

Allen Richter of Conrail, who is a member of the AAR Tank Car Committee, said the exercise would be set up as an incident command structure for a Conrail derailment involving crude oil. The exercise will respond to a specific location and recovery. About 70-80 persons are expected to attend; the exercise will finish by 1:00 p.m. Everyone at the meeting was invited to attend.

**8. ASLRRRA Eastern Region meeting in Hershey, PA on September 13-16.**

Steve Friedland, an ASLRRRA Board member, said that about 250 persons were registered. There will be a service project at the Pennsylvania National Guard Museum on Saturday, September 13. Positive Train Control, Operation Lifesaver, and training sessions will be part of the program. There will also be sandhouse sessions.

Linda Darr, the new President-elect of the ASLRRRA, will not be at the meeting because of prior commitments; she will not begin work at the ASLRRRA headquarters until October 1.

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

There have been 14 applications for the \$20 million available. This includes unspent funds from prior years. The statutory public hearing on these applications will be held on **Thursday, September 25, from 10:00 am. to 12:00 noon at NJDOT headquarters at 1035 Parkway Ave. in Trenton (Ewing Twp.).**

### **10. Proposed topics for TransAction 2015.**

Kel MacKavanagh stated that the TransAction Steering Committee held a meeting on August 8 to begin planning for TransAction 2015. The conference will be at the Tropicana in Atlantic City on April 21-23.

Kel suggested the following topics for consideration as sessions:

- Results of the USDOT truck size and weight study.
- Reconstruction of the Delair and Paulsboro bridges.
- Tourist railroads in NJ.
- Port Authority of NY & NJ reorganization.
- Port of NY and NJ productivity issues.
- The NJ gasoline tax: Pennsylvania's benefits from increasing the gasoline tax in PA.
- Distribution centers in NJ: how can we make them more efficient; what are their needs?

Kel said that if anyone has suggestions for additional topics, please let him know by mid-November; TransAction planning will be well along by that time.

### **11. Update on federal and state rail related legislation.**

H.R. 721 and S.411, the bills covering the 45G tax credit for short lines, are now sponsored by a majority of members in both houses of Congress. However, further action will probably not take place until the lame duck session of Congress after the November elections when they will be added to a larger spending bill.

H.R. 3551, the bill requiring independent inspectors for railroad bridges, still has no co-sponsors. It was originally filed by former NJ Rep. Rob Andrews.

Nothing is happening on the Metal Theft Prevention Act of 2013 (S. 394) or H.R. 3040, the Safe Freight Act.

New bills which have been filed are S. 2365, which would prohibit the long term storage of rail cars on certain railroad tracks unless the Surface Transportation Board has approved the rail carrier's car storage plan, and S. 2478, The Short Line Railroad Safety Enhancement Act of 2014.

Another new bill is H.R. 4576, which would require the Secretary of Transportation to establish a fatigue management plan, and for other purposes.

The Senate and House did pass bills, with only a few co-sponsors, to redesignate 30<sup>th</sup> Street Station in Philadelphia as the “William H. Gray 30<sup>th</sup> Street Station.” The late Rep. Gray was a well-known Congressman in Philadelphia and former head of the House Budget Committee.

No action has been taken on any railroad-related bills in the New Jersey Legislature. A. 842, the bill which would permit cities of the first class to operate weigh stations and inspect vehicles and railroad cars transporting hazardous materials within their jurisdiction, is the only railroad bill there at the moment.

## **12. Member reports.**

Mike Fesen of NS, who is now the president of the Railroads of New York, the state’s railroad association, said that his summer has been occupied with dealing with concerns from officials in Albany about rail shipments of crude oil. Railroads have done a lot of awareness training.

Mike said that there is a proposal for a crude oil pipeline from Albany to Linden, NJ. Crude oil now moves to Linden by rail and barge.

## **13. New business.**

New business was covered under the previous items.

### **Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of the Association will be on **Wednesday, December 10, 2014, at 10:30 a.m. at the Conrail offices at 1000 Howard Blvd. in Mount Laurel, NJ.**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:23 p.m.

Kel MacKavanagh  
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