

MINUTES OF THE November 14, 2018 MEETING OF THE NEW JERSEY RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

These minutes are in a different format because my computer crashed a few weeks ago, losing all of my files. Now have a new computer and am working on recovering the files and addresses.

Kel MacKavanagh, Secretary

New Jersey Railroad Association

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan. 30-31, 2019** **Short Line Railroads – GIS Opportunities Workshop, Overland Park, KS**
- April 7-10, 2019** **ASLRRRA Convention, Orlando, FL**
- April 16-18, 2019** **NJ TransAction Conference, Atlantic City, NJ (revised dates)**
- May 8, 2019** **Railroad Day on Capitol Hill, Washington, DC**

1. Opening remarks and safety briefing (Bob Bailey).

NJRRA President Bob Bailey began the meeting at 10:34 a.m. with a safety briefing. He thanked Eyal Shapira and the Raritan Central Railway for hosting the fall meeting once again. The round of introductions of persons attending the meeting was postponed until the arrival of NJ Senator Patrick J. Diegnan, Jr. A scanned attendance list is attached to these minutes.

2. NJRRA 2019 dues structure (Kean Burenga).

Kean Burenga started his presentation with a tribute to Bob Bailey. Bob has been President of the Association since it was formed; this was his last meeting as President. Kean said that Bob has been the greatest advocate for short lines in his work for 25 years.

As a background for the discussion of the dues structure, Kean said that idea of hiring a lobbyist was first discussed at a meeting at Conrail in November 2017. The idea was discussed further at the NJSLRRA meeting at Conrail on January 17, 2018.

At a subsequent meeting of the Association's officers and Board of Directors on March 16, the group decided to change the name of the Association to the New Jersey Railroad Association (NJRRA) and adopt new bylaws. These were approved by proxy by the members of the Board which consists entirely of the railroad members.

Kean said that the Association will continue to work on improving the bylaws.

The Association is going forward with the hiring of a lobbyist from a short list.

The hiring of a lobbyist is expected to cost the Association approximately \$36,000 annually. In order not to alienate anyone, CSXT and NS have agreed to contribute \$12,000 each. Seven other railroad members (BRW, CR, DRRV, NYNJ, NYSW, SLRS, and the WW) have said they will each contribute \$2,000. Vendors will be asked to make similar pledges.

The upshot of this is that dues will not increase in 2019!!

Regarding the hiring of a lobbyist, John McCreavy said that a job description for the lobbyist has been written out. The Legislative Committee will set the agenda for the lobbyist.

John said that the new committees (Legislative, Bylaws, Finance, and Membership) will be more active; we need Associate Members to join these committees.

3. Remarks by Senator Patrick J. Diegnan, Jr., Chair, NJ Senate Transportation Committee.

President Bob Bailey had everyone at the meeting introduce themselves before the Senator began his remarks.

Senator Diegnan represents the 18th District in Monmouth County. Among the towns in his district are Metuchen, Edison, East Brunswick, and South Plainfield. He is a graduate of Seton Hall University and Seton Hall Law School. He succeeded Senator Bob Gordon as Chair of the Transportation Committee.

Senator Diegnan said that rail freight is not remotely on the Committee's radar screen. He wants to have a dialogue with railroads and to hear from us on issues. He supports the hiring of a lobbyist.

Senator Loretta Weinberg's hazmat and bridge inspection bill, S.1883, was discussed. Senator Diegnan said that Senator Weinberg wants "transparency." She wants bridge inspection reports because of concerns about the railroad bridge over the Oradell Reservoir. S.1883 was easily approved by the Senate. The companion bill in the Assembly is A.3783; it has five primary sponsors and is still in the Transportation and Independent Authorities Committee.

When he was told that Senator Sweeney had addressed the Association in February, he said that Senator Sweeney is "the gold standard."

4. Impact of election results on NJ railroads.

There will be new representatives in Congress for us to meet with at Railroad Day on Capitol Hill on May 8. New Jersey now has eleven Democrats and one Republican in the House of Representatives.

Don Hutton who is President of the Railroads of New York, said that New York has flipped.

5. NJDOT rail grant status.

Bhavin Kapadia said that there have been nine applications for rail grants; The requests total \$30.5 million.

There have been retirements at NJDOT. One of these is Deven Patel; Deven usually represented NJDOT at our meetings for the past few years. We thank Deven for all of his help and wish him well during his retirement.

Genevieve Clifton now heads up the rail section at NJDOT. We hope to have her address us at a future meeting.

6. Election of NJRRA officers for the calendar year 2019.

Election of officers was postponed. They will be conducted by written ballot in the near future.

7. GIS and Railroads (John Betak, PhD).

John, who helped to bring GIS (Global Information Systems) to the railroad industry, gave an excellent summary of opportunities which are available to short lines. These are described in the attached paper entitled *Short Lines and GIS*. It also covers The Short Line Railroad Users Group and the Short Line Railroads – GIS Opportunities Workshop which will be held in Overland Park, KS on January 30-31, 2019.

8. Review of ASLRRRA Eastern Region Meeting on October 9-10 in Burlington, VT on October 8-10.

The meeting was a good one; total attendance was approximately 200 persons, almost evenly split between railroads and suppliers. Doug MacDonald, CN's Senior Vice-President, Rail Centric Supply Chain Growth in the Sales and Marketing Department, was the featured speaker.

The meeting began with a train ride on the Green Mountain Railroad. Jerry Hebda, the retired President of the railroad, was on the train. Jerry was one of the persons responsible for saving rail service in the state of Vermont.

The Eastern and Southern Regions of the ASLRRA will continue to have separate meetings; at the 2017 Eastern Region meeting, the merger of the Eastern and Southern Regional Meetings was discussed.

9. Member reports.

a. Norfolk Southern.

Mike Fesen said that there is a water runoff bill in the NJ Legislature. It may assess fines for violations by property owners and may include track. Some railroads have a ban on sewage treatment. Sewage treatment is very expensive.

Mike also said that Norfolk Southern will move its headquarters from Norfolk to Atlanta in 2020 or 2021. It already has numerous employees there. The headquarters will be in a new building in "The Gulch."

Denise Bailey announced that she will retire on March 1. New Jersey short line railroads will be covered by Mike Moen out of Norfolk. Mike has been to some of our previous meetings, including as recently as the September 19, 2018 meeting.

b. Rutgers AREMA Chapter.

Xiang Liu said that the Rutgers AREMA Chapter will have an event in 2019.

c. FRA.

Tom Noon briefly mentioned the Safety Train for hazmat.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:12 p.m. The next meeting will be scheduled at a later date.

Kelvin MacKavanagh, Secretary

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