

**NRHS Emergency Board Meeting
Via Zoom
December 20, 2023**

President White called the meeting to order at 9:11PM.

Housekeeping – President White asked that all members raise hand when speaking or want to speak. This way no one is talking over anyone.

Attendance – Ellen Scott

First Name	Middle	Last Name	Title	Present	Absent
Tony		White	President	A	
Joe		Maloney	Vice President		X
Ellen		Scott	Secretary/Director	A	
Ralph	Robert	Bitzer	Treasurer/Director	A	
Scott		Andes	Director	A	
Kevin		Feeney	Director		X
Eric		Fogg	Director	A	
John		Goodman	Director	A	
Skip		Waters	Director	A	
Charlie		Webb	Director	A	
Jon		Baake	Director		X

A = Present, X = Absent

Also in attendance were John Fiorilla, General Counsel and Robert Ernst, NRHS Fund President

Heritage Grants – Charlie Webb. Charlie has spoken to both Bob Bitzer and Bob Ernst regarding the grants amount. He was advised by that the amount is doable. Charlie is proposing that the grant amount for 2024 be \$125,000 based on the 2023 grant applications. He stated that the NRHS does not have to fund the entire amount. We have given a total of \$1,200,000 in grants since its inception. Bob Ernst advised that we met the \$5000 grant match. That money will be seen in January. \$33,300 will come from the Freeman Trust Grant and \$12,000 in donations. Unrestricted funds will make up the difference.

The 2024 grant deadline is January 31. This is the last of the Freeman Trust Grant monies. Bob Ernst and John Fiorilla will be applying to see if there are more grant monies to come from them.

Scott Andes moved that we fund Heritage Grants in the amount of \$125,000 for 2024, seconded by Ellen, approved by all.

New Chapter – Charlie Webb and Skip Waters. Charlie explained that he was contacted by a group wanting information on grants. They were advised that they needed to be a chapter or be endorsed by one. They have already preserved the station and are in the process of obtaining a caboose. The group is a part of the Lafayette County Historical and Genealogy Society, Inc. They have seven members who have already sent in applications to be charter members. They will be known as the Southwest Wisconsin Chapter. The Letter of Intent was sent to all the BOD members prior to the meeting. Discussion followed regarding charter members and what is the cut off time frame. Skip made a motion to accept the Southwest Wisconsin Chapter. Seconded by Scott, motion approved.

Skip questioned the actual charter should be going to Wichita Falls and now Southwest Wisconsin. Discussion followed about who would be sending them out. A suggestion was made that Ellen contact Joe Maloney as he may know. John Fiorilla advised that he has the charter for Tri-State in his office. He will send a copy to Ellen. She will work on finding someone to do the calligraphy or if it can be done like the Pin Award Certificates.

The requirements for forming a chapter are listed on the Web.

The dates for RailCamp are: RailCamp East is June 23-29 and RailCamp West is August 4-11.

A next meeting date was questioned. The thought was maybe having a meeting at Iowa Traction May 3-5. Tony will look into it. The meetings at the convention will be on August 28. Further dates are unknown at this time. Locations are very hard to come by.

There being no further business, John Goodman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Skip. The meeting was adjourned at 9:56PM.

Respectfully submitted.

Ellen Scott
Secretary

Minutes approved February 28, 2024.