

# Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad Commission Meeting Minutes

10:00 a.m. – Tuesday April 21

Chama Senior Center

2449 US Hwy 84-64, Chama NM 87520

1. Meeting Called to Order 10:02 by Commission Chairman Dan Love
2. Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Billy Elbrock
3. Acknowledged contribution from Stephanie Gray
4. Introductions – Jerry Rutherford for State of NM – as with last year, the capital outlay money was stripped from NM. The railroad is not the issue. The governor has moved the priorities to road projects. Consider writing a letter and encourage others to write. He furnished a list of contacts.
5. Group introductions -
6. Approval of Agenda – Commissioner Randall moved to approve, Commissioner Foster seconded the motion, motion passed.
7. Approve the Minutes from January 21, 2015 – Commissioner Elbrock moved to approve, Commissioner Randall seconded the motion, motion passed.
8. Presidents Report – John Bush
  - a. Train Operations Report – John Bush – Filmed Carhartt commercial (Jason Mamo production). Filmed a movie for the Discovery channel of the Gunslingers. Operated a 3 day charter out of Antonito in March for Colorado Preservation. The line is now open and the Chama cars have been taken over to Antonito for painting and lettering. Will run a full schedule this year, adding 4 additional Sunset trains, and a concert with Chris Collins at Osier. We ran an Earth Day clean-up train in Antonito to pick up trash. We included 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders and taught them about environment and community. Thanks also to Mike Armenta.
  - b. Maintenance and Repair Report –Track crew working on Cascade Creek Trestle, completed 1472 on 487, final inspection on May 5. Full roster of 5 functional steam locomotives.
  - c. Reservation Report –John Bush – We are currently up over 800 reservations from this time last year.
  - d. Marketing Report – Lee Bates – Marketing updates given. Commissioner Randall asked John to discuss the impact on the RR if we don't get NM funding. Primary is track and locomotive projects. Without funding, we will have to park 488 which will be due for its 1472. There are no good options. The track improvement, including ties and ballast, would result in a slowed program. We have elected that at the end of this year, we won't run a full crew this winter.
9. Finance Manager Report
  - a. Financial Report –George Canham- Completed process of the chart of accounts with help from Ed Beaudette. Next week we file for future CO appropriations. We will also start selection of a new audit firm from New Mexico (last 3 years from CO). Policy states we need to change every three years. Commissioner Randall asked where we are for the end of March. George states that our revenues are down as well as offsetting expenses, so we are not out of sync for what we budgeted. Factors that affected this were gift shop inventory and higher coal prices.
  - b. Capital Project Report –John Bush and George Canham –The plan puts us in the position to start FY 16/17, with lack of NM funding, we will be in a very tough position. John added that efficiencies that we have created at the management level and the employee level and the commitment from our employees has helped us to get this far. Randy added that we will be out of funds, and we will have to have balances to pay upfront and get reimbursed.
  - c. Chairman Report\* – Commissioner Love stated that on the CO side, the appropriation for the C&TS is sitting on the Governor's desk. He sees no funding issues from CO. The other good news is that we have been successful in getting the by-way project designated in CO. Steve Kaverman, representative for Tracks Across Borders By-Way program stated that the CO side is approved. We have been through 2 steps in NM and have received unanimous support from NM also. They have an 11 member commission to manage, marketing, fundraising, etc. Typical annual budget will be determined.

- d. Vice Chairman Report – Commissioner Randall –Governors conference on Tourism will be in Santa Fe. Celebrate tourism in Santa Fe is on April 30. The C&TS will be there.
  - e. Secretary Report – Commissioner Foster - Appreciate the effort of Keith Hayes regarding background info on the section houses.
  - f. Treasurer Report – Commissioner Elbrock – Nothing to report.
10. Friends of C&TSRR Report – Tim Tennant
- a. General info – work sessions are planned, 1900 people are registered. Always recruiting for more members. Bob Ross and Tim are attending the conference is 2 weeks to discuss the railroad. Donor train is planned for May 31. We have annual meeting Friday, the 19<sup>th</sup> of June to the pavilion. Commissioner Randall offered that we would furnish 2 tickets for them to draw for at the coming events/conventions. Commissioner Love asked is the friends had found out info as to the C&TS a becoming a World Heritage Site. Commissioner Love asked about plans to interact with volunteers out of CO? It is an ongoing dialogue. Commissioner Love asked about the status of sleeper car 470. He suggests that people visit the Historic Car Project tent in Antonito.

11. Unfinished Business\* -

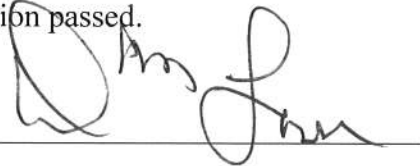
a.

10. New Business\*

- a. Tony Mortillaro, Executive Director of Northern NM RTD – RTD Plan – They were providing 3 days of fare-free service to Chama. Discussed departure and arrival times and stops.
- b. Approve/Disapprove FY 15/16 CTO Budget – Commissioner Randall moved to approve budget as presented with the concept that it is a conceptional budget with adjustments that were identified in the work session, Commissioner Elbrock seconded the motion. Discussion. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. Approve/Disapprove FY 15/16 Commission Budget - Commissioner Randall moved to approve budget as presented with the concept that it is a conceptional budget with adjustments that were identified in the work session, Commissioner Foster seconded the motion. Discussion. Motion carried unanimously.
- d. Approve/Disapprove Contract Amendment for Toltec Gorge Catering -Commissioner Elbrock moved to approve, Commissioner Randall seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- e. Approve/Disapprove Amendment to Policies and Practices regarding personal credit card use – Commissioner Elbrock moved to approve, Commissioner Foster seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- f. Approve/Disapprove Contract for Community Relations Liaison Position – Commissioner Elbrock moved to approve the contract for Kim Smith-Casford, Commissioner Randall seconded the motion with corrections to the Addendum, discussion. Motion carried unanimously.
- g. Approve/Disapprove to Adopt Resolution for Open Meetings – Commissioner Foster moved to approve, Commissioner Randall seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.
- h. Affirm date of July 16, 2015 for next Commission Meeting. Will be in Antonito at the Parish Hall.

11. Other Business – Dee Bates commented on public input. Recommended idea that a mini gold course be put in on the C&TS property on the east parcel.

12. Adjournment – 12:15 Commissioner Elbrock moved to approve, Commissioner Randall seconded the motion, motion passed.



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