

Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad Commission Meeting

C&TSRR Commission Minutes

July 30th, 2016 9:00 AM

Conejos Parish Hall

1. Meeting was called to order by Chairman Randy Randall at 9:02. The Commission had a quorum.
2. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Elbrock
3. Introductions – Introduce Railroad of San Luis Valley Project Group called “Ghost Rails in the San Luis Valley.” The three young ladies qualified for state competition.
4. Approval of Agenda – Commissioner Elbrock moved to approve with change of moving the financials to the front of the reports, Commissioner Love seconded the motion as amended, motion carried.
5. Approve the Minutes from April 2016 – Commissioner Love moved to approve, Commissioner Elbrock seconded the motion, motion carried.
6. Presidents Report – John Bush
 - a. Train Operations Report – We will have the Christmas trains again this year for 2 weekends. John noted that the C&TSRR was voted in first place in the USA Today “Best Train Ride. We had a large rock fall onto the track near rock tunnel on July 4.
 - b. Maintenance and Repair Report – 38,000 tons of ballast will be required before the track can be considered in maintenance mode. We plan to install 8000 ties this year, and with 4500 next year, which will complete the track upgrade and go in to the maintenance mode. Locomotive 488 is waiting for new super heater flues.
 - c. Reservation Report – Ridership is at 13,112 compared to 12,291 in 2015 to date.
 - d. Historic Car Fleet update – John Bush noted that we have signed the grant for car #292 upgrade and are continuing to work on the RPO65.
 - e. Tracks Across Borders Byway update – The group has filed for non-profit status, are working on development of the brochure and web site. The media train carried 27 media writers, which was a huge increase from 2015. CNN recently filmed an episode of the “Great Big Story”, featuring Engineer Jeff Stebbins. In August, we will be featured in Colorado’s AAA cover story. We are running a new special – The Botany or Wildflower train. We have printed 278,000 brochures this year. The railroad and the Friends are now producing a new PBS special that features the Friends and the train.
 - f. Marketing Report – Lee Bates stated that we are on target to meet 40,000 riders this year.
7. Financial Report – George Canham
 - a. Fiscal Year End 2015/2016 report – George Canham shared the preliminary FY end financials. Commissioner Randall commented that the profitability exceeded the budget.
 - b. Capital Projects Report – George Canham gave update.
8. Commissioner Reports
 - a. Chairman Report* – Randy Randall / finance / NMDOT grant report – Randy stated that he is very proud of the C&TSRR being voted #1 in the USA Today “Best Train Ride”. NM is experiencing a revenue shortfall and they are looking at two options. Thank you to Ed Beaudette, Operations Manager, for all his hard work. Thank you also to Roger Hogan for his video coverage of the C&TSRR.
 - b. Vice Chairman Report – Lucy Kay / marketing – Lucy is absent.
 - c. Secretary Report - Billy Elbrock / local affairs – Kim Smith Casford is working on the website and with the business partners to get updated information. She is expanding out of our outlying communities. She was asked to accompany the NM PRC Representative to Texas and appreciates the Commissions support.
 - d. Treasurer Report – Dan Love /capital projects – Since the upgrade program was started years ago, we have made huge progress. Colorado has continued to provide the same level of capital funding for the last four years. Dick Cowles commented that the upgrade has been done efficiently and at about half the cost that was first estimated.
9. Friends of C&TSRR Report – Tim Tennant
 - a. General info- The Friends had another successful night train. Six of the seven work sessions are now complete. Bob Ross stated that he now has eight new docents. The Board meeting for the fall

will be coming up in October. They are over 2500 members now. They are taking the lead in making us a World Heritage Site.

10. Unfinished Business*

a.

11. New Business*

- a. Approve/disapprove Village contract renewal for lease of two properties owned by RR. Commissioner Elbrock moved to approve the lease of two parcels of property to the Village of Chama, Commissioner Love seconded the motion, motion carried.
- b. Approve/disapprove contract for G Berry Group – Commissioner Love moved to accept the contract with the G Berry Group, Commissioner Elbrock seconded the motion, motion carried.

12. Meeting was adjourned at 10:32 am.



Commissioner Billy Elbrock