

NMRA Mid-West Region Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes for May 5, 2024

The Meeting was called to order by President Bob McGeever at 10:30 a.m. (EDT). Secretary Connie Coy called the Roll.

Members present: Bob McGeever, Connie Coy, Steve Studley, Jim Landwehr, John Coy (Proxy for Robert Perry), Jim Osborn, Denis Zamirovski (Proxy for Mike Hirvela), Michael Roderick, Prescilla Roderick, John Poray, David Mashino, Art Dawson, Jr., Gary Baker, Dan Banks, Mike Lehman, Ron Johnson, Rod Thomson (Proxy for Greg Bueltmann), Keith Thomsen

Members absent: Phillip Burnside, Ron Sharping, Mike Hirvela, David Lieder, Thomas Ose, Robert Perry, Alex Schneider, Burnell Breaker, Paul Hillmer, Greg Bueltmann

Guest: Marty Hendrickx

Bob McGeever welcomed the newly elected Directors at Large to the Meeting.

1. The Minutes of the November 2023 meeting were presented for approval. Dave Mashino moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Prescilla Roderick. Motion carried.

2. Committee Reports were presented for Discussion

a.) Steve Studley and Dan Banks reported on the Convention, saying it was well received, had good space for the presentations and layouts. A profit is expected from the show. New NMRA Members are expected as a result of this show as well.

b.) It was proposed that the MWR not hold a convention in 2025 and instead be held with Trainfest as in the past. Moved by Dave Mashino, seconded by John Poray. Discussion that the 2026 Convention be held in the second weekend of November 2026 along with Trainfest. It was suggested that this be done with the collaboration of a group of MWR Divisions from Wisconsin. Dan Banks has created a guide to help those planning that convention. Motion carried.

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c.) Steve Studley reported that the Nominating Committee will be preparing a slate of candidates for the 2025 Election with the vote occurring in January 2025. Slate for President, Vice President and 3 Directors at Large will be provided in early November.

d.) Jim Landwehr noted that his AP reports are posted quarterly in the Waybill. He noted that he wants all AP SOQs to go through the Division AP Chairs who will verify for completeness and legibility and sign off on them before sending them to the Region AP Chair. Further, the AP SOQs are being put on the internet in a format that can be filled out online and sent to the Division AP Chairs. This information was well received by the BOD.

With no other discussion of Committee reports, Dave Mashino moved to accept the Committee Reports and have them placed in the record; seconded by John Poray. Motion carried.

2. Director at Large reports were presented. Dave Mashino moved to accept DAL reports and place them on file; seconded by John Poray. Motion carried.

3. Division Director reports were presented. Dave Mashino moved to accept Division Director reports and place them on file; seconded by John Poray. Motion carried.

4. Officer Reports were presented.

a.) Bob McGeever stated that the RAC meetings were poorly attended in person in recent years and have now gone to using ZOOM with great success in member participation. He also stated that train shows are a great way to promote the hobby and grow the NMRA.

b.) Keith Thomsen resigned after 11 years' service as Treasurer of the Region, effective June 1, 2024. He will assist whoever succeeds him in the transition. The Board thanks him for his service to the region.

Dave Mashino moved and John Poray seconded that Officers reports be accepted and placed on file. Motion carried.

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5. Old Business:

- a.) Bob McGeever announced that Marty Hendrickx has become the Illinois Business agent for the MWR D&O.**
- b.) Jim Osborn requested acceptance of the election results. Prescilla Roderick moved to do so; seconded by John Poray. Motion carried.**
- c.) Jim Osborn also requested that the election paper ballots be destroyed. Gary Baker moved to destroy the ballots; seconded by Dave Mashino. Motion carried.**

6. New Business:

- a.) Jim Osborn requested the Region pay for the Constant Comment contract be renewed at a cost of \$700 due June, 2024. John Poray moved; seconded by Dave Mashino to approve the expenditure. Motion carried.**
- b.) Jim Osborn presented a plan to change the webhost to Hostinger. He stated that the Fox Valley Division will split the cost, paying half of the contract fee. Dave Mashino moved for the MWR spend up to \$1200 for the webhost with FVD paying one half of the contract fee. John Poray seconded. After discussion, the Motion carried.**
- c.) Bob McGeever presented information about Trainfest. Trainfest 2024 is not an NMRA sponsored event. Beginning inn 2025, the NMRA will resume sponsorship of Trainfest and will celebrate the NMRA's 90th anniversary. Trainfest will return to its former location at the State Fairgrounds in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. It will be a family event and train show and will be made an event that will be fun for those Divisions who work to host the show. Going forward Trainfest will be held the second weekend of November.**
- d.) Bob McGeever also gave an update on the WISE Division. The Wise Division will be applying for reinstatement at the 2024 Fall MWR Board Meeting.**
- e.) Bob McGeever suggested that all future MWR Board meetings be held via ZOOM, just as the RAC is now doing. Sunday is problematic for many, so he suggested we move to the first Saturday in April and the first Saturday in**

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November, beginning at 10:00 a.m. to 12 Noon (Central Time). The Executive Committee will check bylaws and make any changes required. Dan Banks moved to change MWR BOD meetings to ZOOM meetings held the first Saturdays of April and November; seconded by Gary Baker. Motion carried.

f.) Other:

1.) Denis Zamirowski suggested that planners of future tours of train yards, buildings, etc. be certain to check with the hosts to make certain that visitors can move safely over tracks.

2.) Ron Johnson wanted future model judging to be separate from displays at conventions. He also suggested that the contest be held again.

3.) Gary Baker discussed how the IVD is now 60 years old. He said that at the Springfield Show the IVD provided a portable layout for children to run, which was never without eager children to run it. He sees this as a great way to promote the hobby among younger people. Dan Banks also states that the CID has been offering display shows in local libraries with great success in attracting younger families into the hobby.

7. Set Date, Time for next MWR BOD Meeting: Bob McGeever stated that the next MWR BOD meeting will be via ZOOM on November 2, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. to Noon (Central Time).

8. Adjourn: There being no other business, John Poray moved that the meeting be adjourned; seconded by Dave Mashino. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Jones Coy

Connie Jones Coy, MWR Clerk/Secretary