

# NEW JERSEY SHORT LINE RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

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## *MEETING MINUTES JUNE 21, 2017*



THE NEW JERSEY SHORT LINE RAILROAD ASSOCIATION IS AN ORGANIZATION MADE UP OF RAILROADS SERVING THE GREAT STATE OF NEW JERSEY. THE PURPOSE OF THE ASSOCIATION IS TO ADDRESS CONCERNS AND PROBLEMS WHICH FACE SHORT LINE RAILROADS AND TO FIND MEANS OF MITIGATING PROBLEMS AND FINDING SOLUTIONS THROUGH COLLECTIVE EFFORT AND COOPERATION.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [WWW.NJSHORTLINE.COM](http://WWW.NJSHORTLINE.COM)**

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We want to thank **Tim Tierney** and the Conrail staff for hosting this meeting back in Mount Laurel. Special thanks go to **Kathy Pitt** for making the arrangements and all of the hot and cold food for lunch.

Thanks, too, to **Steve Hart, Zachary Maras, and Chris Reeder** for their help in setting up the audiovisual presentations. They were the keys to the meeting.

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**Next Meeting:** Wednesday September 13, 2017 at 10:30 a.m.  
**Location:** Conrail offices at 1000 Howard Blvd. in Mount Laurel, NJ

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**October 22-25, 2017 ASLRRA Eastern Region Meeting, Providence, RI**

## MEETING ATTENDEES

<u>NAME</u>	<u>COMPANY/ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>TELEPHONE NUMBER</u>
Kelvin MacKavanagh	MacKavanagh RR Consulting	609-704-1270
Bob Bailey	Munro Associates	201-232-0389
Thomas Jedic	Norfolk Southern Police Dept.	201-297-1394
Chris Schulte	FRA	610-521-8201
Jim Turcich	PBLRR	215-592-2775
Donald B. Hutton	NYNJR	201-433-0360
Bob Lee	Jersey Central FCU	908-272-3040
Michael Allen	NJ Operation Lifesaver	609-929-6421
Jim Pfeiffer	SMS Rail	610-739-3729
Bill Everett	Rockwell Collins	410-279-5538
Emily Traiforos	GoRail	602-330-6460
Jim Orgill	NJ OHSP	609-584-4269
Mike Luczkiewicz	Winchester & Western Railroad	856-451-6400
Robert Sheppard	Winchester & Western Railroad	856-451-6400
Art Amador	Winchester & Western Railroad	856-451-6400
Andrew Smith	DHS	202-875-1034
Michael Weinman	PTSI Transportation	201-933-5530
GeorgeAnne Tutunjian	Orgo-Thermit	732-773-5039
Pat Abusi	RCCSJ	856-423-2220
Lisa Tackach	RCC Paterson, NJ	973-413-1814
Dale Errico	RCC Paterson, NJ	201-697-1761
Ed Williams	RCC Paterson, NJ	201-289-1691
Steven Friedland	NJ TRANSIT	973-769-2505
Joseph Zarriello	KS Engineers, PC	856-206-0892
William Sheppard	Atlantic Rail Services	609-781-0896
Rodney Oglesby	CSX	610-660-7729
Art Ivins, Jr.	Hatch & Kirk	215-499-3275
Ron Mathewson	Zurich N.A.	201-602-8887
Ron Baile	Seashore Lines	609-828-9681
Tom Noon	FRA	732-397-3095
Joe Bowen	FRA	201-249-2759
Gary T. White	FRA	732-570-5352

## MEETING MINUTES

NJSLRRA president Bob Bailey began the meeting at 10:31 a.m. with a safety briefing. This was followed by a round of introductions.

### **1. Presentation on FRA Rules on Roadway Worker Protection (Chris Schulte, FRA).**

Chris Schulte is the acting deputy administrator for FRA Region 2. He has been with the FRA for 24 years.

There was a presentation on the FRA rules for roadway worker protection by Dave Kannenberg, the new administrator for Region 2, and JR Gelnar, vice president-safety and compliance for the ASLRRA, at the ASLRRA Convention in Grapevine, TX in April. Kel MacKavanagh requested that the presentation be made at this NJSLRRA meeting.

Chris began his presentation by citing employee roadway worker fatalities this year on the BNSF in January and on the Long Island Rail Road in June. The deaths occurred because the employees failed to clear the railroad. He emphasized that if an employee is within **four feet** of the track, the employee is **fouling the track**.

Ten years ago there were **no** roadway worker fatalities in the railroad industry.

Chris said that under the rules, an employee is not only an employee of the railroad but also that **a contractor working for the railroad is an employee**. They should have onsite training, going far beyond a job briefing.

Among his recommendations were:

- Create an inaccessible track by putting derails beyond the work area.
- Put a flag on the derail.

Chris Schulte's full presentation is attached to the minutes.

### **2. Nomination and election of NJSLRRA officers for the two-year term beginning July 1, 2017.**

Since Jeff Sutch decided not to run for another term as vice president, John McCreavy of SMS was nominated to succeed him. John is the current chair of the Surface Transportation Board's Railroad-Shipper Transportation Advisory Council (RSTAC).

Bob Bailey, Kelvin MacKavanagh, and Steve Friedland agreed to run for another two-year in their respective positions.

There being no other nominations, the following were elected by acclamation as officers for the two-year term beginning July 1, 2017:

President                      Robert Bailey

Vice President	John McCreavy
Secretary	Kelvin MacKavanagh
Treasurer	Steven Friedland

### **3. TransAction 2017 critique.**

Kel MacKavanagh said that there were about 1,000 people at this year's TransAction Conference on April 4-6 in Atlantic City. The Steering Committee has not yet had its wrap-up meeting.

There was an excellent panel session on Railroad Bridge Inspections with presentations by Amtrak, Conrail, and NJ TRANSIT. Kel can send copies of these slide presentations to anyone who is interested.

Kelvin said that he does not know what the railroad topics might be for TransAction 2018. However, he does want to have a session dealing with everything which is going on in the motor carrier industry.

### **4. Review of ASLRRA Convention in Grapevine, TX on April 22-25, 2017.**

The Convention was excellent with approximately 1,500 attendees. There were more exhibit spaces than ever. There were over 40 breakout sessions and a train ride. BNSF also presented its drone program.

### **5. Review of Norfolk Southern Short Line Meeting in Norfolk, VA on May 22-24, 2017.**

Members who attended the meeting said that it was a good one. NS wants to improve its relationships with short lines.

### **6. Status of NJDOT rail grants.**

Bob Bailey said that the language for the new grant criteria hasn't been changed yet; it currently states that the railroad must serve a port, thereby ruling out all of the NJ railroads which do not serve ports.

The railroads met with NJDOT recently; hopefully there will be something in the next ten days.

NJDOT has moved forward with projects which have been approved and funded.

### **7. Update on federal and state rail-related legislation.**

All of the rail-related bills in Congress are still in committees. The status of the 45-G tax credit bill (H.R. 721) was discussed. Only two NJ representatives, Donald Norcross (D-1<sup>st</sup>) and Albio Sires (D-8<sup>th</sup>) have signed on co-sponsors thus far; Donald Payne, Jr. (D-

10<sup>th</sup> ) has since been added. Neither Senator Booker nor Senator Menendez has yet signed on as a co-sponsor of the companion bill in the Senate.

Since there are only 195 or so co-sponsors in the House, this is short of the majority needed to have it attached to an omnibus spending bill. We agreed that we will work harder to obtain more co-sponsors among New Jersey's twelve representatives in the House.

In New Jersey, Senate Bill 806 has been passed by both the Assembly and the Senate and is awaiting Governor Christie's signature. This bill would require the owner or operator of a railroad to submit discharge response, cleanup and contingency plans and railroad bridge inspection reports to the NJ Department of Transportation.

Conrail, CSX, and Norfolk Southern have sent a joint letter to Governor Christie requesting that he veto this bill on the grounds that many of its provisions are pre-empted by federal law, especially language in the FAST Act. We are awaiting a decision.

#### **8. Review of NJ Freight Advisory Committee meeting on June 2, 2017.**

Since the meeting agenda was only sent out one day in advance, Kelvin MacKavanagh was the only railroad person there.

74 railroad physical constraints, mostly unfunded, were reviewed at the meeting. These will be discussed further at the next meeting. This will be July 20, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. at WSP's office in Lawrenceville, NJ.

#### **9. Jersey Central Federal Credit Union presentation (Bob Lee).**

Bob Lee gave an overview of this credit union which has its roots at the CNJ going back to 1937, and only works for railroads. Conrail, CSXT, NJ TRANSIT, Norfolk Southern and some short lines are among its members. All New York New Jersey Rail employees are now members.

It is a fully serviced credit union and is part of a shared branching network with 6,000 other credit unions. It also participates in 40,000 no fee ATM machines. The credit union does do mortgages also.

The credit union's office is at 23 North Avenue East in Cranford, NJ 07016. Its website is [www.jerseycentralfcu.com](http://www.jerseycentralfcu.com). The phone number is 888-772-3040.

Bob Lee said that the credit union offers very personal service; there are no hidden fees. He hopes to personally visit NJSLRRA members.

**10. Railroad Law Enforcement Safety Manual presentation.**

Tom Jedic of the Norfolk Southern Police and Mike Allen reviewed and discussed the plans for a railroad law enforcement safety manual for New Jersey; it will be similar to the manual used in Michigan. CSXT, NS and Conrail (Neil Ferrone) are putting the manual together; John Fiorilla will proofread it.

Printing cost for the manual will be about \$5,000. Funding donations will be requested.

Tom Jedic does a lot of instruction about railroads for local police and fire departments. For example, he tells police that a railroad engineer is not required to have a driver's license. He will do a safety presentation for as few people as one person.

He needs updated NJ short line contact information.

**11. Member reports.**

**a. NJ TRANSIT.**

Steve Friedland, now also in a new position with NJ TRANSIT's Rail Division, said that the Penn Station project in New York will begin in about two weeks. NJT is working with the Dover & Rockaway River Railroad (DRRV) which will take over the lines owned by Morris County on July 1. The Morristown & Erie Railway (ME) has operated these lines.

**b. FRA.**

Joe Bowen said that railroads can reach out to him for help on hazardous materials; he will give them the links. Joe's email address is [joseph.bowen@dot.gov](mailto:joseph.bowen@dot.gov). His phone number is 201-249-2759.

Gary White said that he is referring Positive Train Control (PTC) questions to the FRA's Larry Warren.

Gary also stated that NJ TRANSIT has reached out to the NJ short lines which operate over its tracks about the implementation of PTC; the deadline is December 31, 2018.

**c. New York New Jersey Rail (NYNJR).**

Don Hutton told the group that the NYNJR will receive two new rail barges by September. The barges will have four tracks and be 59 feet wide, the present car floats are 41 feet wide.

The Greenville project will improve the yard and have hydraulic lift bridges. These will be the same design as the Alaska Railroad's. However, the Alaska Railroad bridges have to handle an 18-foot difference between high and low tides; the NYNJ only has a six-foot difference between high and low tides.

**d. Xiang Liu Recognition.**

Kel MacKavanagh announced that Xiang Liu, Ph.D, who heads up the railroad engineering education program at Rutgers University, has been named as the New Jersey Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers as its Educator of the Year.

**Congratulations, Xiang!**

**12. New business.**

New business was handled under the previous items.

**Next meeting:**

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, September 13, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. at the Conrail offices at 1000 Howard Blvd. in Mount Laurel, NJ.**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

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