

NEW JERSEY SHORT LINE RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 17, 2018



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.

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We want to thank **Kathy Pitt and Tim Tierney** of Conrail for hosting the meeting and providing an especially delicious lunch. The meeting attendance was the largest in years, perhaps ever.

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Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 28, 2018, at 10:30 a.m.
Location: Conrail offices at 1000 Howard Blvd. in Mount Laurel, NJ.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 4-5, 2018	CSXT Short Line Workshop, St. Augustine, FL
March 7, 2018	Railroad Day on Capitol Hill, Washington, DC
April 7-10, 2018	ASLRRA Convention, Nashville, TN
April 17-19, 2018	TransAction Conference, Atlantic City, NJ
April 23-24, 2018	AARS Derailment Investigation Seminar, Philadelphia, PA
June 11-12, 2018	SafeRail 2018, Washington, DC
July 22-23, 2018	AARS Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL
Oct. 8-10, 2018	ASLRRA Eastern Region Meeting, Burlington, VT

MEETING ATTENDEES

NAME	COMPANY/ORGANIZATION	TELEPHONE NUMBER
Kelvin MacKavanagh	MacKavanagh RR Consulting	609-704-1270
Bob Bailey	NYNJ/Munro	201-232-0389
Bob Ryan	RR Real Estate Consultant	973-220-8963
Nicole Minutoli	NJDOT	609-530-2080
Max Patel	NJDOT	509-530-2900
Nathan Fenno	NYS&W	607-547-2555
Michele Malski	SLSI	570-498-0935
Tom Murta	SLSI	202-585-3446
Rodney Gordon	Conrail	856-231-2004
Andrew E. Smith	DHS/PSA	202-875-1034
Tim Tierney	Conrail	6856-231-2021
GeorgeAnne Tutunjian	Orgo-Thermit	732-657-5781
John McCreavy	SMS	856-467-4800
Jocelyn Hill	Conrail	609-760-5906
Michael Fesen	Norfolk Southern	717-319-6870
Chad Grinnell	Norfolk Southern	781-718-1774
Michael Allen	NJ Operation Lifesaver	609-929-6421
Mike Stephenson	TransCAER	551-777-0631
Lisa Tackach	RCC Paterson, NJ	973-413-1814
Michael R. Weinman	PTSI Transportation	201-933-5530
Ron Baile	Seashore Lines	609-828-9881
Steven Friedland	NJ TRANSIT	973-491-8761
Ronald E. Sobel	SMART TD	609-396-1994
Tom Noon	FRA	732-397-3095
Lee Onyx	Consultant	609-313-7374
John K. Fiorilla	Capehart Scatchard	856-914-2054
Michael J. Centeno	Conrail	856-231-6488
Joe Soto	Conrail	617-388-3446
Joe Garofolo	Conrail	856-231-2013
Robert Conley, Jr.	Conrail	313-530-2175
Steve Hart	Conrail	856-231-2075
Moe Megali	Conrail	973-690-2701
Rodney Oglesby	CSX	610-842-2116
R. Jonathan Venckus	NJ Operation Lifesaver	973-204-2593
Gary T. White	FRA	973-570-5352
Ron Klempner	Jersey Marine Rail	201-840-0766
Paul Mulligan	Seashore Lines	732-770-7186
Tony Macrie	Seashore Lines	609-602-1264
Arthur C. Ivins, Jr.	Hatch & Kirk	215-499-3275
Cathrin O'Donnell	Chesapeake & Delaware LLC	443-235-9240
Scott Harris	Chesapeake & Delaware LLC	833-752-1849 Ext. 707
Kean Burenga	Chesapeake & Delaware LLC	908-787-9600 Ext. 704
John G. Gaul	PTSI Transportation	917-578-7064
William H. Sheppard	Atlantic Rail Services	609-781-0896
Joseph D. Riley	FRA (retired)	845-489-4468



MEETING MINUTES

NJSLRRA President Bob Bailey began the meeting at 10:32 a.m. with welcoming remarks. These were followed by a safety briefing and a round of introductions.

1. Current status of NJDOT rail grants.

Nicole Minutoli and Max Patel said that \$25M will be awarded to cover ten projects, all of which are new. Thirteen projects were submitted before the September 15, 2017 deadline. Approval is expected in two weeks.

Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti, the new NJDOT Commissioner, will begin her official duties next week.

2. American Association of Railroad Superintendents (AARS) presentation (Rodney Gordon/Joe Garofolo, CR).

Rodney Gordon of Conrail, the current president of the Association of Railroad Superintendents, opened the presentation by describing the Association's history. Founded in New York in 1881, the organization has outlived the Interstate Commerce Commission (1887-1995). It has had 121 annual meetings; this year's will be in Chicago on July 22-23.

The Association serves the networking, education, and development needs of railroad operations, leadership and management of Class I, regional and short lines, and passenger railroads, suppliers, and representatives of government and regulatory agencies. It is now especially reaching out to younger railroaders.

The PowerPoint presentation is attached.

Mike Weinman described the AARS meetings as a mini - graduate school in railroad operations. There is also a small trade show.

This year's meeting will have a tour which will include the IHB's CNG filling station.

Of local interest, there will be an AARS Derailment Investigation Seminar at the Sheraton Philadelphia University City Hotel on April 23-24, 2018. More information about this, and the AARS, is on its website, www.supt.org.

3. Short Line Safety Institute (SLSI) (Tom Murta, Executive Director).

Tom Murta and Michele Malski presented an overview of the Short Line Safety Institute. Its vision is to cultivate the environment where the short line and regional railroad industry performs at an increasing high level of safety.

Its mission is to enhance the safety culture and safety performance of short line and regional railroads through meaningful and productive partnerships.

Its pillars are:

- Safety culture assessments.
- Education.
- Communication.
- Research.

The Short Line Safety Institute has done 43 independent safety assessments in 24 states, reaching 4,147 railroaders. Its goal is to do 24 safety assessments annually.

The safety culture training mentioned in the attached presentation was done after lunch.

4. 2018 NJSLRRA dues.

Most of the dues invoices were sent out in mid-December. Payments are being received.

5. TransAction 2018 (April 17-19) update.

Kel MacKavanagh said that the TransAction Steering Committee met on January 11 to consider some 170 topic suggestions for sessions. Since there were at least 15-20 sessions which needed to be cut after the meeting, another meeting is scheduled for January 24. The final number should be 72 sessions.

All of the freight railroad sessions will be on April 18. There will be a Positive Train Control session moderated by Steve Sullivan of R.L. Banks & Associates. Representatives of Amtrak, Conrail, and NJ TRANSIT will be invited to be panelists.

Consultant and former Conrail AVP John Betak will have a session tentatively titled **GIS, Big Data and Small Railroads.**

John Fiorilla will have a session, **Railroading-Fifty Years of Change.**

6. Rail-related bills introduced in the new NJ Legislature.

Kel MacKavanagh stated that only one bill using the key word of 'railroad' or 'railroads' has been introduced thus far. The bill is S.475; it would exempt federal Railroad Retirement Act benefits from income for purposes of calculating eligibility for the senior

freeze program. This bill was introduced by Senator Robert W. Gordon of District 30; his district office is in Lakewood, NJ.

Mike Fesen of Norfolk Southern said that Senator Loretta Weinberg will reintroduce S.806, the hazmat bill which would require all hazmat routes to be put on websites. Although the bill is still strongly opposed by the railroad industry and was conditionally vetoed by Governor Christie, it will pass this time.

7. Status of railroad-related bills in the US Congress.

Kel MacKavanagh said that there are currently 137 bills in the Second Session of the 115th Congress which contain the word 'railroads' somewhere in the text. These bills are still in committees.

The short line railroad industry is continuing to push for the renewal of the short line investment tax credit which expired on December 31, 2016.

Kel said that he did not think that short line and regional railroads made enough money to receive any benefits from the reduction of the corporate income tax rate in the recently passed Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

8. Railroad Day on Capitol Hill on March 7, 2018.

Railroad Day will be on a Wednesday this year instead of the traditional Thursday. Other changes are:

- The host hotel will be the Washington Marriott Marquis at 900 Massachusetts Avenue NW.
- Attendees who are just going to the morning orientation and continental breakfast and then to visits on Capitol Hill will pay a \$50.00 registration fee.
- There will be an evening Legislative Reception at Union Station instead of the Legislative Dinner. The cost for attending the reception is \$150.00.

During our visits during Railroad Day on Capitol Hill we will focus on extending the 45G railroad tax credit, preserving balanced regulation, and bringing about a more balanced transportation policy.

9. ASLRRRA Convention in Nashville, TN on April 7-10, 2018.

Convention registration and hotel reservations are now open. Check www.aslrra.org for more information, including the program which is being fleshed out. Click on 'ASLRRRA Connections'.

The 1988 Convention in Nashville was the first time attendance exceeded 1,000 persons. It was also the second time there were exhibits.

10. Member reports.

a. Norfolk Southern.

Mike Fesen said that the railroads will do what they can to halt the passage of S.806 in the NJ Senate; it will pass in the Assembly. They will have to meet with a lot of people.

Despite belief that Positive Train Control can solve everything, it will not stop all derailments.

New York State is opposed to the storage of cars on a short line in the Adirondacks. Railroads have cars are stored at a number of locations elsewhere in New York State.

b. CSX.

Rodney Oglesby said that the NJDOT does not want to post the bridge inspection reports done on railroad bridges.

c. FRA.

Gary White urged the railroads to keep training.

Tom Noon said that the railroads need to show progress on implementing Positive Train Control. Everyone is behind schedule.

d. PTSI Transportation.

Mike Weinman announced that three new people have joined PTSI, including John Gaul who came with Mike to the meeting. John Wisniewski, who just retired from the NJ Assembly after serving there for 21 years, will also work with PTSI.

Mike commented in detail about the fatal derailment in Washington State on December 18, 2017. PTSI had worked for some time on a route learning program for Sound Transit and had demonstrated it to them. However, Sound Transit decided that they did not need the program, although the employees would have learned the operating rules and physical characteristics of the route.

Mike said that PTSI has a light version of the Route Learning Program for short lines and regionals.

e. Hatch & Kirk.

Art Ivans said that usable core material for 567 and 645 engines is becoming harder to find and that prices of parts for these engines were going up because we have to use more new parts. There is no shortage of parts, just higher prices, especially for the 567 engines. "Don't let locomotives with these engines rust away."

11. New business.

Bob Bailey initiated a discussion regarding whether or not the New Jersey Short Line Railroad Association should hire a lobbyist to represent the railroads in Trenton. This could mean a substantial increase in the dues charged to NJSLRRA members.

This subject will be discussed in more detail at the June meeting of the Association.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, February 28, at 10:30 a.m.** at the Conrail offices at 1000 Howard Blvd. in Mount Laurel, NJ.

We hope to have NJ Senate President Steve Sweeney attend the meeting. John McCreavy is working with Senator Sweeney's scheduler to accomplish this. The NJ Legislature is not in session that day.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:17 p.m.

Kel MacKavanagh
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609-472-8748 (cell)

