

NPRHA Grant Policy

Approved July 19, 2009

Background

The mission of the NPRHA is to “Preserve the History of the Northern Pacific Railway.” The Association does this in many ways through the:

1. Publication of the *Mainstreeter* and annual Calendar;
2. Operating our Joint Archive at Jackson Street Roundhouse;
3. Making information available through our web site;
4. Making small contributions to various preservation projects when requested.
5. Promoting the publishing of NP-related books, articles, models and DVDs for the rail-fan market;

Our current Grants policy deals specifically with the restoration of the NP equipment and buildings and limits gifts to two per year, totaling no more than \$2,000. This policy was adopted when the NPRHA was much smaller and had not established a track record of organizational stability. Since the NPRHA founding in 1981, the various fund raisers and Company Store have produced significant funds over and above that needed to sustain the operations listed above, and which are currently not designated for specific purposes. It is clearly time to review and adopt a policy to designate the use of the accumulating funds between the Association’s operating commitments and preservation activities.

Grant Policy (Proposed)

The following points form the proposed new policy

1. First priority for NPRHA funding is the continuation of operating items 1 through 3 of the Association listed above.
2. The policies of Appendix A precluding the NPRHA from owning or maintaining structures or equipment are reaffirmed and must be continued.
3. Each year by June 30, the treasurer will present a budget for the coming twelve months to the NPRHA Board for review and approval. The budget will project the funds derived from all sources, the funds committed to Operating Activities and not yet expended on previously approved Preservation Projects. The balance of funds remaining will be accumulated as Preservation Funds. Each of the funds will be placed in identified accounts and reported separately on the NPRHA financial statements.
4. At its annual Convention, the NPRHA Board will designate three members to sit as the Grant Review Committee. During the coming year the Committee will review all Grant requests submitted, rank the projects meeting the basic requirements as shown in Appendix B, and recommend the funding levels for each project if it is subsequently adopted by the Board.
5. The Grant Review Committee will consider proposals only for projects being done on a not-for-profit basis.
6. Based on the approved budget, the Board may approve grants during the next twelve months, as recommended by the Grant Review Committee, aggregating to no more than ten percent (10%) of the preservation funds accumulated to that date.

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Appendix A: Policy on Support for Restoration & Maintenance of Structures & Equipment (Adopted by the Board of Directors, July 11, 2001)

Finding:

From time to time the NPRHA receives requests seeking financial support for restoring or maintaining former Northern Pacific Railway structures and equipment. There are many such efforts going on across the former NP system. The NPRHA supports such activities in ways other than direct financial aid. The cost of restoring and maintaining a structure or piece of equipment can be thousands of dollars on a continuing basis. A better use of the Association preservation resources is to support important NPRHA activities such as articles in *The Mainstreeter*, presentations at the annual convention, the creation of books, and providing information generally.

Policies:

1. The preservation resources of the NPRHA are best used to acquire, preserve, and make available informational and photographic material.
2. In a few cases, the purpose of restoration may be to create a railroad oriented museum. In such cases, after the local participants have demonstrated serious commitment to such a purpose, the NPRHA may make a one-time donation for the purpose of assisting the local organization in their fund-raising efforts by showing they have the support of the NPRHA.
3. The criteria for making such a donation shall include:
 - a. There is a responsible organization running the project.
 - b. The project has a reasonable chance of success.
 - c. It does not duplicate similar efforts in the region.
 - d. NPRHA support can be expected to have a significant impact.
 - e. There is a significant collection of NP items to display when the project is complete.
4. The NPRHA is not obligated to make any such donations and if it should do so, it shall not make more than two donations in any calendar year and shall not donate more than \$2,000.00 in any calendar year.

Appendix B: Preservation Grant Requirements (Proposed)

Each individual or organization applying for NPRHA Preservation Grant funding will submit a summary of the proposed project. To qualify for funding, the proposed project must be about an aspect of the Northern Pacific, its predecessors, or shared operations, as well as being a not-for-profit effort. The summary must include:

1. A detailed description of the proposed project and the objectives to be met.
2. The background of the organization or individuals involved in the project, including similar successful projects in which they have been involved.
3. A schedule timeline for the project showing significant milestones.
4. The projected overall budget of the project with a description of each element.
5. The requested amount of the grant funding from the NPRHA.
6. Other funding anticipated or being sought.
7. Provide a report on the project to the Committee Chair by June 30th of each year the project is active..