

Depot Report of April 2026

The Rolling Stock Committee has received a report from Air Tech regarding its lead testing. The soil and debris on the ground is safe and can be removed as general debris. The presence of lead paint on the cars will be handled properly as further blasting and painting proceed. The committee is preparing a scope of work for approval and will be requesting bids for the project.

The Grant Committee submitted the Stage 1 documents for a 2027-29 Heritage Capital Project Grant, requesting \$339,000 toward a Zone 1-4 interior restoration project which addresses the demolition and restoration of the main waiting room, women's waiting room, ticket office and restroom areas, as well as design and supervisory assistance from Design West Architects. Since all HCP grants require a 2/3s match, the sum of \$783,507 in matching funds accounted for since 2023 has been identified. The more detailed Stage 2 documents are due toward the end of May. If awarded, this work could possibly begin in the fall of 2027. Meanwhile the committee is attending a series of training webinars and gathering all the required documents.

The Fundraising Committee is planning materials for a "Help Push Us Over the Top" campaign, focusing on the train car project. They are awaiting a determination of a budget from the Rolling Stock group. The anticipated funds from the Port of Whitman will be forthcoming once a cost for the remaining work has been determined. So far a total of \$230,306 has been raised since 2024 and over \$87,000 expended.

The Education & Events Committee has been preparing for our annual Vintage Quilt Show which will be open on four consecutive Saturdays – April 18 & 25, May 2 & 9 – 1-4 PM. It will be downsized due to the unavailability of the passenger car but beautifully displayed in the freight room. The suggested donation is \$5.00 and \$3.00 for WCHS members.

The Restoration Committee met with Wendy and Alex to hear about WCHS's desire to include the Archives as part of the future building plans. No conclusions were reached, but a goal of having more information within a month was discussed. Since the depot inherited a group of renters when the building was purchased, this rental income (now at \$3423/month) has always provided the necessary income to offset each year's operational expenses. Once the main section of the building begins to be restored, four renters currently in those spaces will be displaced. The committee had been planning to accommodate the majority in the freight room, so as to not lose their rental income. The available space in the freight room is approximately 1100 sq. ft. If that portion of the depot became Archives, the question is where would the lost income be found.

Directors Report – April

- Still can't get my credit card to work. I have gone into the bank 3 times and even worked with the manager of the bank. He assured me that it was working. It keeps getting declined. For now, I will save my receipts and get reimbursed.
- Perkins house has a broken pipe near one of the outside faucets. I called Cobra Plumbing. I will meet them to get the pipe fixed.
- WCHS is hosting the Colfax Chamber Business after hours event at Perkins House on April 23rd. Krista and Carol are helping me. They usually have 15 to 30 people attend. It is a networking event for businesses. We will provide snacks and beverages.
- Lost Apple project is busy right now. Lots of trees are being sold. Dave and his team do a great job working with me to get all the orders sent out and invoiced.
- I worked with Sally to get new envelopes ordered and labels for the ones we still have left for the membership renewals price changes.
- Contacted Kathy on working with her to do a year end newsletter mailing that included giving to our endowment and leaving a legacy. I will write something up for both of those and she will include it in the newsletter. I will do the mailing.
- Frank was out in the month of March at Perkins House, so I found volunteers to cover his shifts.
- Jill Gfeller sent a letter to the City Council, so I smoothed things over with the city. I also explained to Jill that the city has absolutely nothing to do with the trains that are parked near Perkins House. And there is a group of people who live on that block that are contacting the railroad to try to come up with a solution. The train is gone now, but they will be back. They fix the engines on that rail. And they have done this for the last 10 years.
- Got 2 new volunteers at Perkins house. I will meet them to do an orientation and get them set up on Saturday.