

# **Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club**

## **Minutes of the HO Committee Meeting of November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

### 1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Ken Howard. Members in attendance included Wayne Aiken, Denee Black, Peter Denofrio, Ken Howard, Ralph James, George Lasley, and Bob Witwer.

### 2. Review of Progress to date:

Because of the demands on members' time for the Fall Show, no progress has been made on layout expansion.

Ken Howard reviewed procedures for reporting problems with rolling stock (bad order card system), and also introduced the "Green Notebook" for reporting issues with track as promised in the last HO committee meeting.

Bob Witwer distributed maps of the extension produced by Peter Ring. These maps need additional updates to reflect the final construction of the access ports and the actual location of Main Line #1 extension but can be used for planning until a better version becomes available.

Ralph James updated the group on his progress with upgrading the wiring on the layout. He is currently isolating the main lines and installing PMR, so that a short on one line will no longer shut down the entire layout. Additional lines will be dropped to the power bus on the expansion to improve uniformity of power distribution.

Bernie Dawson has volunteered to take the lead on improving the storage and organization of scenic materials under the HO layout as discussed at our last meeting.

### 3. Problems Discussed

Two significant track problems have already been reported for switches on Module 7 (broken switch point on Main #1 and bad crossover to Main #2 on the same module).

Operational problems have been reported on post it notes for the connection from Main #1 to the extension on Module 2. There is a kink in the connection from the switch to the new line on the extension, and the curve is reported to have too small a radius.

Discussions were held about construction and track plans. We are still in the planning stages, and lots of items need to be discussed before we proceed with construction. Items discussed included the following:

- Those present agreed that the engine servicing facility should be representative of the transition from steam to diesel power. This would include coaling tower, water tower, ash pit, sand tower, diesel fueling facility and associated storage. The location currently shown on our map along the main aisle is still preferred to give the facility a prominent visual position.

- Discussions were held about where to locate the mountainous portion of the layout and its associated industries. Consensus seems to favor using the back corner for the mountains and a train makeup track that can be concealed from general view of visitors. The wye would have to be moved to the opposite side of the layout to facilitate access and to make its operation easier to view.
- Extending Main Line #4 into the extension was discussed at length. The need for this to be a complete loop versus a branch line was discussed at length. The issue was not resolved, but it appears that a branch rather than a complete loop would ease construction.
- Discussion was held about the need for a turntable and large roundhouse that will consume a large amount of space. Do we need a large turntable in the engine facility when we are building a wye capable of reversing trains and the largest locomotives?
- The second main on the extension will still contain the isolation loop for DC operation under current plans, but Ralph James is working on a plan to isolate the circuitry for each main line on the legacy layout. This plan could give us the ability to isolate an existing main line for DC operation and simplify the wiring of the reversing loop and wye on the extension.

Two maps are included in these minutes: 1) an overview map that can be used for sketching ideas on track work or location of scenic features, and 2) a revised plan from George Lasley for the location of the wye and engine facility. Please use one or both of these maps to sketch out your ideas for the future of the expansion. We would like to see your ideas on track, industries, locations of sidings, etc. so that we can make some decisions at the next meeting. Please submit your ideas via email to Ken Howard or Bob Witwer in advance of the next meeting and come prepared to discuss your visions.

#### 4. Future Work Sessions

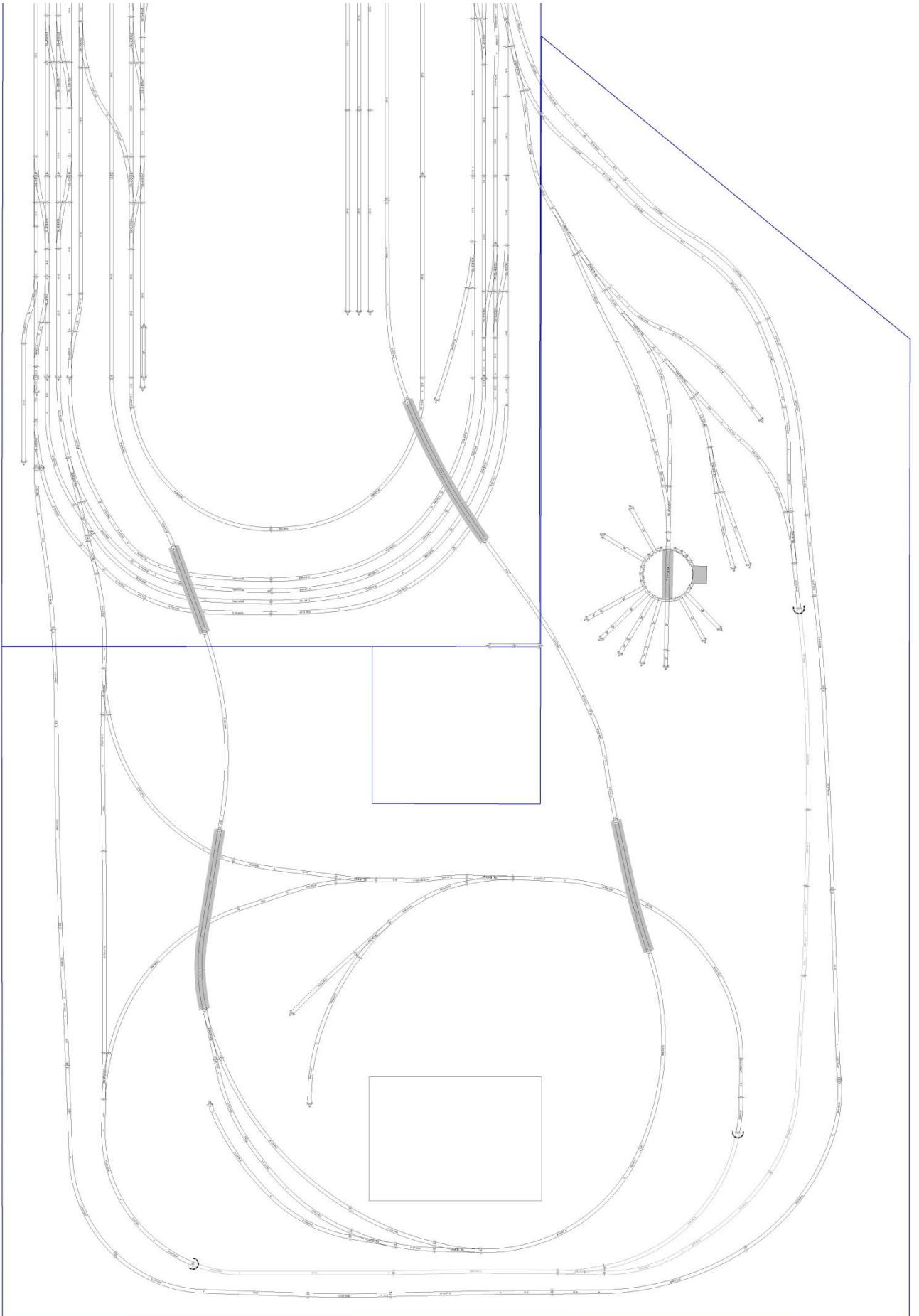
A session to focus solely on repairs to Main Line #1 has been scheduled for Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> after breakfast. Ken Howard and Peter Denofrio will lead the session to replace two turnouts, replace a damaged section of track on the extension, and correct the kink at the turnout leading to the extension on Module 2.

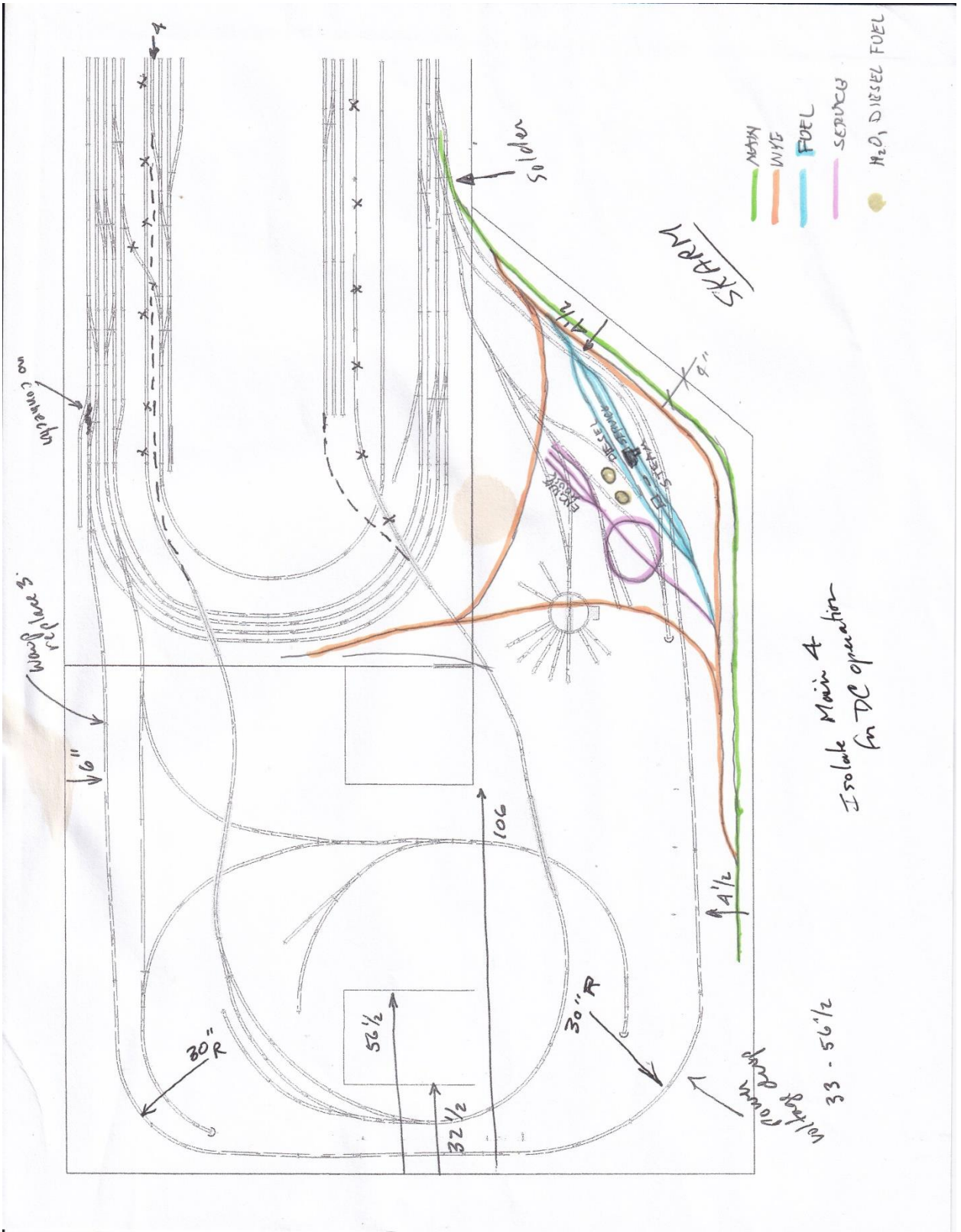
#### 5. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for December 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm at the Clubhouse.

#### 6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:54 pm.





Isolate Main 4  
for DC operation