So much has happened, and is happening, since the last newsletter that it is hard to know where to start. This newsletter will hit the high spots. Come to our regular 3rd Wednesday meeting next week to find out about the details. Wednesday, 7 PM, October 20 at the Granby Library Community Room.

As of this morning Dave found out that we have been misinformed about the caboose’s whereabouts. It is not here yet. It is still on its concrete pedestals in Falls City, Nebraska. We may (or may not) know more by the meeting next Wednesday.

The coach is still in Rhode Island. Apparently the local Millwright Union wants mega-bucks just to lift the coach, separate the trucks, put it all onto a flat car and secure it for the 2,000 mile train ride. We have the freight covered, but we haven’t got the extra bucks, so it sits, frustrating both the donors and us.

A 1905 railroad shed, probably used for a hand car, has been offered to us through the Grand County Historical Association and Grand Mountain Bank (which holds the property under foreclosure). It is a block east of the Court House in Hot Sulphur Springs. Dave has dug up the surrounding dirt to get it ready to go onto a flat bed to bring it to our site. We have researched the provenance of the structure and it is vintage Moffat Road.

We have electricity on site, thanks to a member donation of $5,800 which had to be paid to MPEI. A number of others did the work. (See a Letter to the Editor in yesterday’s Sky Hi News.) We now have power available so we can hook up to the shed (and the caboose and coach if they show up this year). Restoration can, hopefully, begin soon on the shed
Donations of layouts and rolling stock are coming in from Lyle Hileman, Fran Cassidy, and the new owner of a house in Columbine Lake (5 of us saw the very large layout a year or so ago). All of these will take some work to convert into dollars.

We had a meeting last week with Dean Cinocco of Alan B. Carter, Architects, and Craig Kobe of JVA Structural Engineering to resolve 8-10 areas of concern relative to design.

We are working on plans for a new Christmas layout for the Granby town hall.

We have 4 grant applications filed and more under way. All of these are for 2011 funding, if granted. We plan on asking for about $1.5 million from grants during the next few months. Of course, we cannot expect them all to come through, but we will keep trying.

We have prepared a 5 year plan for the period 2009 through 2013 to show what we have done and want to get done each year so that we can be open to the public by Memorial Day of 2013. Copies available at the meeting next Wednesday. That’s only 2 ½ years or so away.

We need to raise at least $200,000 from Grand County people and businesses. Please go to the web site www.moffatroadrailroadmuseum.org and make your pledge ASAP. Even small donations and pledges are important because they show that the club members and the public are supporting our effort. Over $12,000 in pledges and donations have come in so far, with terms on the pledges ranging from 1 to 5 years for payment to take place. Send an email to Jim Young at jim@jy1.com or call him at 887-1014 to find out about tax benefits since we are not only a 501 (c)(3) Colorado corporation but are a Colorado Enterprise Zone, too.

OK! Is that enough to whet your appetite and get you to the meeting next Wednesday?