

Meeting of the Board of Directors, FOMNRR
Tuesday, January 26, 2016 – 1 PM - NPS Conference Room-Yankton

The meeting opened with 16 members present plus one attending by phone. Attendees included Shane Bertsch, Jarett Bies, Rick Clark, Tim Cowman, Jeff Fields, Bob Foley, Jim Heisinger, Paul Lepisto, Mike Miller, Don Nelson (phone), Colleen and Don Noecker, Randy Teboe, Dave Swanson, Shannon Wright and Barbara Yelverton. Maggie Pedersen also attended as a visitor from Vermillion.

Membership and Financial Updates: New Board of Directors members at this meeting included Mike Miller (South Dakota 59-mile landowner), Randy Teboe (Ponca Tribal Representative), and Shannon Wright (Ponca Tribal Alternative Representative). Current membership in FOMNRR stands at 32, including 11 individual members, 15 family members, 2 bronze corporate sponsors, 3 silver corporate sponsors and 1 gold corporate sponsor. The balance in FOMNRR accounts is currently \$ 2,099, with \$ 392 of this total earmarked for upcoming Missouri River events and provided by the Izaak Walton League Office from carryover from 2015, when they coordinated the funding and organization of these events.

Transition and Inter-relationship Between FOMNRR and Missouri River Events Planning Committee: The Missouri River Events Planning Committee will work directly with the FOMNRR to organize, coordinate and support the Yankton-area river-related events. This includes providing funding for the event's expenses with money raised through fundraising efforts and corporate and business memberships from previous Missouri River Event sponsors. The FOMNRR and the Missouri River Events Planning Committee will collaborate on the annual events, including the Missouri River Watershed School Festival, the Missouri River Clean Up, the Missouri River Clean Boat Event and the Lake Yankton Outdoor Festival as part of the mission of the FOMNRR.

FOMNRR Fundraising/Membership Letter: Paul Lepisto mentioned that fundraising letters soliciting corporate memberships have been developed. These letters will soon be sent to local businesses in communities along the 39-mile and 59-mile reaches of the MNRR.

Bob Foley announced that we have two new corporate sponsors at the bronze and gold levels. He also provided an update on the corporate membership solicitation plan. A response form with details about membership benefits and the process of becoming a corporate sponsor of FOMNRR will be included with the membership solicitation letter. The letter will also have a link to the narrated corporate sponsorship PowerPoint that is posted on the website. Bob also mentioned that he is on the agenda for the February 2 Tyndall Chamber of Commerce meeting and that the Tyndall chamber is well connected to other local chambers along the 39-mile reach.

The BOD decided to pursue development of a method for online membership payment via credit card on the FOMNRR website. The corporate membership solicitation letter will be updated to include this information and payment method before distribution. The goal will be to have online credit card payments integrated into the website and the letter sent by the February 2016 FOMNRR meeting.

Strategies for next steps after the corporate solicitation letter were also discussed. A thank you letter to members will be developed to be mailed to members at the end of 2016. Accompanying the thank you letter will be a renewal request and a summary highlighting FOMNRR activities during the preceding year.

FOMNRR support for 2016 Yankton Area Missouri River Events: - Paul Lepisto announced several upcoming Missouri River events in the Yankton area, all of which are listed on calendar of the FOMNRR website. The FOMNRR will help to fund and staff these events, as well as soliciting funding from past supporters of these events.

Clay County Park-Mulberry Bend Corridor Concept Project: – Tim Cowman provided an overview of a project to link Clay County Park to Mulberry Bend (and potentially to Cotton Park in Vermillion) as part of a recreational corridor, including a developed trail system, parking lots at trailheads, and a visitor center at Clay County Park. This project has been previously discussed by several relevant entities, including the Vermillion Chamber of Commerce and the National Park Service, among others. This corridor would include lands currently under county, state, and private ownership. A primary hurdle is working with private landowners to purchase or obtain easements on lands needed to

complete the corridor. The goal would be for these lands to be transferred to the National Park Service for future management.

The Board agreed that the FOMNRR could play an important role in the development of this recreational corridor, by working with landowners to secure their support of the project, helping to provide “boots on the ground” assistance with development and helping raise corporate sponsor support. Next steps will include contacting affected landowners to assess their potential willingness to cooperate before proceeding with the project. Tim Cowman and Jim Heisinger will work on contacting the three landowners affected by the project and will report back at a subsequent FOMNRR BOD meeting.

Grant Writing Workshops: Paul Lepisto mentioned that several grant writing workshops hosted by South Dakota State University are coming up over the next few months and inquired about FOMNRR involvement in these workshops. He also noted that the Missouri River Relief group is providing oversight to EPA TEAM mini-grants (from \$500 to \$5000) to help build connections between schools, communities and the Missouri River. This proposal request seems like a natural fit for the upcoming events for which FOMNRR will be involved, so the possibility of pursuing these grants was discussed.

FOMNRR Board of Directors: Paul Lepisto mentioned that two BOD positions still needed to be filled, including a Nebraska City/County/State member and a Nebraska 39-mile reach landowner. Discussion followed.

FOMNRR Calendar of Events: Paul Lepisto highlighted the upcoming events listed below, noting that these will be posted on the FOMNRR online calendar.

April 19 - Yankton CVB in conjunction with National Park Week
May 6th – Missouri River Watershed School Festival – Riverside Park
May 7th – Missouri River Clean Up – Riverside Park
May 7th-14th – Missouri River Clean Boat Event – Invasive species awareness
June 18th – Lake Yankton Outdoor Festival
August 19-21 – Riverboat Days - Yankton
August 25th – NPS Founders Day & Centennial
September 17th-18th Missouri River Outdoor Expo – Ponca

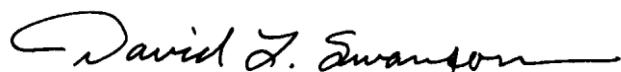
FOMNRR Facebook Page: Tim Cowman announced that the FOMNRR Facebook page is currently under development. Content editors, who will regularly provide fresh content for the page, have been identified and assigned.

Friends Alliance Meeting: – Rick Clark mentioned that the 2016 meeting of the various Friends groups for National Parks will occur in Washington, D.C. from 15-17 March. This is a meeting in which the FOMNRR would benefit from attending in the future.

Next Meeting: Paul Lepisto will circulate a Doodle Poll to determine the best available time for the February 2016 meeting of the BOD.

The meeting adjourned at 3:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



David Swanson
FOMNRR Secretary