

FOMNRR BOD Minutes
Thursday, March 3, 2016 – 2 PM
Muenster University Center - Room 211, USD - Vermillion

The meeting opened at 2:05 pm, with 10 members present plus two attending by phone. Attendees included Shane Bertsch, Rick Clark, Tim Cowman, Jeff Fields, Bob Foley, Jim Heisinger, Todd Larson, Paul Lepisto (phone), Don Nelson (phone), and Dave Swanson. Teresa Mentzer attended as a visitor from Yankton and Mark Sweeney and Sandy and Clarence Pedersen also attended as visitors from Vermillion. Tim Cowman chaired the meeting, as Paul Lepisto was not able to attend in person.

Membership and Financial Updates: Current membership stands at 40, with 26 personal memberships (including 15 family memberships) and 14 sponsorships (5 Bronze, 7 Silver, and 2 Gold). The FOMNRR currently has a balance of \$2,099 in our accounts, but \$1,042 of that is earmarked for the upcoming Missouri River Clean-up and Education and Outdoor Festival events. Upcoming events at which the FOMNRR will have a presence include: School Festival – May 6, Clean-up – May 7, Clean Boat Event – May 7-14, and Lake Yankton Outdoor Festival – June 18.

The board discussed how to handle corporate membership donations, much of which are earmarked for the special projects listed, as well as mechanisms to allow members to direct donations for specific purposes. The board also discussed how we might develop partnerships with other cooperating groups (e.g., Sierra Club, Spirit Mound Trust, Greening Vermillion) and share funding responsibilities for specific events.

The FOMNRR is subsuming several “individual event” planning groups, and we are working out methods to ensure that donations from individual groups for individual events will be properly directed with proper recognition of donors. The board decided that donors to these individual events will also become sponsoring members of FOMNRR under the category appropriate for the amount donated. The board also decided that a member of the FOMNRR board will serve as a liaison between the FOMNRR and individual event planning groups and attend planning group meetings. Paul Lepisto will serve as this liaison for the time being. Finally, the board agreed to continue the practice of keeping the surplus donated funds for individual events in a carry-over fund for that event for the following year, which will require a method of keeping track of these funds.

Use of Corporate Membership Funds: Bob Foley mentioned that some of our corporate sponsors might be willing to upgrade to the next level of sponsorship if FOMNRR produces good results in our first year of existence. Bob also mentioned the possibility of applying for grant funding from TransCanada, and that the FOMNRR has been invited to apply for such funding. Discussion followed, with possibilities for projects, outreach and marketing plans, and making sure that we had tribal support, being important discussion items.

Fundraising/Membership Letter: Tim Cowman mentioned that FOMNRR was now able to accept credit card payments for dues online through the website. The fundraising letter to corporate sponsors is ready to be mailed, we are now just waiting on lists of businesses from Chambers of Commerce within the MNRR footprint before the letter can be mailed out. Rick Clark spoke about drafting a formal fundraising agreement between the National Park Service and the FOMNRR, typical for these types of relationships. He will circulate a draft by the next meeting. The FOMNRR needs to develop thank you letter for new members. Teresa Mentzer will be coming on as an MNRR employee soon and will assist with a draft of a thank you letter sometime during April.

Bylaws Review: The by-laws require an annual review. Todd Larson, Shane Bertsch, Jeff Fields and Paul Lepisto will comprise a sub-committee that will conduct this review and bring any concerns or suggested changes to the board at an upcoming meeting.

Clay County Park-Mulberry Bend Corridor Project Update: Tim Cowman has contacted the three private property owners along this stretch of corridor. Two of the three may be willing to either sell or enter an easement agreement, one was not interested. Tim also mentioned that the USACE North Alabama Bend and the SDGFP Frost GPA properties are sites that we can work with, although both have some issues that we will have to work around. Tim also mentioned that he had talked with the SDGFP Recreational Trail Coordinator, a group which provides grant funding for acquiring land/easements and materials for building recreational trails. Grants average about \$60,000 and have been as much as \$250,000, but require a 20% match. Federal funds can be used for the match, but at least 5% of funds must be from a non-federal match. Tim is currently waiting for property owners to get back to him with an idea for what would be necessary for sale of lands or easements to be acquired. Scheduling of meetings for negotiations would follow.

Grant Updates: Paul Lepisto is putting a proposal together for Missouri River Relief and the deadline is approaching within the month. The new Director of for the MNRR will begin his appointment in April, 2016. Part of his role will be working with the FOMNRR to develop proposals relevant to FOMNRR goals.

FOMNRR Board of Directors: Two positions remain unfilled, a City/County/State member from Nebraska and a Nebraska 39-mile reach landowner. Dave Swanson received a couple of suggestions for potential 39-mile landowner members from Dr. Mark Dixon, so these people will be contacted soon.

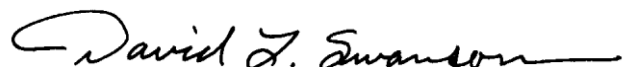
Additional Business:

- The board agreed that FOMNRR logo shirts and hats would be good for notoriety at outreach events coming up this spring. Rick Clark has made initial inquiries into costs for these items. A short-sleeve polo shirt would be approximately \$25 and hats would be approximately \$6. The potential for buying these items in bulk for a discount and then offering them to members and online at a slight mark-up (for fundraising purposes) was discussed. Rick will bring mock-ups of shirts and hats to the next meeting, as well as a mock-up of a FOMNRR logo banner, for consideration.
- FOMNRR brochures have been edited and re-printed. Please use this new version, as the last printing had errors and should be disposed of.

April Meeting: Paul Lepisto will conduct a Doodle Poll to arrive at a date for the next meeting, which will occur in late April at the MNRR conference room in Yankton.

The meeting adjourned at 4:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



David Swanson
FOMNRR Secretary