

FOMNRR BOD Minutes
Monday, March 13, 2017 – 1 PM
National Park Service Conference Room – Yankton

The meeting convened at 1:05 pm with introductions. Because Paul Lepisto was on the road and was only able to call into the meeting, Tim Cowman ran the meeting. Ten BOD members were either present or participated by conference call. BOD attendees included Tim Cowman, Pat James, Terry Julesgard, Paul Lepisto (phone), Bradley Mahon, Don Nelson (phone), Clarence Pederson, Dave Swanson, Shannon Wright and Barbara Yelverton. Rick Clark (phone), Teresa Mentzer and Daniel Peterson attended as National Park Service representatives from the MNRR. Other FOMNRR members present included Don Noecker.

Treasurer: Todd Larsen has resigned as Treasurer, so the BOD needs to appoint another local member to replace him on the BOD for the remainder of his term (ends on December 31, 2017). The replacement needs to be local so that they are available to sign checks and check the FOMNRR P.O. box. The position requires filing annual state and federal financial forms and tracking membership dues and information. No immediate action was taken at the meeting to identify a replacement.

Membership: Bob Foley was not able to attend the meeting, so no report was available. Tim Cowman read an email from Bob with items for discussion. These included:

- 1) The availability of a current membership list (this is the Treasurer's role)
- 2) Availability of a list for how the FOMNRR spent sponsorship dollars for 2016 (also the Treasurer's role)
- 3) Development of a plan for expenditures of 2017 funds. Currently FOMNRR is supporting a similar list of Missouri River events as last year. These include the following upcoming events.
 - a. Missouri River Education event (1st week of May)
 - b. Missouri River clean-up (May 6)
 - c. Invasive Species Awareness event (Late May and June)
 - d. Lake Yankton Outdoor Festival (June 10)

Daniel Peterson also made a request to the FOMNRR BOD for support of the Roscoe program. Due to the vacant Treasurer's position and the lack of a current Treasurer's report, action on this request was deferred until the next meeting.

Missouri River Recovery Management Plan (MRRMP – Draft Environmental Impact Statement: The BOD discussed whether we should submit comments on the draft EIS by the deadline for comments of April 24, 2017. Rick Clark provided a short history of the MRRMP and offered draft comments from the MNRR staff to the BOD for use as a template for comments to be submitted by the FOMNRR to the lead agencies involved in developing the plan, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Tim Cowman and Dave Swanson will review the draft EIS and the MNRR comments and produce a draft of comments from the FOMNRR BOD for approval before the April 24 deadline.

Annual Meeting Subcommittee: The annual FOMNRR meeting will occur Saturday June 24, 2017, at Clay County Park starting at 11 am. The meeting is open to all members and to the general public, if they pay membership dues at the meeting. The meeting will include an organization overview and then a trip on the river, either by canoe/kayak or, potentially, motorized craft.

Communications Subcommittee: Pat James and Barbara Yelverton reported that the subcommittee participated in a conference call in late January and raised a number of questions about how to approach landowners and what our message should be to them. One important item to address first is to inventory available public access points that are in need upgrading and maintenance, and then get these sites in a clean and functional state before approaching private landowners. They offered a potential strategy of focusing on communities along the MNRR, rather than on individual landowners. The subcommittee hopes to meet again before the next BOD meeting to provide an updated report.

St. Croix River Association Mentoring Relationship: Dan Peterson recently talked with Deb Ryun about the possibility of the St. Croix group serving as a mentor group for the FOMNRR. One suggestion resulting from this conversation was to conduct a “Friend-raiser” event to get people together on the river.

Paddle Events Subcommittee: Tim Cowman circulated a handout on behalf of the subcommittee listing all of the paddle events and their dates and sponsors for the summer of 2017. The subcommittee recommends that FOMNRR work with the sponsors of these events as co-sponsor and to assist as needed.

Water Trail Program: Tim Cowman provided a program on the MR Water Trail at the Yankton Public Library in February, with about 12 people attending. A similar program is scheduled for March 25, 2017, at the Vermillion Public Library.

Goat Island: Rick Clark noted that progress is continuing to develop short- and long-term desired future conditions for the island. NPS expects to coordinate further with the states of Nebraska and South Dakota in a cooperative effort to prepare a draft management plan for the Island. Staff from the NPS Regional Office in Omaha, NE office will be assisting the Park in plan development. The schedule is to begin more in-depth management planning in early summer, with the development of a final plan within the year.

Clay County/Frost Trail Project: Tim circulated an overview map of the trail, which will be 2.2 miles in length. Plans are in place for three interpretive signs, two trailhead signs and a number of trail markers. The interpretive signage needs final approval from South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks, but they have already reviewed preliminary plans and have not noted any problems. The morning of April 22, 2017, is scheduled for a work day, and David Swanson will coordinate USD student volunteers for this work day. Funding will be required for signage and trail markers, and some possibilities for fundraising/grant writing for this project were discussed.

Future Grant Funding: The BOD identified the need for a more concentrated effort to identify and submit grant proposals to acquire funding for FOMNRR projects as a priority for the BOD. Tim Cowman asked for volunteers to serve on a Grant Writing subcommittee. Teresa Mentzer and Bob Foley were appointed to this subcommittee. The current idea is to develop a generic proposal that could be modified for submission to various funding sources. Teresa mentioned that a proposal was submitted to North Face last year that could serve as a template for the generic proposal. Teresa and Bob will develop a list of potential funding opportunities for review at the next BOD meeting.

Funding for ROSCOE Great Adventure Coloring Book: Last year, the FOMNRR provided funding for this coloring book put out by the Yankton Chamber of Commerce, so they are asking us for funding again this

year. Consensus was that we should not pledge anything currently until a Treasurer is in place and we have a more firm handle on the FOMNRR finances.

Membership Brochure: Dan Peterson circulated a draft of a new FOMNRR brochure. A motion to approve printing of 1000 brochures, contingent upon available funds, passed unanimously.

Lapel Pins: Dan Peterson raised the idea of ordering lapel pins as an outreach tool. Action on this proposal was tabled until the next BOD meeting. Dan will provide cost estimates for such pins.

Hartington Nebraska Chamber Contact: Don Noecker mentioned that an introductory letter and brochure were electronically distributed to all members of the Hartington, NE, Chamber of Commerce. Potential next steps for contact were discussed briefly.

2017 meeting dates & locations: Tim Cowman raised the issue of setting regular meeting times for the FOMNRR BOD. Consensus was to hold meetings once every two months. The BOD also discussed meeting locations, with the ideal plan being to move meetings among various sites in communities along the MNRR. Meeting times were also briefly discussed, with an option to hold some meetings in the evening gaining consensus approval.

Missouri River Boat Rides: Clarence Pederson raised the issue of providing interpretive boat rides along the river as an outreach tool for the FOMNRR. Regulations do not permit the NPS-MNRR to use their boats for such a purpose.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.