

**Meeting of the Board of Directors, FOMNRR**  
**Tuesday, April 26, 2016 – 2:30 PM**  
**National Park Service Conference Room - Yankton**

The meeting opened at 2:34 pm, with 12 BOD members present plus one attending by phone. BOD attendees included Tim Bellis, Pat James, Todd Larson, Paul Lepisto, Stephanie Moser, Don Nelson (phone), Dave Swanson, Randy Teboe, Todd Van Maanen, Shannon Wright, and Barbara Yelverton. Rick Clark, Teresa Mentzer and Daniel Peterson attended as National Park Service representatives from the MNRR.

**Membership and Financial Updates:** Stephanie Moser reviewed current membership and financial information. FOMNRR currently has 44 total memberships, including 17 corporate, 16 family and 11 individual memberships. The current balance in the checking account is \$ 4,970.07, of which \$ 1,342 is earmarked for upcoming Missouri River events.

**Missouri River Events Planning Committee:** Paul Lepisto announced that past donors to these events had stepped up to fund them again this year. He also announced two recent grants received by the FOMNRR to support the upcoming Missouri River events: one through the Missouri River Action Team, associated with Missouri River Relief out of Missouri, in the amount of \$ 1,000; and one through the Tony and Dar Dean Education Grant program, in the amount of \$ 1,500 (pending final approval).

**Policy for Grant Proposal Submission:** Paul Lepisto asked whether the BOD needed to establish a policy describing the funding organizations and amounts requested for which the FOMNRR could submit proposals, so that we would not acquire funding from organizations with missions not fully compatible with FOMNRR interests. Discussion followed. Paul will provide a draft for such a policy at an upcoming BOD meeting.

**Recent Event Updates:** FOMNRR members have represented the FOMNRR at several recent events, including meetings with the *Wagner Growth* group and Hartington Chamber of Commerce, as well as an April 18<sup>th</sup> “mixer” event coinciding with National Park Week sponsored by the Yankton Chamber of Commerce, and the Vermillion Earth Day fair.

**Membership Thank You Letter:** This letter is ready for distribution and will be sent out by both email and snail mail in the near future.

**General and Fundraising Agreement:** Rick Clark mentioned that the National Park Service (NPS) requires that two formal agreements be established with the friends group, one outlining general cooperation, roles, and functions, and one to ensure that FOMNRR fundraising efforts are consistent with NPS policies. NPS MNRR staff will work on drafting the documents for BOD review at an upcoming meeting.

**FOMNRR Bylaws Review:** The Bylaws Subcommittee (Todd Larson, Shane Bertsch, Jeff Fields and Paul Lepisto) carefully examined the bylaws and suggested a few minor changes and edits. A motion (Teboe/Mentzer) to approve the suggested changes passed unanimously. Any further changes to the bylaws will need to be voted on at the annual meeting of the FOMNRR.

**FOMNRR Board of Directors Update:** Pat James has joined the BOD as a member representing Nebraska landowners from the 39-mile reach. One BOD position for a Nebraska local government representative remains open. Efforts will proceed to identify a candidate to fill this BOD position.

**Process for Submitting Projects and Programs:** Paul Lepisto asked whether the BOD needed a policy to define the types of projects and programs that the FOMNRR would support. Discussion followed. One useful suggestion emerging from this discussion was that the BOD should develop a checklist of

evaluation criteria to assist with evaluating requests for support. The YCVB has developed evaluation criteria which will be reviewed as a possible template for the FOMNRR. NPS staff will also survey Friends groups affiliated with other NPS units to see if a prototype exists that may be of use to the FOMNRR in developing protocols to evaluate future funding support requests.

**Policy for Use of the FOMNRR Membership List:** Consensus of the BOD was that the FOMNRR membership list should not be shared with outside groups. Paul will draft a policy to formalize this consensus and circulate it to the BOD for their review.

**Clay County Park-Mulberry Bend Corridor Trail Project:** Rick Clark announced that MNRR staff along with BOD member Tim Cowman will be meeting with the South Dakota Game & Parks Commission on 19 May to discuss the potential for incorporating the Frost Game Production Area into the proposed corridor trail project.

**Upcoming FOMNRR Events:** The list of upcoming 2016 events either supported under the FOMNRR umbrella or where an FOMNRR presence would be desirable includes ...

- Yankton Area Missouri River Events
  - School Festival – May 6<sup>th</sup> – need volunteers
  - River Clean Up – May 7<sup>th</sup> – need volunteers
  - Clean Boat – Invasive Species Awareness Event – May 7-14
  - Lake Yankton Outdoor Festival – June 18<sup>th</sup>
- South Dakota Canoe and Kayak Challenge – May 27-28
- Rib Fest – June 25-26 in Yankton
- Yankton Riverboat Days 8/19-21
- NPS Centennial Events
  - Bio Blitz @ Mulberry Bend – May 21<sup>st</sup>
  - Founders Day – August 25<sup>th</sup> – Riverside Park – Yankton
- Sierra Club Canoe Trip – 9/2-9
- Missouri River Outdoor Expo – 9/17-18 – Ponca

The School Festival, River Clean-up and Canoe & Kayak Challenge, Rib Fest, Lake Yankton Outdoor Festival, and Founders Day events are still in need of volunteers to represent the FOMNRR, including membership solicitation.

**Outreach Activities:** Posting information to the FOMNRR web site is prompt and working well. New FOMNRR brochures are now available. The BOD discussed the development of an FOMNRR Newsletter, with a *Friends of Lake Sakakawea* Newsletter circulated as an example. MNRR staff will develop a draft newsletter for approval by the BOD, with an anticipated publication date of 1 June.

**Possible Merger with USFWS Missouri River Fish Hatchery Friends Group:** The membership of the hatchery friends group is dwindling, so future merger is a possibility, but nothing is currently pending.

**FOMNRR Member Polo Shirts & Hats:** The BOD viewed several mock-ups of polo shirts, hats and feather banners and discussed purchase of these items. Motions to: 1) purchase an 8-ft feather banner (with the design on the right of the presented mock-ups, only with the logo slightly enlarged and placed under the wording on the banner) (Swanson/Teboe); and 2) purchase 50 standard polo shirts in the dark tan color and 36 hats in the same color (Yelverton/Wright) passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 4:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*David J. Swanson*

David Swanson  
FOMNRR Secretary