

FOMNRR BOD Minutes
Tuesday, June 7th, 2016 – 2:30 PM
National Park Service Conference Room - Yankton

The meeting convened at 2:34 pm with introductions of MNRR staff, including summer interns. Nine BOD members were present, plus one attending by phone. BOD attendees included Shane Bertsch, Tim Cowman, Jeff Fields, Bob Foley, Pat James, Todd Larson, Paul Lepisto, Stephanie Moser, Don Nelson (phone), and Dave Swanson. Rick Clark, Teresa Mentzer and Daniel Peterson attended as National Park Service representatives from the MNRR.

Membership Update – Stephanie Moser mentioned that growth is slow, but 2-3 members have joined since the last BOD meeting. We now have a total 43 members in all categories. All BOD members, save four, have paid membership fees; membership fee payment for non-paid BOD members is in process.

Bob Foley asked whether the BOD would like to approach agricultural groups for corporate membership in the FOMNRR. Discussion followed. Consensus of the BOD was that we should not restrict membership, but find a way to allow membership without endorsing viewpoints of potential sponsors. This will likely involve including disclaimers in FOMNRR documents and policies stating that sponsor viewpoints do not necessarily reflect the views of the entire membership or the BOD.

Membership Sub-Committee Report: About 70 people stopped by the FOMNRR booth at the Yankton Ribfest event.

Finances – Stephanie Moser mentioned that the current (June 2, 2016) FOMNRR balance was \$ 3,768.87. Of this total, \$1,876.86 is dedicated to upcoming Missouri River events. FOMNRR polo shirts and caps are now available and are being sold at a slight mark-up for fundraising purposes.

Updates on recent Yankton Area Missouri River Events

- School Festival – May 6. Approximately 275 students from 8 school systems attended.
- River Clean Up – May 7. This was the 13th annual event. About 130-150 volunteers participated and removed 2.59 tons of trash in 3 hours.
- Dam N Back Event – Bies. About a dozen participated.
- Clean Boat Event – May 7-14. Just under 300 contacts with boaters were made. The poor weather cut down on the number of boaters contacted.
- Mulberry Bend Bio-Blast – May 21. About 50 people participated.
- Bob Foley attended a community meeting in Niobrara on May 24. About 30-40 people attended. A major discussion topic was the town boat ramp, which is currently silted in. Many in the community would like to see the area dredged to help attract more hunters, fishermen and boaters to the town.

FOMNRR Fundraising – The National Park Service requires both Friends Agreement and Fundraising Agreement documents. The Friends Agreement requires development of an annual work plan and a donation recognition plan. The latter involves developing some standard way of recognizing donors above a threshold level (or levels). The basic fundraising agreement deals with donations of up to \$100,000. Daniel Peterson distributed instruction documents for both agreements. The MNRR staff will initiate these agreement documents and bring them to the BOD for comment and approval, hopefully by the next meeting.

A Bush Foundation grant writing workshop will be held on June 14 in Yankton. Several BOD members will be in attendance.

Paul Lepisto provided a draft policy for future fundraising efforts. The BOD provided comments. Paul will come back with a revised version for approval at the next BOD meeting.

Bob Foley reported on a possible education funding opportunity, providing an example from the Friends of MacArthur Park group in Florida. The basic idea would be to tie separate river education events together into a single proposal. This strategy is beneficial for foundation-type funding proposals.

FOMNRR Board of Directors Update – One BOD position for a Nebraska local government representative is still not filled. Some suggestions were offered and plans were developed to approach a couple of people, with priority preferences for these individuals in place.

FOMNRR Membership List Privacy Policy – A policy statement to not allow sharing of the FOMNRR membership list with other groups was approved unanimously.

Kids Coloring Book Project – Stephanie Moser presented a coloring book put together by the Yankton Chamber and CVB which focuses on “Roscoe” the otter (the brainchild of Teresa Mentzer). They are looking for funding for the project, in exchange for providing “sign posts” for sponsoring groups on the pages of the coloring book. The books will accompany Dugan Smith as he visits other South Dakota National Parks to talk about the MNRR, as well as other opportunities to market the MNRR to kids and families. The BOD unanimously approved a \$350 expenditure to purchase a “sign post” for the book.

FOMNRR Website – Traffic statistics for the MNRR website were briefly reviewed. Discussion of the best strategy for presenting sponsor logos on the website was discussed. Tim Cowman will make some changes to the website based on the discussion.

Clay County Park-Mulberry Bend Corridor Project – Tim Cowman and Rick Clark talked with Steve Van Beek of South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks recently about the possibility of incorporating Frost GPA into the corridor hiking trail project. The response was positive overall, with the suggestion that the current roadway of the Lewis and Clark Water System form part of the trail, with the remainder of the trail being a mowed path. Tim and Rick will talk to Jim Auen of the Lewis and Clark Water System tomorrow about using the present roadway.

Upcoming Events – Several upcoming events were highlighted and these are listed below.

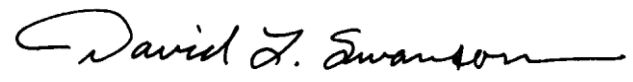
- June 18 – Lake Yankton Outdoor Expo
- July 9 – Fort to Field Paddle Battle
- August 20 – Riverboat Days Kayak run
- August 20 – Yankton Riverboat Days Parade & FOMNRR Booth/Table Representation
- August 25 – NPS Centennial Founders Day @ Yankton’s Riverside Park
- September – Sierra Club Canoe Trip
- September 17-18 – Missouri River Outdoor Expo – Ponca State Park

Membership Donation Recognition (all categories) Letter – These letters will be sent out soon.

FOMNRR Newsletter – A draft newsletter was distributed for comment.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David J. Swanson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

David Swanson
FOMNRR Secretary