

**FOMNRR BOD Minutes**  
**Thursday, December 1, 2016 – 1 PM**  
**National Park Service Conference Room – Yankton**

The meeting convened at 1:02 pm with introductions. Fifteen BOD members were present. BOD attendees included Shane Bertsch, Jarett Bies, Tim Cowman, Jeff Fields, Bob Foley, Kasi Haberman, Pat James, Terry Julesgard, Todd Larson, Paul Lepisto, Bradley Mahon, Don Nelson, Clarence Pederson, Dave Swanson, and Barbara Yelverton. Rick Clark, Teresa Mentzer and Daniel Peterson attended as National Park Service representatives from the MNRR. Other visitors included David Mays (*South Dakota Canoe & Kayak Association*).

*Friends Group/NPS Agreement* – Dan Peterson announced that this agreement is now signed and finalized. This opens the door for more opportunities for the FOMNRR, including the use of NPS equipment by the FOMNRR when needed.

*Membership/Finances* – Todd Larson noted that we have had several new individual and family members since the last time that the BOD met. Current membership is: Corporate, 16; Family, 17; and Individual, 17. The current account balance is \$4,393.25, which does not include a \$200 donation from *South Dakota's Best River Races, LLC*, received at the meeting (THANKS!), and \$500 from Missouri River Relief that is still to be received after approval of the final report from the Missouri River events over the past year.

The Corps of Engineers Visitor Center at Gavins Point asked if FOMNRR wanted to purchase advertising at the Center. Minimum advertising costs are \$150. No action was taken at this time.

*Reporting Requirements* – Given the transition between treasurers, the requirements for reports (and their deadlines) to maintain our 501-C3 status will be reviewed and presented at the next BOD meeting.

*Goat Island* – Rick Clark mentioned that the long process of transferring Goat Island to Federal ownership is in process. The Bureau of Land Management will hold title to the 593-acre property, with management provided by the NPS-MNRR. Meetings with representatives from South Dakota and Nebraska to determine short- and long-term desired future conditions and framework for a management plan for the property will begin sometime after 1 January 2017.

*Clay County Trail Project* – Tim Cowman mentioned that general approvals are in place to begin the process of trail construction through the Frost Game Production Area. The intent is to begin construction this spring, but the plan for trail placement needs to be approved first.

*Membership Renewals* – Membership renewal begins 1 January 2017, so email reminders for renewal to current members will go out soon. The BOD discussed whether we wanted to provide lapel pins, bumper stickers, or other items in return for membership payments. No action was taken at this time.

*Outreach/Communication* – Some discussion for developing a formal communication strategy to help to bridge the gap between communities and landowners was undertaken, but no specific action was taken at this time. Other outreach/communication topics included ...

- Rick Clark noted that a document describing the NPS-MNRR strategic action plan for the next five years (2016-21) was completed and is available to any FOMNRR Board or general member who

would like to receive a copy. Requests should be made to Dan Peterson at the Park by calling 605-665-0209, or by email at [Daniel\\_Peterson@nps.gov](mailto:Daniel_Peterson@nps.gov). A key objective outlined in the Park's strategic plan is to work collaboratively with stakeholders, including communities and landowners adjacent to the river to promote stewardship and a better understanding of the NPS mission in managing those sections of the river included within the MNRR designation. As such, Rick has asked for the FOMNRR to assist in messaging. A sub-group from the BOD will be formed to assist in further developing community outreach themes to take to stakeholders.

- *December FOMNRR newsletter* – Dan Peterson mentioned that next issue of the joint newsletter of the NPS-MNRR and FOMNRR will be out before Christmas.
- *FOMNRR Membership Brochure* – Dan Peterson noted that a draft for a new brochure would be circulated to the BOD soon, with the intent to cut down on the amount of text.
- *Youth Video Focus Group* – Dan Peterson mentioned that this activity was scheduled for this fall, but has been postponed, with the potential for a change in activities/content for the youth video.
- *Friends Alliance Conference* – Dan Peterson announced that this conference, which hosts Friends groups for all NPS units nationally, is scheduled for 12-17 February 2017 in Washington, D.C. Dan has reserved spots for himself and another BOD member to attend, but a BOD member has not yet been identified. FOMNRR BOD member Don Nelson offered to provide some financial assistance in the form of travel and lodging to any BOD member expressing an interest in attending the conference.
- *Corporate Sponsor Letter* – Paul Lepisto and Don Noecker will work on revising the current corporate sponsor solicitation letter, with the intent to work with the Hartington, NE, Chamber of Commerce to distribute the letter to Hartington businesses.
- *Local Media Relationships* – Some ideas to strengthen relationships of the FOMNRR with local media were discussed, including provision of data on numbers of people reached by FOMNRR activities and personal testimonials from kids and others impacted by these events.

*Winter Speaker Program* – Dan Peterson noted that this series is still in the process of development, with the intent to make this happen during the December-April time frame.

*Water Trail App* – Tim Cowman gave a brief description of the app, mentioning that they introduced the app to participants on guided interpretive paddles this past summer and fall.

*Interpretive Paddle Events* – The BOD discussed whether the FOMNRR wanted to sponsor some interpretive paddles in the coming year. Consensus was that this was a good idea, but no action was taken at this time.

*MNRR 100* – David Mays of the SD Canoe & Kayak Association introduced the BOD to the MNRR 100 program. If participants complete paddle trips for both sections of the MNRR they receive a MNRR 100 patch. The idea is to provide information online which will enable people to find all necessary information to make paddling the two MNRR sections “self-determined” trips, with each section split into two 2-day trips. Discussion regarding FOMNRR involvement and sponsorship ensued. No action was taken at this time.

*Middle Missouri River Interpretive Center* – Rick Clark mentioned that a project to raise funds for the establishment of a Middle Missouri River Interpretive Center, which would combine exhibits from the Corps, the NPS and private groups, is just getting underway. More information will be provided as the project develops.

*UNL Eco Tourism Conference* – Bob Foley mentioned that the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will be hosting an ecotourism conference in Chadron, NE, on 9 December 2016.

*Annual Meeting* – The FOMNRR needs to develop a plan for the annual meeting, as called for in the by-laws. A sub-committee will be appointed to develop a recommendation and will report at the next BOD meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:21 pm.