

**FOMNRR BOD Minutes**  
**Tuesday, December 5, 2017, 11 am**  
**National Park Service - MNRR Conference Room - Yankton**

Chair Paul Lepisto called the meeting to order at 11:02 am. Eight BOD members were present. BOD attendees included Shane Bertsch, Tim Cowman, Bob Foley, Pat James, Terry Julesgard, Paul Lepisto, Dave Swanson and Barbara Yelverton. Daniel Peterson and Teresa Mentzer attended as a National Park Service representatives from the MNRR. Excused absences were noted for Dennis Menke. Non-BOD member Carol Smith was present and Don Nelson participated via conference call.

**Financial & Membership reports** – Treasurer Bob Foley provided financial and membership updates since the October meeting. Highlights included a recent \$500 unrestricted donation from the South Dakota Canoe & Kayak Association and a recent \$1,510 grant from the National Environmental Education Foundation to support the MNRR ROSCOE program. Treasurer Foley noted that the membership year follows the calendar year, so membership renewals will begin in January 2018. Some statistics from the FOMNRR Facebook page, including results from the promotion in October were also reviewed.

**Membership Brochure & Newsletter** – Dan Peterson circulated copies of the new Membership Brochure and of a draft of the December 2017 Newsletter. He asked if the FOMNRR could pay for professional printing of the newsletter (150 copies at 12 pages/4-color), since the printer in the MNRR office is not printing clearly at present. A motion (Cowman, Mentzer) to spend up to \$600 for the winter newsletter printing passed unanimously.

**Canoecopia** – Dan Peterson circulated an announcement for exhibitors at the Canoecopia event in Madison, Wisconsin, March 9-11, 2018. The MNRR wants to send representatives to attend and operate a booth for outreach for the MNRR. Dan asked if the FOMNRR would like to be co-sponsors of the booth and provide information and media to advertise the FOMNRR at this event. A motion to co-sponsor the MNRR at this event for \$250 and to assist with provision of FOMNRR media and information (Smith/Cowman) passed unanimously.

**Election of Officers** – A motion (Swanson/Julesgard) for a unanimous ballot for the following slate of FOMNRR officers passed.

Co-Chair: Tim Cowman  
Co-Chair: Carol Smith  
Secretary: David Swanson  
Treasurer: Bob Foley  
At Large: Paul Lepisto

The election of co-chairs will require changing the FOMNRR By-Laws to allow for either the election of Chair and Vice Chair positions or two Co-Chair positions. This By-Law change will be pursued according to appropriate channels as described in the By-Laws.

**BOD Vacancies** – Suggestions were provided for the three open positions listed below. Paul Lepisto will pursue making the necessary contacts to fill these positions.

1 - City/County (SD)  
1 - Tourism/Economic Development  
1 - At Large

### **Subcommittee reports & other updates**

- *Paddle Events* – Tim Cowman mentioned that the normal big kayaking events have been scheduled and also noted that 2-3 interpretive paddle events would be conducted by the Water Trail Association during the summer, but these have yet to be scheduled.
- *Landowner Communications* – Pat James mentioned that a meeting will be scheduled for early in 2018.
- *Grant Writing* – Teresa Mentzer noted that FOMNRR recently received a grant from the NEEF to support the ROSCOE program (see the Treasurer’s Report for specifics). Currently a proposal to Bogs to support Missouri River Education events, especially the Education Festival, is under review.
- *Goat Island* – Dan Peterson announced that public scoping meetings will be scheduled for the spring and summer of 2018
- *Frost Trail* - Tim Cowman announced that the building of the Frost Trail is essentially complete and that several local groups have used the trail for specific events. New information about the Frost Trail has been posted on the FOMNRR website. The big task for this year is to develop signage (trailhead and interpretive signs) – we will need approximately \$10,000 to design, complete and install the signage.

**Spencer Dam** – Terry Julesgard mentioned that discussions were underway on the Natural Resources District board regarding the purchase of Spencer Dam on the Niobrara River. Terry noted that plans are for the dam to remain in place, but plans for regulation of water flow through the dam have yet to be determined. The Niobrara River Basin Alliance controls the operation of the dam and river flow.

**Land East of Clay County Park** – Tim Cowman is working on setting up a meeting with the landowner for the parcel of land along the river just east of Clay County Park to discuss setting up a conservation easement through the FOMNRR.

**Upcoming Meeting Dates & Locations** – Paul Lepisto led some discussion on whether we wanted to set up a regular meeting schedule for FOMNRR BOD meetings. Consensus was that an every-other-month schedule, with additional meetings as needed, would be appropriate, but that would require changes to the By-Laws.

**Upcoming events** – Paul Lepisto noted a number of upcoming events, including ...

- Yankton Area Missouri River Events
  - Missouri River Watershed School Festival – Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - Missouri River Clean Up – Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>
  - Invasive Species Awareness Event – May-June
  - Lake Yankton Outdoor Festival – Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup>
- Public Lands Alliance Conference – February 25-March 1 – Palm Springs, CA
- Friends Alliance Meeting – March 6-8 – Washington DC

The meeting adjourned at 12:46.