

# FOMNRR Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

February 26, 2019 1:00 PM

## NPS-MNRR Conference Room, Yankton, SD

President Tim Cowman called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm. Ten BOD members (or proxies) were present either in person or on conference call. BOD attendees were: Rich Burns, Tim Cowman, Bob Foley, Pat James, Terry Julesgard, Don Nelson (via phone), Marshall Pritchard (via phone), Dave Swanson and Barbara Yelverton. Jake Manning participated as a proxy for Shane Bertsch from South Dakota State Parks. Rick Clark, Teresa Mentzer, and Daniel Peterson attended as National Park Service representatives from the MNRR. Amber Fertig and Jaron Condley participated as visitors from Vermillion.

**Introductions** – the meeting began with introductions of all attendees.

**Approval of Agenda** – The agenda was accepted unanimously.

**Minutes** – Minutes of the last BOD meeting on 5 December 2018, which were posted online prior to the meeting, were approved unanimously.

**MNRR Superintendent's Update** – Rick Clark mentioned that the *Goat Island Management Plan* will be released soon, with a link to the plan (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/goatlandplan>) on the MNRR web site. The draft plan includes development of a trail system and two primitive camp sites. Trapping and waterfowl hunting will be allowed on the island consistent with current regulations applicable to both the states of NE and SD. Archery-only deer hunting will also be allowed on the island. A public meeting on the plan is scheduled for March 20, 4:30-6:30 pm, at the W.H. Over Museum in Vermillion. FOMNRR presence at this meeting is encouraged.

- The MNRR is # 2 on the NPS regional priority list for consideration for funding support through the Land and Water Conservation Fund for the *Purchase of the 700-acre James River Island*. Six landowners are willing to sell, so the purchase looks promising but is dependent on congress allocating LWCF funding as in the past. The Board endorsed having Rich Burns draft a letter to the South Dakota congressional delegation regarding FOMNRR support for the purchase of James River Island as part of the MNRR.
- **MNRR future Land and Water Conservation Fund priorities** for the next funding request include the private land between Frost GPA and Clay County Park on the 59-mile reach and Sanctuary Island on the 39-mile reach. Submittal of the proposals will be contingent on landowners being alerted and their expressing a willingness to sell their properties should LWCF funding be secured.
- Dan Peterson described a plan (along with a summary handout) for a uniform signage system for all River Access Areas along both reaches of the MNRR. Funding has been secured for this plan, which will include new standard kiosks at each site, entrance signs and highway directional signs. Funding is also secured for road counters to determine use at each access site.

### Committee Reports

1. **Financial and Membership** – Treasurer Bob Foley gave the financial report. Highlights included an unrestricted balance of \$5215.39. Treasurer Foley also noted that FOMNRR had received

\$250 so far for donations in memory of E. Howard Coker. Treasurer Foley also noted that we have 150 members on the list, but only 32 of those have current paid memberships.

2. **Membership Recruitment** – President Cowman read a report from Dennis Menke. Highlights included mention upcoming “Third Thursday” meetings.
3. **Landowner Communications Group** – Pat James mentioned that the group is seeking additional input for what information should be disseminated at these meetings and what the goals of FOMNRR were for these meetings. The meetings are primarily serving as a public relations opportunity for FOMNRR currently. Pat James mentioned that there is some desire from landowners to get specific information from agencies, primarily the Corps of Engineers, about river management. Rick Clark presented an idea for an interagency meeting with landowners where several/all of the agencies with a stake in river management would outline their mission, plans and responsibilities for river management.

### Old Business

- **Winter Newsletter** – Dan Peterson mentioned that the Winter 2019 Newsletter is essentially ready to go. Some discussion followed about how to use the newsletter for a membership renewal drive. Consensus was to include a membership joining/renewal insert into the newsletter and to send an email to members directing them to information in the newsletter regarding membership renewal.

### New Business

1. **2019 Annual Meeting date and planning committee** – The timing of the meeting will be late spring/summer. A planning committee will be appointed to set a date and a venue for the annual meeting, followed by planning of events at the meeting. Barbara Yelverton, Pat James and Rich Burns volunteered to serve on this committee.
2. **Nebraska Environmental Trust grant opportunity** – Don Nelson described this grant opportunity, which require that expenditures occur within the boundaries of the State of Nebraska. Some discussion about potential qualified activities ensued. An ad hoc committee consisting of Rick Clark, Don Nelson, Marshall Pritchard, Jeff Fields, Terry Julesgard, Rich Burns and Dan Peterson will discuss further options for developing a proposal.
3. **FOMNRR presentation at The Center for Great Plains Studies** – Don Nelson that the Center for Great Plains Studies has extended an open invitation for a combined presentation from NPS-MNRR and FOMNRR. Some discussion followed with the consensus being that a presentation for the spring lecture series might be most appropriate. Don Nelson, Dan Peterson and Jarett Bies will work together to figure out a presentation and to schedule the presentation.
4. **Request for participation in St. Croix River Assn Namekagon River paddle** – Dan Peterson mentioned that this paddle event is used as a fundraiser for the St. Croix group, so it might be worthwhile to send an MNRR representative to the event to determine if FOMNRR might want to run a similar event. The paddle event is a 5-6 night trip and costs \$450 for registration. The BOD unanimously approved an expenditure up to \$700 to support the participation of a FOMNRR member. The member has yet to be identified.
5. **Request for sponsorship for cardboard boat race at Lake Yankton Outdoor Festival** – Dugan Smith (NPS-MNRR) asked whether FOMNRR would like to sponsor the cardboard boat race associated with the Lake Yankton Outdoor Festival on 8 June 2019. The event is likely to attract up to 200 people and FOMNRR would be mentioned in all of the advertising for the event, as

well as at the event. The BOD unanimously approved an expenditure of \$750 to sponsor the cardboard boat race event.

### **Comments and Announcements**

1. **Pat James Exhibit** – FOMNRR BOD member Pat James is exhibiting photographs of wildflowers and plants of the MNRR from 4-27 March 2019 at the Marian Auditorium at Mount Marty College.
2. **National Park Foundation webinar** – Rick Clark encouraged FOMNRR board members to participate in this webinar put on by the National Park Foundation on 7 March 2019 from 1:30-2:30 pm CT. The topic of the webinar is how to advocate and interface with your congressional delegation. An email on 2/25 from Dan Peterson with the registration information for the event was sent out to all BOD members.
3. **National Outdoor Recreation Conference in Rapid City** – Rich Burns circulated a handout describing this conference, which will occur 6-9 May 2019 in Rapid City. The conference might be a good outlet for networking. No official action was taken.
4. **Missouri River Events schedule** – Tim Cowman listed the schedule for upcoming Missouri River events (see below) and mentioned that volunteers are needed for all of them.
  - The Missouri River Watershed School Festival - Thursday, May 2nd from 8-12 at Riverside Park in Yankton
  - The Annual Missouri River Cleanup - Saturday, May 4th from 8-12 at the Riverside Park boat ramp
  - The Invasive Species Awareness Event - to be held during May and early June
  - The Lake Yankton Outdoor Festival and Homestead Day - Saturday, June 8th from 10-1 at Pierson Ranch and the Training Dike.

**Next meeting date and time** – The next meeting will occur sometime in the latter part of April. A doodle poll will be forthcoming.

The meeting adjourned at 2:48 pm.