

FOMNRR BOD Minutes
Tuesday, February 27, 2018, 10 am
National Park Service - MNRR Conference Room - Yankton

Chair Tim Cowman called the meeting to order at 10:02 am. Ten BOD members were present. BOD attendees included Shane Bertsch, Tim Cowman, Jeff Fields, Bob Foley, Pat James, Terry Julesgard, Dennis Menke, Clarence Pedersen, Carol Smith, Dave Swanson and Barbara Yelverton. Rick Clark, Daniel Peterson and Teresa Mentzer attended as National Park Service representatives from the MNRR. Jake Manning participated as a visitor from South Dakota State Parks. Jarret Bies and Paul Lepisto participated via conference call.

The minutes of the 5 December 2017 meeting were approved unanimously.

Financial & Membership reports – Treasurer Bob Foley provided financial and membership updates since the December meeting. Treasurer Foley noted that the current balance of FOMNRR funds is \$6922.10, of which \$3,504.35 represent unrestricted funds. The FOMNRR membership year follows the calendar year, so membership renewals began in January 2018. So far, FOMNRR is running at about 40% renewals for members from previous years, with 34 current members and sponsors and 48 associate or affiliate members. Some statistics from the FOMNRR Facebook page, including results from the promotion in October 2017 were also reviewed.

Membership Recruitment – Dennis Menke circulated a handout reviewing recent membership recruitment activities. These included a regular “Third Thursday” mixer in Yankton. Some additional ideas for recruitment of members in Yankton and other communities were discussed, including meetings with potential sponsors and reaching out to chambers of commerce at other FOMNRR communities.

FOMNRR Website – Tim Cowman reviewed some information from the FOMNRR website. We have been averaging a little over 1200 visits/month to the web page over the last few months. The paddle events page is the most visited page, with the general events page the second most visited. The FOMNRR Facebook page gained a large number of followers after the October 2017 promotion, with only a few new followers since then. A motion (Smith/Menke) to provide up to \$200 over the next 6 months for another page promotion and additional post-promotion targeted advertising passed unanimously.

Grant Activities – Teresa Mentzer reviewed the current status of grant activities for the FOMNRR. We are looking into the possibility of Trans-Canada, Bass Pro Shops and Scheels as potential sources of grant funds, although solicitation of funds from these sources will first require vetting by the FOMNRR BOD. The Recreational Trails program for the South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks has a grant deadline in April. We will look into this funding source as a potential source for funds for signage for the Frost Trail near Vermillion.

Landowner Communications – Pat James circulated a draft of a letter to landowners along the MNRR and mentioned that the landowners’ communication committee is seeking to chat with landowners to gain a better appreciation of their perceptions, concerns and desires for the Missouri River regarding recreational, legal and ecological issues. Their idea is to meet with small groups of landowners (8-12 people) on both reaches of the MNRR and to have a total of about 5 such meetings in different

communities. Major goals are to let landowners know about the FOMNRR and our mission and to determine how the FOMNRR can interact with landowner concerns and issues. One idea was to add a Landowner page on the website. The committee will come back to the BOD at the next meeting with a cost estimate for postage, photocopies and food to conduct these landowner meetings.

Goat Island Management Plan – Rick Clark mentioned that the MNRR was on target for completion of the management plan for Goat Island by October 2018. A draft plan is expected by June of 2018. The plan will detail the desired future conditions and recreational development for the island, with the current plan to keep any such development “primitive.” Public meetings on the management plan will likely occur during July and August of 2018 in Vermillion and, maybe, Yankton. Hunting will be allowed on the island, but specific hunting regulations are under discussion.

Missouri River Events – Paul Lepisto reviewed several upcoming Missouri River events, including the Watershed School Festival on May 3 in Yankton, the Missouri River Clean-up on Saturday, May 5, in Yankton, the Lake Yankton Outdoor Festival and Homestead Day on Saturday, June 9, at the Pierson Ranch Unit of Lewis & Clark Recreation Area, and the Aquatic Invasive Species Events in May or June, with the precise times yet to be determined. Volunteers are needed for many of these events.

Paddle Events – Jarret Bies outlined several upcoming paddle races and events coming up in May through August of 2018. Volunteers are needed for all of these events.

Tim C. reported that the Missouri River Water Trail committee will meet at the Vermillion Public Library on March 15 at 10 a.m. to discuss upcoming paddle events. Anyone interested in attending is invited.

New business

Tim C. presented a report on bylaw changes regarding the Executive Committee, Elections and Land Acquisition. After discussion a motion to change the bylaws was made and carried.

Explanation of changes:

Added to Article 5, Section 3 is the alternative office positions of co-chairs instead of a chair and vice chair. The election of officers will take place at the last meeting of the calendar year.

Added to Article 6, Section 6 Land Acquisition and Transfer

This bylaw allows the FOMNRR in cooperation with the NPS-MNRR the latitude to acquire land donations and easements in the future. At the discretion of the BOD these lands could be turned over to the NPS for management and administration.

Concerns regarding any liabilities, insurance or taxes on these lands would be fully researched by the BOD before any acquisitions or transfers would occur.

Change in Article 7, Section 7 regarding the number needed for a quorum. A minimum of 7 members will constitute a quorum.

Change Article 10, Section 4 A change in the bylaws must be approved by 2/3 of the members present at the meeting in which they are presented and voted upon.

Upon the approval of these bylaws, members Tim Cowman and Carol Smith are officially Co-Chairs of the FOMNRR for this term.

For the 2018 Annual Meeting Bob Foley suggested scheduling it in conjunction with the White Pirogue expedition from Ft. Randall to Ponca State Park the first week in October. The annual meeting would be held at Ponca State Park on Oct. 6 as part of the culmination of this event. More plans and information will be on the agenda for the May meeting.

Chamber contacts: Rick and Dan will reach out to the Yankton Chamber on behalf of the Friends to reestablish communication and Chamber membership, and effort with getting corporate donations. Tim C. is meeting with Susan Heggsted on Tuesday, March 13 at 9:00. Anyone interested in attending this meeting should let Tim know.

The FOMNRR newsletter printing costs will be assumed by the organization moving forward. Discussion included whether to continue sending a biannual vs. annual newsletter, an amended hard copy and an expanded version sent electronically. Printing options, costs, and nonprofit discounts will be investigated prior to the next printing. The MNRR will continue to help with the postage costs.

Dennis gave an update on plans for the new coloring book. Jeff Fields regional director for the Nebraska State Park agreed to help sponsored one of the pages to help defer printing costs. Other area commercial sponsors have agree to purchase a portion of a page as well. An illustrator has agreed to do the artwork and park staff will create the story board which will tell about highlights on the MNRR from Ft. Randall to Ponca State Park. Plans are to print 10,000 to be distributed at events, in ROSCOE presentations and at Visitor Centers and info kiosks up and down the river corridor.

A motion was made for the FOMNRR to purchase a quarter page for a cost not to exceed \$219.

Terry Julesgard announced a meeting in Lincoln, NE on March 12 to discuss paddling events in Nebraska. He is unable to attend and asked if any members could represent the Friends and their partners at this meeting. Tim Cowman, Bob Foley and Jeff Fields all expressed interest in attending.

The next meeting of the FOMNRR will be on May 1 at 10 a.m. in the MNRR conference room.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.