

**Minutes, Board of Directors Meeting
Friends of the Missouri National Recreational River (FOMNRR)
MS-Teams Video Conference Invite and Telephone Conference Call Line Option
May 24, 2021 – 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm**

Members Present: Rich Burns, Tim Cowman, Megan Davidson, Bob Foley, Pat James, Paul Lepisto, Dennis Menke, Don Nelson, Marshall Pritchard, Mark Simpson, Rick Spellman, Dave Swanson, and Barbara Yelverton. Rick Clark, Milt Haar, and Dugan Smith attended representing the NPS-MNRR. Teresa Mentzer attended as a general FOMNRR member.

President Rich Burns opened the meeting at 1:33 pm.

MNRR Superintendent's Update – Rick Clark announced that the new Acting Superintendent for the MNRR would be Milt Haar, former Science Director for the MNRR, most recently from Badlands National Park.

- *Chief of Interpretation, Education and Outreach*: Tom Downs will begin in this position of 12 July 2021.
- Outdoor Recreational Planner and Law Enforcement staff positions have been recently filled as well.
- A contract with SDSU to examine a concept plan to improve access to the MNRR is underway. Two sites are under review: the Greenwood site (on Yankton Sioux tribal lands) – tribal permission has been acquired to look at a potential river access site with boat launch and primitive camping. Another site in Charles Mix County (Twin Roads, Ree Township) is also under review for potential river access. Preliminary scoping and site visits to the two sites under consideration as part of the SDSU architectural and landscape conceptual design project will occur on 26 May 2021, with similar arrangements for the FOMNRR BOD to occur in June 2021. Bob Foley and Barbara Yelverton will represent the FOMNRR during the preliminary scope and site visits.

A. Projects/Activities

1. **Project ROSCOE** – Teresa Mentzer reviewed plans for the future of the ROSCOE environmental education project. Whether this program remains a part of the MNRR interpretation, education and outreach plans is uncertain given the turnover in the MNRR staff. FOMNRR will wait to proceed with moving forward with this program until the MNRR decides on whether this program remains a part of the MNRR education and outreach efforts. The FOMNRR is favorably disposed to continuing to be involved if the ROSCOE program continues.
2. **Frost Trail Sign Installation/Dedication** – Tim Cowman mentioned that the signs for the north trailhead for the Frost Trail have been received for installation. SDGFP will install the signage when they come down for some other work in mid- to late-June. There is an opportunity in June or July to host a sign installation event for the Frost Trailhead, but we will wait until we have a firm date from SDGFP for installation to schedule the dedication program. Grant applications for signage for the North Alabama Bend site and trail system are still pending.
3. **Meridian Bridge** – Dugan Smith led a discussion of a project involving a Visitor's Services Improvement Project on the Nebraska side of the bridge. The project would likely include a greenspace with picnic tables and other visitor services, trail development, and education and interpretation resources. A planning process by the MNRR for such development is currently

underway. The FOMNRR could be involved in this project as it moves forward, so this will be an agenda item for future BOD meetings.

4. **Missouri Sedimentation Action Coalition (MSAC)** – Tim Cowman mentioned that the FOMNRR was invited to participate in a workshop to provide input for comments on the Sediment Management Plan for the Lewis and Clark Lake Region. The Corps requested comments from the FOMNRR on the Sediment Management Plan, if we are interested in providing such comments. Comments are officially due tomorrow, 25 May 2021. Discussion followed about what topics the FOMNRR comments might include. President Rich Burns hopes to draft some comments for the FOMNRR to submit to the Missouri Sedimentation Action Coalition. Rich will distribute these to the BOD for approval prior to submission.
5. **Nebraska LB 406** – LB406 provides an opportunity for funding to selected recreational developments in Nebraska. Rick Spellman led the discussion and mentioned that \$1.1 million (administered by the Department of Natural Resources) would be available from this bill, if it passes, for recreational development in Nebraska (including the general Niobrara area). Mark Simpson also mentioned that the current bill provides for funding to do a study of recreational development (not capital development yet) that would benefit Nebraska tourism (Cedar, Knox and Boyd counties are the target areas). Some opportunities that would qualify under expenditures should this bill pass include additional access, trail developments, and habitat conservation efforts along the Missouri River. FOMNRR will continue to monitor the progress of this bill and the opportunities that might occur if it passes.

Rick Clark highlighted his appreciation for the support and dedication of the FOMNRR that he has received as Superintendent of the MNRR.

The meeting adjourned at 3:04 pm.