

FOMNRR BOD Minutes
Tuesday, August 7, 2018
National Park Service-MNRR Conference Room-Yankton

Meeting called to order at 1:30 p.m. Board Members present included Tim Cowman, Susan Heggstad, Pat James, Barbara Yelverton, Bob Foley, Dennis Menke, Dave Swanson, and Kasi Haberman. Daniel Peterson, Dugan Smith, and Teresa Mentzer attended as park representatives. Also in attendance was Don Nelson, via phone.

The agenda was approved by a unanimous vote.

Minutes of the May 8 meeting were approved unanimously following a motion by Yelverton and a second by Menke.

Reports:

1. Financial and Membership reports- Treasurer Bob Foley provided a review of the FOMNRR financial balance sheet. Total cash assets are \$12, 743.35. Of those funds \$5,551.10 are unrestricted. The remaining balance is restricted for ROSCOE program, ROSCOE book, Frost Trail and Missouri River Events. Of the 126 Memberships, 95 are current; 31 have lapsed. In addition to paid members, the membership includes 72 associates, affiliates and media contacts. Majority of members are from Yankton, but other communities have seen an increase. Foley noted Niobrara membership increased following the landowners meeting in Verdel, a good indicator for future outreach
2. Membership recruitment-Dennis Menke reported that his focus has been on informal Third Thursday social gatherings to create awareness and a presence of the FOMNRR. Events have been promoted through e-mail, Facebook and the newspaper. The next Third Thursday was slated for Vermillion on August 16 for the Music on the Platz event. In discussion of future venues for membership recruitment Foley suggested Lincoln, NE and Haberman suggested the Visit Yankton display at Westroads Mall, Omaha.
3. Grants- Teresa Mentzer reported that the SD Recreational Trails Grant and the North Face (Outdoor Foundation) grant proposals were not funded. Cowman commented that a representative did visit the Frost Trail site and encouraged efforts to submit for funds year.
Mentzer, Menke and Don Noecker met to review the application for grants through 1st National bank. More research will be required before submitting a proposal. No communications as of yet regarding the NPS Cost Share Challenge Grant proposed for a 39-mile District Cleanup project. Cowman stated that the \$2,000 awarded by the Vermillion Area Community Foundation will need to be used for the Frost Trail. He suggested a campaign to sell sponsorships for signs on the trail. Sponsors would be recognized on the signs.
4. Landowner Communication Group-Pat James gave a report to the meeting held at the Blue Moon in Verdel. FOMNRR members collected comments and concerns of the property owners regarding the river. A follow up letter will be sent by Rick Clark to address these concerns. A meeting of the SD landowner's on the 39-mile district will be held on Sept. 25 hosted by Yelverton. Five new members and donations were received at this meeting.
5. MNRR update/Newsletter- Daniel Peterson (NPS) reported that the Summer issue of River Connection newsletter will be mailed the week of Aug. 13. The ROSCOE Ranger Academy was well received in both Yankton and Vermillion. Public meetings for the Goat Island Management Plan may be held this fall or winter and to stay tuned. Notices will be made prior to those meetings. In an effort to increase MNRR visibility, Peterson assisted Norway Township of Clay County, SD in submitting a Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) project for a 1.5 mile gravel road leading to Myron Grove River Access. The project was awarded last month and paving of the road leading from Timber Road to the overflow parking lot at Myron Grove River Access may take place in a few years. He is currently assisting Cedar County Nebraska in submitting a similar FLAP application to improve the road and amenities at Brooky Bottoms River Access. Peterson is also working to improve motorist alert signage on both sides of the river and throughout the two MNRR stretches; a copy of the Alert Signage and River Access Plan was provided by Peterson for board to review. Dugan Smith (NPS) reported that the park has received \$35,000 to place traffic counters at river access points on the MNRR to monitor visitors to the park. An additional \$25,000 has been awarded to replace signs at access points with Kiosks. Reported also was the success of kayak clinics this season at Lake Yankton and the unveiling of a Chief Standing Bear Statue at the Ponca Tribal Grounds during the Ponca Powwow near Niobrara, NE on Aug. 11.

Old Business :

Annual Meeting- Yelverton met with Ponca SP staff to organize plans for the Oct. 6th meeting at 12 p.m.. A lunch will be served including soup, corn bread/cinnamon rolls @ \$6/person. A motion was approved to allot \$1000 for promotion of the meeting in the Sioux City and Yankton newspapers. Those attending are required to pay a park entrance fee. Cowman motioned that anyone paying for a membership at the meeting receive a \$5 discount. Motion seconded and approved. Heggstad motioned that \$62 be approved for the printing of 250 postcards to be sent to list serve membership and distributed at MR Expo. Motion seconded and approved. Yelvertson reported that in addition to the meeting those in attendance can sign up for kayak, hiking or fly fishing activities. The White Pirogue event is scheduled at Ponca SP on Oct. 6 as well.

New Business:

1. Due to the resignation of Carol Smith as Co-chair, Cowman will continue as Chair and a Vice Chair will be voted in at the December meeting.
2. Dennis Menke requested payment of \$100 distribution fee to the SD Dept. of Tourism for the ROSCOE coloring book. Motion was made and approved. DOT distributes materials across the state to all rest areas and information centers. 10,000 books are to be printed. 5,000 to be distributed in SD. 2,500 delivered to Ponca/NE state parks and 2,500 for the MNRR. The overall cost of the coloring book, \$3,690, has been paid by donations and sponsorships.
3. Riverboat Days- Peterson called for volunteers to walk in the Riverboat Days parade carrying the MNRR banner in front of the park float entry. Pat James offered to help. Also, Friends were invited to join park staff at the open house following the parade at the MNRR headquarters and to set up a table.
4. ROSCOE Teacher workshop- Peterson reported that he and Mentzer have invited area 4th grade teachers to a workshop on Sat. Sept. 8. He requested \$150 to cover the cost of box lunches for the teachers. Heggstad moved to approve the request. It was seconded and approved. Foley suggested promoting the teachers who attend in local newspapers.

Comments and Announcements:

Smith reported dates and plans for the upcoming debut of the MNRR movies.

Yankton, Nov. 10, 7 p.m.; Vermillion, Nov. 19, 7 p.m.; TBA Ponca, Niobrara, Lynch, Wagner.

Swanson reported that the MRI Symposium will now be slated for the fall rather than the spring. The 2018 date is Nov. 15.

Foley reported that Niobrara Outfitters has submitted a campsite application for use area along Verdigre Creek for paddlers they service. A hearing was scheduled for their request at Center, NE on Aug. 14.

Members of the Friends are asked to greet visitors at the MR Expo along with the MNRR staff as a way to create awareness for the organization and invite them to the annual meeting at Ponca Oct. 6.

Next meeting date and time: TBA

Meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.