

FOMNRR Board of Directors Meeting
September 4, 2019 1:30 PM
NPS Conference Room, Yankton, SD

President Cowman called the meeting to order at 1:32 pm. The meeting began with introductions of attendees. Ten BOD members were present either in person or on conference call. BOD attendees were: Shane Bertsch, Tim Cowman, Bob Foley, Pat James, Terry Julesgard, Tony Kellar (replacing Susan Heggstad as VCDC board rep), Don Nelson (via phone), Marshall Pritchard (via phone), Dave Swanson, and Barbara Yelverton. Mary Robb attended as a visitor from the City of Yankton. Nick Mauro, Historical Preservation Officer for the Ponca Tribe, attended as a visitor. Rick Clark, Dugan Smith, Teresa Mentzer, and Daniel Peterson attended as National Park Service representatives from the MNRR.

Minutes – Minutes of last BOD meeting on 14 May 2019, which were posted online prior to the meeting, were approved unanimously.

New Business

1. **FOMNRR Involvement in Missouri River Events** – President Cowman asked the question – *How can the FOMNRR become more involved in the Missouri River Events (MRE) activities?*
 - Mary Robb, an MRE representative from the City of Yankton, provided an overview of the activities and timeline for preparation for the *Missouri River Education Festival* and the *Missouri River Clean-up* events, both of which have been ongoing for more than a decade. She also mentioned the roles and numbers for volunteers needed at these events and reviewed the schools attending the education festival (both South Dakota and Nebraska schools regularly attend).
 - Mary is retiring in a couple of years and is looking to replace herself and her MRE leadership duties once she retires. *Can the FOMNRR step into this role?*
 - At present, FOMNRR will send two representatives to attend the upcoming planning committee meetings.
 - It was also noted that a couple of volunteers are needed to help with set-up and preparation for the Missouri River Clean-up Event. The BOD will consider the possibility of FOMNRR members volunteering for these roles.
 - As an action item, the FOMNRR BOD will need to determine a way to get FOMNRR members (not just BOD members) involved as volunteers in the MRE events.
2. **Hydro, INC, Health and Safety Fair Booth** – Mary Robb and Dugan Smith reviewed the activities for this event, which serves about 400 employees of Hydro, Inc. The MNRR will have a booth at this event and Mary Robb is also involved in getting the river conservation/environmental message on behalf of the City of Yankton at this event.
 - The event is scheduled for 10 October 2019 from 7 am – 1 pm.
 - The FOMNRR will help to staff the MNRR booth and will also promote the FOMNRR at this event.
3. **Friends Alliance Meeting** – Barbara Yelverton and Dan Peterson are planning on attending this meeting from 24-26 September 2019 at Jackson, WY. The FOMNRR will fund Dan Peterson's travel expenses for the trip. The meeting is designed to facilitate networking among Friends groups of National Park units.
4. **Niobrara Area Initiative** – Bob Foley provided a report on behalf of Rich Burns. He briefly reviewed some of the issues facing the Niobrara area, especially regarding the tourism industry, after the Spring 2019 flooding. The top priority is rebuilding a functional boat launch for the City of Niobrara.

The intent is for the FOMNRR to apply for grant funding to help improve access to the MNRR, including the boat launch. The current timing is to submit a proposal for funding next summer, after discussion with the Niobrara area coalition.

5. **North Alabama Bend Site Tour with USACE** – Tim Cowman reviewed the current status of the Frost Trail (Trailhead signage allowed, but interpretive signage isn't) and then mentioned that the next step would be trail development at the USACE's adjacent North Alabama Bend site. Linda Filo, land manager for the North Alabama Bend site is supportive of trail development and she will lead a tour of the property for the FOMNRR at the end of September.

Reports

1. **Financial and Membership** – Bob Foley provided an update. FOMNRR has 154 members that have paid their dues at least once. Many of these memberships, however, have lapsed. He also reviewed where members and Facebook followers come from. For example, of the 791 Facebook followers, 12% are from Omaha/Council Bluffs, 10% from Yankton, and 8 % from Vermillion.
2. **3rd Thursday events** – Dennis Menke sent a short report. These events have been happening once per month since April. Typical attendance is 10-20 people.

Old Business

1. **Annual Meeting Recap** – Barbara Yelverton provided the recap and noted that attendance was about 20 people. She suggested that we set a date and keep the annual meeting on that date every year so that people could get the meeting on their calendars early. She also suggested that the annual meeting be a stand-alone event, not tacked on to some other event like this past year. The FOMNRR BOD was supportive of these suggestions.
 - A potential date for the annual meeting of the second weekend in September met with general support from the BOD.
2. **Center for Great Plains Studies Presentation** – Don Nelson noted that the presentation, loosely titled "MNRR 101" is scheduled for 21 November 2019 from 3:30-5:00 pm in Lincoln, NE. Jarett Bies and Dan Peterson are scheduled to give the presentation.

Missouri River Paddlers Rendezvous – Bob Foley announced that the Missouri River Paddlers group is planning a rendezvous event from 12-19 July 2020 that will involve a paddle trip from Fort Randall to Sioux City. He provided a tentative itinerary. About 70 paddlers plus a ground contingent are expected to participate. This could be a good opportunity for FOMNRR to play a role to increase our visibility. What role the FOMNRR might play will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Next meeting – The next FOMNRR BOD meeting will take place the week before Thanksgiving and be the last meeting of the year.

The meeting adjourned at 3:16 pm.