

**Minutes**  
Friends of the Missouri National Recreational River (FOMNRR)  
Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting  
OS-Teams Video Conference  
**28 April 2022**

Members Present: Kelley Ashby, Rich Burns, Tim Cowman, Bob Foley, Pat James, Terry Julesgard, Tony Kellar, Paul Lepisto, Don Nelson, Marshall Pritchard, Rick Spellman, Dave Swanson, and Barbara Yelverton. Trisha Ryken with Heartland Internet Connections attended as a guest. Curt Dimmick and Thomas Downs attended representing the NPS-MNRR.

Chair Rich Burns called the meeting to order at 1:32 pm.

**A. Reports/Updates**

1. MNRR Superintendent's Report – Tom Downs reported that Missouri River Events are progressing as scheduled (see schedule in Old Business below). Dugan Smith has done a great job of getting all these events ready to go.
2. Finance/Membership – Treasurer Bob Foley reviewed current balances, both restricted funds for the MRE activities and unrestricted funds. Currently there are 26 active individual memberships and 5 active business memberships. Lapsed memberships total 71 and 32 for individual and business memberships, respectively. Some discussion occurred regarding how we have typically dealt with facilitating membership renewals and how we might improve those efforts. Rich Burns will appoint a committee to work on developing more effective methods for stimulating membership renewals, including notifications when memberships have been renewed.
3. USACE Master Plan Update – Rich Burns gave a brief review of the FOMNRR response to the Master Plan Draft focusing on the recreational (kayaking, etc.) and land use components of the plan.
4. Missouri River Paddlers Rendezvous 30 July-6 August – Bob Foley described the history and the current program for this event. So far, about 100 paddlers are registered to attend. The event will also include some meetings and programs at the nightly camps with authors of books on the Missouri River and related topics. The Missouri River Paddlers are working with the MNRR to organize the logistics for this event. FOMNRR could play a role to help with logistics for the event and to take photos and videos of the event to help promote recreational use of the MNRR.

**B. Old Business**

1. **Missouri River Events (MRE)** – Rich Burns reported that, based on the MRE Planning Meeting held on 11 February, FOMNRR will be providing help and assistance for all the scheduled events. Paul Lepisto led a discussion regarding the volunteer help needed for these events and what would be involved for volunteer help for each event.
  - a. ***The Missouri River Watershed School Festival is scheduled for Thursday, May 5, 2022 at Riverside Park.*** A minimum of 5 FOMNRR volunteers are needed to help escort students through the different interpretive sessions.

- b. ***The Missouri River Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, May 7, 2022 at Riverside Park.*** A minimum of 5 FOMNRR volunteers are needed to help in different capacities, but as many volunteers as possible would be helpful to participate in the actual cleanup event. FOMNRR is to provide lunches for all who volunteered. Rich Burns has agreed to cook for the event.
  - c. ***Lake Yankton Outdoor Festival/Homestead Day event is scheduled for Saturday, June 11, 2022 at Pierson Ranch and at the Training Dike area near Lake Yankton.*** A minimum of 7 volunteers are needed to help in different capacities. FOMNRR has agreed to provide volunteers to assist with a kayak demonstration.
2. **Website and Social Media Strategy** – Rich Burns mentioned that FOMNRR’s redesigned website is just about ready to go live. Prior to launching the following decisions need to be made:
- a. Pat James, Trisha Reyken, and Tim Cowman led a discussion regarding methods to use PayPal for dues payments and donations. Separating dues payments from other donations would require the FOMNRR site to be linked to the PayPal site. Some concerns over security with the PayPal log in with this method were raised. Another option is a “Donate Now” button that is linked to PayPal, which would keep dues payments separate from donations. A motion (Ashby/Nelson) to “let Heartland Internet Solutions (Trisha Reyken) use the method that is easiest to connect to PayPal for both dues payments and donations, with the usual and customary standards for online security employed” was approved unanimously.
  - b. Motion (Lepisto/Nelson) to drop Postal Contact address from the website while still listing the postal address on the membership page to maintain the capacity for receipt of donations/membership dues by postal mail.
  - c. No email for FOMNRR is currently listed on the site. A discussion of whether we want to include the FOMNRR email on the web site followed. Consensus of the BOD was to keep the website as it is currently without listing the FOMNRR email.
  - d. Tony Kellar led a discussion of the social media strategy and process for the FOMNRR. The development of our social media process is being undertaken by the VCDC. A gmail account (for receipt and archiving of submissions for the social media process) and a Facebook account/page have been produced for FOMNRR. These are currently all linked to VCDC accounts so that VCDC staff can upload materials to Facebook. Discussion of what to include on the Facebook page followed. Administrators from the FOMNRR BOD can be added so that we can have direct access to the social media accounts. Some discussion about: (1) strategies for keeping social media content fresh and (2) what to do about followers of our current Facebook page also occurred. Discussion of appointing a committee for developing a strategy for our social media presence and how to feed fresh content to VCDC staff for posting was also undertaken. A subcommittee will be formed to develop a strategy for social media presence for FOMNRR.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm.