

Minutes

Friends of the Missouri National Recreational River (FOMNRR)

Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting

24 April 2023

Chair Burns called the meeting to order at 9:30 am at the MNRR Offices in Yankton, with some BOD members attending via Zoom.

Attendance: Kelley Ashby, Payton Brower, Rich Burns, Wade Ehlwinger, Bob Foley, Pat James, Tony Kellar, Paul Lepisto, Don Nelson, Rick Spellman, and David Swanson. MNRR Staff attending the meeting included Tom Downs and Curt Dimmick.

A. New Business

- 1. Financial Report** – Bob Foley noted that FOMNRR hasn't really recovered from COVID. So far this year, we have received the lowest amount of funding deposits during our existence. Only about 24-26 members are active and participating in FOMNRR events, so membership is languishing.
- 2. Officer and BOD Positions** – Chair Burns provided background for turnover of officer and BOD positions. Tony Kellar mentioned that he, also, will be accepting an increased workload for commitments outside of FOMNRR, so would have to assume a reduced role in the FOMNRR.

Treasurer/Membership Chair Position - Bob Foley has served since 2016. Bob has submitted his position resignation effective 8 May 2023.

Chair - Rich Burns has served since January 2020. Rich will be submitting his position resignation effective 21 May 2023

Current and past FOMNRR Board Members have been approached about the filling of these positions. To date, no one has stepped forward.

Chair Burns initiated a discussion with the following starter questions ...

- Do we want to maintain the Treasurer/Membership Board Position as is or split the duties out into two positions?
- Do we want to fill the Chair Position as a single member, co-member, or possibly hire an Executive Director?

Don Nelson moved to dissolve the organization given the lack of momentum, declining membership trends, and increasing commitments of current officer and BOD members. The motion died for lack of a second.

Superintendent Curt Dimmick provided the MNRR view of the value of the FOMNRR organization, mentioning that several important events (e.g., the MRE events) could not occur without the FOMNRR. Curt noted that revisions of the bylaws and restructuring of the BOD might be a place to start if FOMNRR were to continue as an organization. The looming question is who would be involved with conducting this review and restructuring process. Paul Lepisto highlighted the close relationship between MRE events and FOMNRR and the necessity of having the 501-C3 designation for fund-raising

for these events. Other discussion followed, with many comments focused on the difficulty of getting people involved in FOMNRR with the high volume of other opportunities for service currently available. Another issue raised was whether FOMNRR wanted to re-brand the organization to raise awareness of the activities on which the current organization focuses, with a view toward increasing membership and involvement.

The Treasurer role needs to be taken over immediately for continued function of the organization, so if the FOMNRR is to continue, this position needs to be filled by 8 May 2023, when current Treasurer Foley resigns. Discussion followed regarding who on the current BOD would undertake the Treasurer and Chair roles.

Bob Foley, Pat James, and Paul Lepisto were appointed to serve as a Nominating Committee to seek candidates for the Treasurer and Chair roles to try to fill these positions by mid-May 2023. The BOD will meet again in about a month to report on progress with finding candidates for these positions and to revisit where FOMNRR will go from here as an organization.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.