

## Minutes of the FOMNRR meeting for Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Chair Scroggins called the meeting to order at 10:30 am at the MNRR Offices in Yankton, SD.

Attendance: Kelley Ashby, Shane Bertsch, Bob Foley, Pat James, Tony Kellar, Paul Lepisto, Don Nelson, Lynn Scroggins, David Swanson, Tyler Wulf, and Barbara Yelverton. MNRR Staff attending the meeting included Tom Downs, Abby Schaner, and Curt Dimmick. Harry Freeman and Amber Margheim attended as guests.

The meeting began with introductions of all attendees. An agenda item was added to Old Business. This item was the renewal of the website contract (\$1200 per year charge currently) with Tricia Ryken of Heartland Internet Support. A motion to renew the contract (Pat J./Bob F.) was approved unanimously.

### Old Business

#### A. Reports/Updates

##### 1. MNRR Update (Curt Dimmick, Tom Downs)

- MNRR staff have been meeting with the MRE organizing committee. Good progress is being made on planning these events. A meeting is scheduled for January to continue progress on organizing these events.
- An annual work plan for the MNRR has been drafted.
- A new permanent law enforcement ranger, Liz Boyden, was added to the MNRR staff in November.
- The National Park Service is operating under the federal government continuing resolution until February. This has led to the MNRR working under a tight budget, with a projected 6% budget reduction relative to last year.
- The MNRR is looking to hire a permanent career seasonal biotech position (probably a 9 to 10-month contract) through the Inflation Reduction Act. A job announcement for this position is targeted for January 2024.

##### 2. Chair Report (Lynn Scroggins)

- Chair Scroggins reviewed her efforts to get up to speed as the new Chair of the FOMNRR. She mentioned that she would like to meet with board members individually and hopes to push the strategic planning effort forward.

##### 3. Finance Report (Kelley Ashby)

- Treasurer Ashby noted that she had been officially added to the bank account and has been provided with FOMNRR mailing address.
- Kelley noted that the current tentative balance for FOMNRR accounts is \$ 13,671.25, pending elimination of some confusion regarding reconciling different accounts and allocated funds.

##### 4. Membership (Pat James)

- Membership Chair James is currently working on getting membership lists up to date and integrating different past lists of members into the current updated membership list.
- Pat noted that FOMNRR had 15 renewed and 10 new members from last year. She also noted that only a few BOD members have renewed for 2023. Some discussion for methods to keep members informed on whether they had renewed or not ensued.
- Pat also noted that very few corporate sponsors are active members.
- Pat noted that the current policy for membership fee costs for agency members is not clear.

- Bob Foley mentioned that current strategies for many NGOs are to look for large donors to sponsor specific projects, rather than a standard membership dues model. The specific projects model seems to function better to cover necessary funding for these high-profile projects. Some discussion of methods to approach business sponsors for funds for specific projects occurred.
  - Pat James introduced two potential new board members: Amber Margheim and Harry Freeman. Discussion of the process for adding board members ensued, including a discussion regarding the composition of the board from by-laws and whether by-laws need to be changed to reflect practical operation, including tribal representation on the board. A motion to add Harry Freeman and Amber Margheim to BOD positions (Don J./Paul L.) passed unanimously.
  -
5. Missouri River Events (MRE) (Paul Lepisto)
- Paul Lepisto reviewed dates for upcoming MRE events. These include:
    - MR Watershed School Festival – Thursday, May 2, 8 am - Noon
    - MR Cleanup – Saturday, May 4, 8 am - Noon
    - Homestead Day – Saturday, June 8, 10 am – 1 pm.
  - 20 presenters for the School Festival have been confirmed.
  - FOMNRR has prepared lunch for the MR cleanup event in the past, so volunteers to carry out this activity will be needed. Paul will be seeking volunteers from FOMNRR for all these events.
  - Paul mentioned that he had submitted a grant proposal (\$7,500) through the Casey's Corporation for funding for the 2024 MRE events and the Roscoe program. The grant proposal is currently pending, with notification expected in March or April 2024. More proposals for funding for these events for 2024 are in preparation.
6. Restarting committees (Pat, Lynn, others)
- Pat James mentioned that we haven't had good, functioning committees for quite a while. Necessary committees for the FOMNRR include Membership (Nominating), Volunteer, Fundraising, Communications, and Strategic Planning. Chair Scroggins will contact board members via email to begin to get committees organized and functioning.
  - Fundraising Committee
    - Tony Kellar and Bob Foley volunteered to serve on the Fundraising committee.
  - Volunteer Committee
    - The MNRR has a program to recruit community volunteers (Community Volunteer Ambassador program). Some effort to coordinate this program with volunteers from FOMNRR is anticipated in the future.

### **New Business**

- Annual Work Plan: Tom Downs (MNRR Chief of Interpretation) presented the draft annual work plan. Some discussion followed. A motion (Don J./Bob F.) to approve the current draft plan as an interim measure, with modifications to be undertaken later, as needed, passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.