

Friends of the Missouri National Recreational River | Board Meeting Minutes 26 January 2024
MNRR Office (508 E 2nd, Yankton, SD) in-person & virtual

Chair Scroggins called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm

The meeting began with a welcome and introductions.

Attendees: Kelley Ashby, Pat James, Harry Freeman, Don Nelson, Paul Lepisto, Lynn Scroggins, Bob Foley, Amber Margheim. MNRR Representatives: Abigail Schauer, Caroline Ramone (Volunteer Ambassador Coordinator)

The minutes of the 12 December 2023 meeting were approved unanimously.

Old Business

1. MNRR Update (Abby Schauer)

- a. Annual Work Plan – needs to be finalized and signed, as it is currently overdue. Some discussion of questions regarding the plan followed, particularly as it related to describing the number of volunteers needed for the different projects in the Work Plan.
- b. Mobile Ranger Station - Improvements and renovations to the Mobile Ranger Station have been made, including an ADA-approved ramp and interactive touch-screen monitors.
- c. Grant Writing – An opportunity relating to “Veteran’s and Nature” may be an option for FOMNRR to pursue. Harry Freeman volunteered to serve on a committee to pursue this grant. Harrison Freund is the contact person from the MNRR working with grants and described this, and other, opportunities on which FOMNRR could partner.
- d. Staffing – Summer hiring is going well. Two hires have already been made and two are in process. Law enforcement positions are fully staffed. One, full-time, 12-month Biotech position remains vacant but will be open for applications soon.

2. Finance (Kelley Ashby)

- a. Finance report – current balance = \$ 13,697.48. The finance report was accepted.
- b. Debit card – Request for a vote on acquisition of a debit card, as this would make payments from FOMNRR much easier. A motion (Nelson/Freeman) to acquire a debit card for FOMNRR, to be used by the FOMNRR Secretary, was approved unanimously.

3. Membership (Pat James)

- 8 new members since October 2023 (\$1,550 has come in from membership and donations since October).

4. Communication/Outreach (Pat James, Kelly Ashby)

- a. Google Workspace – This would allow electronic storage space (for shared documents, such as grant proposals, workplan, etc.) and Google emails for FOMNRR. Discussion of the free Workspace for Nonprofits plan versus The Business Standard Plan followed. A motion (Swanson/Freeman) to approve the purchase of the Business Standard plan for up to 3 users with an automatic monthly payment plan for the debit card passed unanimously. Kelly will investigate the fees required, as well as the benefits available, for the Nonprofit plan, and

will report back to the FOMNRR board if the Nonprofit plan fits our needs better than the Business Standard plan.

- b. Constant Contact subscription – Pat James purchased a 2-month subscription to Constant Contact on behalf of FOMNRR. This should make communications to members much easier and more efficient. A motion (Nelson/Ashby) for a continuing monthly renewal for this subscription (\$12/month) until the Communications Committee deems it not necessary passed unanimously.

5. Missouri River Events (MRE) Paul Lepisto reviewed the dates and mentioned that things are moving along well. The dates for these events are listed below.

- a. MR Watershed School Festival – Thur. May 2 - 8-12
- b. MR Cleanup – Sat. May 4 – 8-12
- c. Homestead Day – Sat. June 8 – 10-1

6. Fundraising

- Tony Keller, Bob Foley, and Lynn Scroggins will work on this issue soon. A committee meeting is scheduled for next week.

7. Planning

- a. Interviews – Chair Scroggins mentioned that these 15 to 30-minute meetings with FOMNRR board members would likely begin in February.
- b. Groups/committees needed for Membership, Volunteers, Outreach, Fundraising, Communications, and Planning. Pat James mentioned that volunteers for committee service for these committees are needed. Pat was willing to lead a strategic planning ad hoc group to outline committee roles, responsibilities, and make-up. Harry Freeman volunteered to serve on this ad hoc committee.

New Business

1. Meeting improvements: Kelly Ashby proposed scheduling regular meetings to avoid the meeting scheduling problems that we have experienced lately. Chair Scroggins will work Paul Lepisto to use a Scheduling poll service to identify set dates and times for recurring meetings.
2. Some members have experienced issues with payments online, so this will need to be examined. Pat James will look into this issue.

Other Items (for the good of the order) Lynn

1. There is an upcoming talk by David Swanson on grassland birds on Feb. 1, 7 pm, at the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center for the Loess Hills Audubon Society. The public is welcome.
2. Harry Freeman mentioned that an appeal of the county zoning decision to allow for a housing development just downstream from Clay County Park was denied. Legal action to block this development continues.
3. A meeting to discuss the maintenance of Meridian Bridge is occurring tonight in Yankton.

The meeting adjourned at 2:16 pm.