

**Friends of the Missouri National Recreational River | Board Meeting Minutes**  
MNRR Office (508 E 2nd, Yankton, SD) in-person & virtual (Microsoft Teams)  
**Tuesday, February 27, 2024 | 1-2:30 pm**

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

Attendees: Kelley Ashby, Pat James, Harry Freeman, Amber Margheim, Don Nelson, Paul Lepisto, Lynn Scroggins, Rick Spellman, Barbara Yelverton. MNRR Representatives: Curt Dimmick, Tom Downs, Harrison Freund, Caroline Ramone, and Abigail Schauer.

Minutes of the 26 January 2024 meeting were approved unanimously.

**Old Business**

1. MNRR Updates

- Tom Downs noted that the MNRR and the FOMNRR have now signed off on the completed annual work plan for FY2024. The document was made available to the BOD previously but highlights of the plan were reviewed. Some discussion followed, including the potential development of a Trip Planning Guide that would outline river access, boat launch, and camping facilities available along the MNRR.
  - Harrison Freund reviewed opportunities for some grant proposals on which the MNRR and FOMNRR could collaborate.
  - Caroline Ramone is working on a plan for recruiting and organizing volunteers for MNRR projects and programs.
2. Finance Report – Treasurer Kelley Ashby noted that the current balance in the bank account is \$13,794.70.
3. Membership Report – Pat James noted that there are no updates to report since the newsletter went out.
4. Communication/Outreach – Pat James asked some questions about newsletter and website materials and how to work more closely with MNRR staff to better develop content for these materials. Another question was how to better communicate with people who might want to be involved with FOMNRR programming that aren't current BOD members. A new issue of the newsletter is planned for April/May, so Pat will be soliciting content from MNRR staff and BOD members for this newsletter.
- Google email accounts for non-profits – Kelley Ashby mentioned that she needs to provide paperwork to demonstrate our non-profit status. Kelly asked whether the Form 990/990-N has been filed on an annual basis. There is no record that this form has been filed in recent years. Kelley will contact former Treasurer Bob Foley to check on this filing.
  - Chair Scroggins noted that *Yankton Thrive* is willing to help with promotion and outreach for FOMNRR membership and activities.
5. Missouri River Events (MRE) - Paul Lepisto mentioned that the events are on track and that some donations/contributions/pledges (food, etc.) have been received. Dates for the upcoming events in 2024 are listed below.
1. MR Watershed School Festival – Thur. May 2, 8 am-Noon
  2. MR Cleanup – Sat. May 4, 8 am-Noon
  3. Homestead Day – Sat. June 8, 10 am-1 pm
6. Fundraising – Chair Scroggins is working on a grant proposal to assist with implementation of the Goat Island Management Plan. Paul Lepisto mentioned that there are also grant opportunities

through the SDGFP for which Goat Island projects would likely qualify (assuming Goat Island is considered part of South Dakota).

- Paul Lepisto mentioned that a proposal to the Casey's Foundation for \$7,500 for MRE events is currently pending.
  - Abigail Schauer mentioned that she had received an estimate for T-shirts to be distributed to volunteers for the MRE events (*House of Brand* = \$1,700 for 150 shirts). Discussion about how to pay for this and whether fewer shirts would be a better option followed, with no action taken.
7. Planning Updates
- Interviews – Chair Scroggins is through about half the BOD member interviews and part way through interviews with the MNRR staff. Chair Scroggins will summarize information from these interviews when they are completed.
  - Fixed Board meetings – Chair Scroggins mentioned that the fourth Tuesday of the month from 1-2:30 pm is the current preferred time.
  - Chair Scroggins noted that members are needed to serve on committees for Membership, Volunteers, Outreach, Fundraising, Communications, and Planning activities. Should the expectation be that all BOD members would be expected to participate in some committee service? Discussion followed and this will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

#### **New Business**

1. Annual meeting/picnic – Chair Scroggins brought up the idea of re-starting the annual meetings (in conjunction with planned activities on the river) for this summer. Discussion followed. Chair Scroggins will pursue this further and this will also be an agenda item for the next meeting.

#### **Closing**

- The next FOMNRR BOD meeting will be on Tuesday, 26 March 2024, at 1-2:30 pm at the MNRR Office in Yankton.
- The meeting adjourned at 2:23 pm.