

Minutes - FOMNRR Board Meeting – Thurs. April 10, 9-10:30 am
NPS Conference Room or by Teams Connection

Interim Chair Paul Lepisto called the meeting to order at 9:03 am.

Attendance: Bob Foley, Paul Lepisto, Don Nelson, Dave Swanson. Guests: Curt Dimmick, Tom Downs, Abby Schauer, Caroline VerMulm.

The minutes of the 3 March 2025 FOMNRR BOD meeting were approved.

FOMNRR financial report – Interim Treasurer Bob Foley mentioned that the current balance is \$7,222.23 and all outstanding bills have been paid, including the costs for web site maintenance until September. There will be costs for (about \$1,200) the Black Hills Raptor Center for their presentation at Homestead Days on 14 June 2025.

MNRR Updates – Tom Downs mentioned that Water Trail information has been updated. The annual Missouri River Clean-up and Watershed Festival are coming soon. The NPS cannot ask for volunteers to provide food, so perhaps a simple lunch funded by FOMNRR for the Missouri River Clean-up Event would be best.

Curt Dimmick gave an update on personnel issues in the region under the new administration. The MNRR is experiencing issues with the termination of the lease in September; these issues are causing uncertainty with MNRR operations. The seasonal position searches are underway, so operations this summer should be more-or-less normal.

Abby Schauer mentioned 430 students from 9 schools for the Watershed Festival. Information packets have been delivered to teachers. Purchase and provision of food for the Watershed Festival is underway. FOMNRR will be paying for food for both the Watershed Festival and the River Cleanup. FOMNRR will also need to purchase air horns and other supplies for the Watershed Festival.

MOTUS Project – David Swanson mentioned that he is in the process of purchasing components for four Motus stations, which will be set up to track off-river foraging movements of Least Terns. He is running into some issues with availability of some components and with funding for graduate and undergraduate field technicians.

Updates on Upcoming MRE Events

MR Watershed School Festival – 1 May, 8 am-Noon – Riverside Park

Volunteers – Caroline has lined up 21 volunteers currently. She is still looking for a couple of additional volunteers for floaters.

MR Cleanup – 3 May, 8 am-Noon - Riverside Park

Caroline VerMulm mentioned that volunteer sign-up sheets are available. Advertisements for participation have been sent out. The flyer and an option for signing up for the River Clean-up will soon be posted on the FOMNRR website. Abby Schauer mentioned that PSAs will occur on three area radio stations and the Press & Dakotan for calling for volunteers. Abby also mentioned that t-shirts will be paid for by the National Park Foundation, so these shirts will be ready to go for the clean-up event. Lunch for the Clean-Up event hasn't been decided upon yet, but FOMNRR will pay for it. Consensus of the group was to move forward with the plan for brats, condiments, and variety pack chips for the post-clean-up lunch. Boat operators are in place for

the Clean-up event. FOMNRR brochures will be available at the Clean-up event, with a drawing for FOMNRR merchandise, and the FOMNRR banner will be prominently displayed at both the Watershed Festival and the Clean-up event.

Homestead Day – 14 June, 10 am-1 pm – Pierson Ranch – Plans are in place for this event. Contact with the Black Hills Raptor Center will occur on the day before to finalize logistics for the presentation. 100 Pierson Ranch entry passes at \$1 each have been purchased.

Southeast South Dakota Tourism – FOMNRR has invested approximately \$800 in this group. Their main networking event occurs on the same day (1 May) as the Watershed Festival, so the MNRR will try to have a representative at the Tourism event, despite the demands of the Watershed Festival.

FOMNRR activities “on hold” – the activities listed below are currently on hold because of uncertainty with both FOMNRR and MNRR under the new administration. We are hoping for some clarity prior to the end of the fiscal year on 30 September 2025. Defining the annual workplan for FOMNRR in conjunction with the MNRR prior to the end of the fiscal year is recommended to be prepared for any eventualities.

- Fundraising – for events & other activities
- Business – Corporate contacts
- Membership & board recruitment
- Promotion & communication
- Website & Facebook page

Updates on River Appreciation Day – Planned for September 2025 in Vermillion. Nothing new to report at this time.

Potential dates for the next BOD meeting were discussed. Interim Chair Lepisto will send around a Doodle poll to determine dates and times that work for everyone.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25.