

## **Minutes - FOMNRR Board Meeting, Thurs. June 12 2:30 – 4 pm**

Interim Chair Paul Lepisto called the meeting to order at 2:31 pm.

Attendance: Bob Foley, Harry Freeman, Paul Lepisto, Don Nelson, Dave Swanson. Guests: Tom Downs, Marcia Olnes, Abby Schauer, David Thomson.

The minutes of the 10 April 2025 FOMNRR BOD meeting were approved.

**FOMNRR financial report** – Interim Treasurer Bob Foley gave the report. The current cash balance is \$14,156.04. Of that amount \$7,500 is designated for the Junior Ranger Program grant activities.

**MNRR Superintendent:** Introduction - Acting Superintendent David Thomson. David started this position in early June to take over from Curt Dimmick, who is moving to the superintendent position at John Day Fossil Beds National Monument in Oregon. David is from south-central Iowa originally and has been with the NPS for 33 years at various parks, mostly in the West, including Wind Cave in South Dakota. Recently, he has been involved with the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program of the National Park Service in the Midwest, working with external partnership groups to promote outdoor recreation opportunities. He is looking forward to working with the MNRR and the FOMNRR.

**MOTUS project update** – Dave Swanson mentioned that he is purchasing components for 4 Motus stations, which will eventually be placed along the Missouri River in southeastern South Dakota. This summer, the stations will be used to track on- and off-river foraging in Least Terns along the MNRR in South Dakota.

**Updates on MR events** – Tom Downs mentioned that the Watershed Education Festival and the Missouri River Cleanup events went very well this year. The Homestead Day (Pierson Ranch Unit, SD GF&P) and Marina Day (Wiegand Marina, NE G&P, including a Kayak Relay) events are both coming up on 6/14, Homestead Day from 10 am – 1 pm and Marina Day from 1 – 4 pm. FOMNRR will need to coordinate with the Black Hills Raptor Center on 6/13 for the Homestead Day presentation. FOMNRR has purchased 100 entry passes from SD GF&P for the Homestead Day event.

**FY 26 FOMNRR Work Plan Development** – The work plan must be completed by 9/30/25. A sub-committee will draft and present a draft work plan to the BOD by August or early September. The sub-committee is looking for volunteers to help Paul Lepisto and Bob Foley to serve on the sub-committee. Harry Freeman volunteered to serve on this sub-committee. Consensus was to extend the current work plan agreement until 9/30/25 to cover the period until the next work plan is due.

### **Other business**

- Harry Freeman mentioned that the Clay County Commission received a federal Federal Land Access Program (FLAP) planning grant for \$250,000 to study methods and opportunities to increase access to the Missouri River. The County Commission recently changed composition and voted to not accept the money, so the plans to increase river access will not move forward.
- Abby Schauer mentioned that plans to purchase materials for the Junior Ranger Program grant, including fishing clinics, are in process. Bob Foley will approach the bank for a FOMNRR debit card that can be used for these purposes. A motion (Nelson/Freeman) to acquire a debit card and a petty

cash fund for the FOMNRR, which can be used for Junior Ranger Program purchases, passed unanimously.

**Other FOMNRR activities**

- Paul Lepisto mentioned that the work plan will include, at minimum, the following items: fundraising, corporate outreach for business memberships, outreach for general membership and BOD recruitment, promotion and communication, newsletter production, website and social media presence, and traditional media presence.
- Interim Chair Lepisto mentioned that we need to revise the by-laws to better fit current reality for FOMNRR and the BOD.
- Interim Treasurer Foley mentioned that the annual report for the 503C designation was due soon, so he will get that in before the deadline.

**Next meeting** – potential meeting dates were discussed, with a consensus being sometime in late August or early September. Interim Chair Lepisto will circulate a Doodle poll for possible dates in that time frame.

The meeting adjourned at 3:53 pm.