

Friends of the Missouri National Recreational River (FOMNRR) Board Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, 11/26/2024, 1-2:30 pm

Call to order by Chair Paul Lepisto at 1:02 pm.

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

The minutes of the May 28, 2024, meeting were approved unanimously.

FOMNRR financial report – Bob Foley (Interim Treasurer) The current balance is \$13,698.58. Check for Motus project contribution (\$2,500) with press release event to happen early in 2025. Sufficient allocated funds are in place for the MRE events in 2025. Fundraising events will be necessary to generate future operating funds.

NPS updates – Tom, Curt, and Abby gave the report. A National Park Foundation (NPF) grant has been used to update the Mobile Ranger Station with some exciting educational and graphics updates. Another NPF grant to update wayside signs along the MNRR with both English and Native American language options with QR code to access interpretive materials is in process. Operating under a continuing resolution until Dec 24, 2024. Planning for MRE events is currently underway.

2025 FOMNRR Work Plan – Tom mentioned that the 2025 FOMNRR Work Plan needs to be approved very soon (since it was due on October 1, 2024). Some discussion of a plan for how to approve the work plan took place. The Work Plan will be emailed out to the BOD for approval within 7-10 days after the meeting. This document needs to be driven primarily by FOMNRR membership and requires sufficient fundraising to accomplish this plan.

FOMNRR website – Some discussion of whether to renew the maintenance agreement for 2025 took place. A person to assume leadership of website content updates is needed to keep the website and social media platforms up to date. The expense for website and social media accounts is about \$1,000 to \$1,500 per year. Other ways to accomplish dues payment without the website were discussed without reaching consensus on a path forward. A motion (Swanson/Nelson) to not renew the website for 2025 was approved (3 yes to 1 no). A consensus was reached to approach the vendor to keep the website in a dormant state so that it can be revived if we get a volunteer to run it.

FOMNRR scheduled 2025 events – Abby Schauer provided the update. Upcoming dates are ...

- MR Watershed School Festival – 5/1 – 8-12 – Riverside Park
- MR Cleanup – date TBD either 4/26 or 5/3 - FOMNRR to cook brats
- Homestead Day – 6/14 10 am -1 pm – Pierson Ranch – SDGFP.

The question of whether to approve an expenditure to Regalia International for a Birds of Prey show for Homestead Day was discussed. The fees and lodging expenses for Regalia International are \$2,000 for the show and \$883 for lodging. FOMNRR has supported this for the past several years. Paul will get a bid from Maggie Engler for a similar Birds of Prey show before circulating the options via email to the FOMNRR board for a vote.

- A motion (Foley/Swanson) to purchase 100 entry passes at \$1 each for Park Entrance fees for Homestead Days passed unanimously.

Other new events or outreach ideas for 2025 – Some discussion of swag for handing out at MRE events was undertaken. No action was taken.

FOMNRR recruitment – Paul led a discussion of what we might be able to do for recruitment efforts for FOMNRR general membership and board members. One idea, implemented recently by Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, was a drive to seek applications for BOD membership. Discussion of how to reconnect with Yankton and Vermillion business communities also occurred. Paul and Bob volunteered to serve on a recruitment committee, working with Tom Downs, with an early 2025 recruitment push planned.

FOMNRR strategic planning - Some discussion of pre-COVID work on this topic occurred, but this was postponed until we are able to increase membership.

Bylaw Review Committee: Current bylaws require an annual review of the bylaws, which has not taken place since COVID. No action taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.