

Dear Friends and Supporters:

This letter is intended to provide you with a basic understanding of what the friends of the Otter Tail River is all about, as well as to provide an update on our current status and the details of both our short and long term goals.

Friends of The Otter Tail River (FOTOTR) was established in the summer of 2009 to promote an environmentally healthy and commerce friendly resource for the residents of our area and the thousands who visit. We will strive to work with local, state and federal governments as well as corporations, businesses and individuals as partners in our common interest – to protect and improve the Otter Tail River and our community.

Thus far we have incorporated our name and applied for 501c3 non profit status. A bank account with Wells Fargo has been established and our office is located at 130 E. Lincoln Ave. in Fergus Falls. Our website address is [www.friendsoftheottertailriver.com](http://www.friendsoftheottertailriver.com).

Our initial goal is to establish an office at the Wells Fargo Bank building which overlooks the river and the River Walk Path System. We feel this building offers the location and amenities that can best fulfill our goals including public meetings, presentations and tours of the river. Our next goal is to establish a board of directors and a membership base, many of whom we see as volunteers with a like-minded desire to fulfill a need in our community.

Our long term goals include obtaining commercial interest at various locations near the river that both environmentally and commercially attractive. Currently, there is a four block area in downtown Fergus Falls which has a River Walk Path System. At this writing, land owners from this area in a westerly direction along the river are all open to establishing an easement for a path system that would cross the Interstate 94 highway and continue west for approximately one mile. If this could be accomplished we could conceivably see a path system for hiking and biking, camping areas, swimming areas, canoeing and kayaking as well as fishing tournaments and other such events – all things that are not happening currently but could include everyone in the community. With this, we believe a commercial environment would also flourish in the form of development of hotels, restaurants, and businesses.

The rich and interesting history of our area is the fundamental concept at the very base of all these possibilities. In our journey, we look to the past and the figures who had a dream of prosperity for the community; men like Joe Whitford, George Wright and others. For these reasons, we feel historic locations that best benefit the public are desirable acquisitions by FOTOTR. This location can then be used as anchors in establishing a full range of environmentally sound, publicly used and commercially desirable networks along the best asset the city has, the Otter Tail River. Right now the former Red River Mill is for sale and in less than desirable condition, however, it has great possibilities and this is just one example.

We have an opportunity before us that offers limitless possibilities for our community. We have been blessed with this chance and we need to act. The city has established the funds and given the go ahead for a feasibility study. Our Congressional Representative has expressed a desire to assist our community efforts and we stand on threshold of a great challenge.

If you would like to be a member or if you would like to make a donation, we encourage you to go to [www.friendsoftheottertailriver.com](http://www.friendsoftheottertailriver.com) and learn more about us. We hope to have a user-friendly means of allowing you to join and donate online in the next few days. In the meantime, donations can be make at Wells Fargo Bank.

Thank you for your time, and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Jim Danner, President  
Paul Tysver, Secretary  
Dean Anderson, Treasurer