

Minutes from MRVAC Board Meeting, 1-20-2015

Present: Greg Burnes, Patti Larson, Ken Oulman, Dianne Rowse, Bob Williams, Rick Magee, and Becky Lystig

Greg calls meeting to order at 7:02pm

- **Secretary's report** – no changes to minutes supplied by Matthew Schaut. Motion to approve made by Greg, seconded by Ken, minutes approved. Note – Greg will send minutes to Tracy to be posted on MRVAC website.
- **Treasurer's report** – Bob supplied the board a summary fiscal update. Incomes from fundraising events are equal to, or exceed last year's totals. There is a CD coming due on May 3rd - the board will discuss action in our March meeting. Expenses are at or below last year's levels.
- **Trumpeter report** – deadline to get articles to Anne is Jan. 30th so it can get printed and sent on-time. Dianne agreed to work with Matthew to submit an article summarizing the Water Quality seminar they both attended. Bob is attempting to get dates for any public meetings regarding the Bloomington Trail and will create an announcement if they become available.
- **Membership report** – 1,294 National, 68 local
- **Programs** – All set for Jan and Feb. Laura Erickson is scheduled for March. Greg to email Steve to get an overview of the program so it can be included in the Trumpeter.
- **Old Business**
 - **Signature Cards at US Bank** – The MRVAC Board resolves that Matthew Schaut, Bob Williams, and Greg Burnes will be signatories on the MRCVAC US Bank account(s). Matthew is replacing Steve Weston.

Board approved this resolution on 1-20-2015
 - **MOU Savaloja Grant** – Bob has submitted. Bob is sending Greg the Word version of the submission and will revise and send to Tracy to be posted on the website and included in the next issue of the Trumpeter
 - **Minnesota Environmental Partnership Billing** – Bob will be sending a check (\$150) at the appropriate time.
 - **Bloomington's Master Plan – Bob, Greg and Craig M. meet the Project Manager(s) in Dec.** – Greg and Bob updated the board on their meeting with Cynthia Wheeler and Kent Skaar. The project is still in the planning stages and MRVAC members will stay engaged with the process. Bob is waiting to hear about the public forms that Bloomington and the DNR are scheduling and will announce on the web, Facebook, and the Trumpeter when the dates become available
 - **Picnic: June 4th at Richardson.** Dianne has made the reservation and Bob will send check at the appropriate time.
- **New Business**
 - **Grant Requests Discussion** – We have one request from North Woods Audubon and expect to continue to support the Refuge. Bob is going to check on a project to add

parking to the 180th St Marsh. The board will be reviewing grant requests in the next 2 – 3 board meetings and deciding on which to fund.

- **Fund/Engagement Raising**
 - **Thursday Evening** – Greg will supply a brief overview of current fundraising and Anne will facilitate a brainstorming session on how we can increase revenues
 - **Raffle for Bird Sculpture** – Greg is bring the sculpture, raffle tickets, a sign, brochures, container for raffle tickets to the Refuge meeting.
 - **Suggestion that have come in from members** – One suggestion was to do something with Bird and Bee friendly landscaping was discussed. There are a number of options discussed and Greg will capture them in a separate document and supply the board for further discussion. Regarding changes to auction, we are going to discuss these ideas during the Refuge event.
- **MRVAC Youth Bird-a-thon?**
 - **Support Hastings Efforts (Dwayne Smith's email)** – Dianne is going to approach a contact she has at Lowry to see if we can pull together a youth team for the Hasting Event (4-18-15). The Board committed to paying any entrance fees and transportation costs to support the team. Bob can supply t-shirts. Also discussed leveraging Dianne's contact to hold a discussion around getting more youth involved in birding.
 - **Create a MRVAC Youth Bird-a-thon** – tabled – will focus on the above for now
- **Communications**
 - **Communication Planning** – we need to update our MRVAC brochure (tri-fold) business cards and other promotional materials. Greg will start process and will need help from other board meetings and volunteers.
- **Refuge Meeting –**
 - Greg to announce:
 - ✓ Raffle information and an update on our fundraising success and grant applications in March meeting
 - ✓ Dates for upcoming events (Bird Treks and Picnic)
 - ✓ Future meetings – bird and birding hotspots of the month, volunteer opportunities
- Greg made a motion to adjourn, Becky seconded, meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Action Plan for 2014/15 - *Our mission is to provide leadership in promoting environmental awareness, education and advocacy action, especially relating to the wildlife and habitats of the Minnesota River Valley.*

- MRVAC promotes the understanding, enjoyment, and protection of native birds, other wildlife and their habitats.
- Teach children about the importance of getting outdoors, experiencing nature, and caring for wildlife and the environment
- Engage our membership in supporting these activities through volunteer opportunities and donations
- Grow and diversify our membership in order to support and sustain these efforts.