

MRVAC Board meeting Minutes for November 17, 2015

Present: Bob Williams, Dianne Rowse, Becky Lystig, Matthew Schaut, Greg Burnes, Steve Westin, and Ken Oulman.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Secretary's report: Minutes from October meeting accepted with no changes identified.

Treasurer's report: Approving Annual Report to State of Minnesota. Ken moves to approve report, Greg seconds, Annual Report approved.

Bob presents current budget. MRVAC received a \$250 gift from Minnesota River Valley National Wildlife Refuge trust in honor of Lois Norgard's late husband, Gary Hansen. MRVAC will acknowledge receipt of this gift in the Trumpeter. MRVAC made \$1755 from Give-to-the Max Day.

Trumpeter Report: MRVAC has converted newsletter delivery from paper to electronic delivery format for those who requested it at the October 2015 MRVNWR refuge presentation. Greg proposes sending all members for whom we have an email address the newsletter in electronic format, making it MRVAC's customary practice; those who want a paper copy will have to 'opt in' to do so.

Membership report: Patti not present. No report.

Programs report: Steve reports. About 85 persons attended October presentation, given by Sharon Stiteler.

Old Business:

Nov/Dec Board Activities Review – Annual report submitted.

Auction Prep – preparations are being made.

CBC Prep – The Badens are preparing to manage this year's count. Participants should have updated maps and checklist this year. Diane suggest having a sign-up sheet available at the auction.

Savaloja Grant – Deadline for grant requests is in January 2017. Bob would like us to identify an organization that would benefit from binoculars.

Three Rivers Diversity Program – maybe MRVAC can participate in outreach efforts in 2016.

Additional Board Members – Greg curious about adding Board members to bring more resources and connections to MRVAC.

President Elect. No-one is identified as President Elect at present.

New Business

Update on Minnesota Audubon Leadership Meeting

Minnesota Audubon has new Marketing (Ashley) and Outreach (Katie) coordinator positions, funded by local grants.

Reviewed National Audubon Society Strategic Plan – new focus on water and on bird-friendly communities.

National Audubon plans to staff a robust Chapter Services Group of 7-10 people. Currently they have one person serving all the local chapters.

Minnesota Audubon is planning a number of outreach and educational events that we can become involved with. Should receive a schedule of events in the coming weeks.

Possibility of sharing such services as Website, Facebook, mailing list management with all chapters and Minnesota Audubon.

Chapter leaders to meet virtually in January 2016 and in-person in March of April 2016.

Greg recommends using Audubon Works as our communication vehicle.

Joining forces with the Izaak Walton League's Environmental Issues Committee (EIC). Greg has joined their board. Greg presents a list of issues they see as important, are most in need of persons to help with outreach, getting people to contact leaders and making phone calls. Board agrees that MRVAC should financially support the Izaak Walton League in a way to supports their advocacy efforts.

Move to adjourn meeting made by Greg, seconded by Dianne. Meeting adjourns at 7:53 p.m.