

MRVAC Board meeting -- November 18, 2014

Present: Greg Burnes, Ken Oulman, Steve Westen, Bob , Patti Larson, Matthew Schaut, Rick Magee, Becky Lystig, Diane Rowse.

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

Secretary's Report: Two spelling errors corrected, and a change in wording of sentence about the Trumpeter (from printing to mailing) identified. Motion to approve minutes with these corrections made by Greg, seconded by Bob, minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report: Give to the Max not included in this month's report, but Bob notes it was a successful day fundraiser for MRVAC.

Trumpeter Report: Becky reports.

Membership Report: 1269 National memberships, down slightly. 66 local memberships.

Programs Report: Jan Dunlop presented in October. Attendance estimated at about 50 people. January and February 2015 speakers are booked. March 2015 is still open.

Old Business:

Minnesota Audubon Leadership meeting took place on Nov. 8, 2014. Greg and Steve attended. Greg found it valuable to meet and network with other environmental leaders. Steve, per Greg, did a good job representing MRVAC. Greg was impressed by materials Zumbro Audubon chapter has created and is willing to share. Zumbro has developed attractive brochures (with scarlet tanagers on the cover!) describing their activities. Also, "Top Ten birds of southeastern Minnesota" and an "Owls of Minnesota" flyers. Greg would like to create a MRVAC brochure. Zumbro also puts out an email newsletter with many on-line links; they are relying less on a printed newsletter. Their web- and Facebook pages permit signing up for National Audubon membership with local chapter affiliation automatically assigned. These strategies could assist MRVAC to increase membership and, just as important, *engagement* with MRVAC.

Rick's idea: a brochure for the Mall of America to alert both mall regulars and guests to the area about the Minnesota River Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Explore Minnesota might be another partner.

MOU paper session is scheduled for Dec. 6, 2014 at the Bell Museum of Natural History on the U of Minnesota campus. MRVAC is responsible for this year's refreshments. Greg will order the refreshments, Becky and Diane will arrive early to assist with set-up.

Annual Auction: Scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 20, 2014. Set up to begin at 5:30 with the auction beginning at 6:45 p.m. Board anticipates an exciting evening! MRVAC will call for Trumpeter Award nominees at the Auction, and promote the Christmas bird count.

Bloomington Master Plan Greg sent out links to the three videos Ed Crozier has prepared showing the land the proposed trail will traverse. Isaak Walton league wants the multi-use trail feeling it will discourage use of the trail by mountain bikes. Greg asks, "What is MRVAC's role at this time?" Bob: "The Old Cedar Avenue Bridge renovation is a done deal. The trail is a more contentious issue and will take more time." Bob and Craig Mandel are attending meetings, and plan to stay engaged with the Bloomington City Council and Park Board.

Viking Stadium Glass MRVAC continues to advocate that bird-safe glass be installed in the new Vikings stadium.

New Business:

Annual Report for National Audubon. Board approves the annual report form for charitable organizations for the State of MN (required of 501-C charitable status).

Greg moves to adjourn, Matthew seconds, meeting is adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Matthew Schaut