



MRVAC Board Meeting Minutes: August 22, 2019

Present at Greg Burnes' house: Greg Burnes, Rob Daves, Lee Ann Landstrom, Ken Oulman, Matthew Schaut, Walt Stull, Steve Weston, Bob Williams.

The agenda and minutes were distributed ahead of time. Matthew called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. A quorum was present.

Secretary: On Rob's motion and Bob's second, the board unanimously approved the May minutes.

Treasurer: Walt distributed the treasurer's report. Net worth is \$47,284.41. Steve reminded us to pay Josh for editing The Trumpeter. Walt shared several thank-you notes from grant recipients. He said the St. Paul Audubon Society will no longer mail The Cardinal newsletter; it must be requested.

Membership: Greg reported 118 local members, up from 95 a year ago, with some renewals expected. National Audubon reports about 1,000 people (which varies from month to month) allocated to us as being associated with MRVAC. We currently don't get membership money from national Audubon when members sign up for dual memberships. Greg said he would write a note for The Trumpeter to explain the benefits of local membership and remove the "dual membership" status from the website. He also said he'd write the announcement for the CBC for The Trumpeter.

Trumpeter newsletter: September 1 is the deadline for submissions for the next edition.

Programs: September's program is Joel Vos on Bering Sea birds. Sharon Stiteler will speak in October. There are speakers lined up for the remainder of the winter and spring with June's talk on Papua-New Guinea birds. The CBC dinner in December will move to The Refuge.

Old business:

- We're always looking for grant proposals.
- We need to firm up plans for the auction and auction site (Matthew to contact REI).
- Matthew attended the national Audubon conference and has been working with national and state Audubon staffers who focus on flyway and local chapter issues. He reported that compared with much larger chapters, we're doing similar amounts of programming and grants.
- Matthew served as a naturalist for the recent Refuge/Best Buy/Canon event and was able to promote MRVAC; Lee Ann said she was there, too.
- Matthew raised potential project topics we could consider: Minnesota River water quality; pollinators (Matthew will volunteer to lead this); bird-safe glass/lights out/window strikes; native plants (Lee Ann will follow up with Ashley Peters at Minnesota Audubon); continuing promoting diversity. Rob suggested asking members at the September meeting for volunteers to head up one of these initiatives.
- Board membership: We have one open position. The board agreed that we need to seek a younger board member.

New business:

- There was consensus approval for Rob to create a MRVAC account on the Minnesota Master Naturalist website. Rob also will check to see if there's a way the MMN can help with our projects.

On Greg's motion and Walt's second, the board unanimously approved adjournment at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Rob Daves, secretary