



MRVAC Board Meeting Minutes: January 24, 2019

Present at the Minnesota River National Wildlife Reserve HQ: Rita Baden, Rob Daves, Becky Lystig, Ken Oulman, Monica Rauchwarter, Matthew Schaut, Walt Stull, Suzanne Trapp (MNVNWR), Joel Voss (MNVNWR).

The agenda, minutes, and a grant proposal from the Minnesota Independence College and Community were distributed ahead of time. Matthew called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. A quorum was present.

Secretary: On Ken's motion and Walt's second, the board unanimously approved the December minutes.

Treasurer: Walt distributed the December treasurer's report showing a net worth of \$48,777.25 and reviewed recent sources and uses of funds. The board accepted the report. Walt will renew the February CD at the bank's best rate. He has estimates from a number of print shops and recommended getting new stationary from Minuteman Press that includes our color logo. He's still trying to find an electronic copy of the newer logo. On Rob's motion and Ken's second, the board approved the use of Minuteman Press.

Membership: Greg Burns' email to the board earlier in the month reported 107 local members and 1,114 national members. No one could explain precisely the differences between the two, but board members indicated that the national organization provides MRVAC some funding based on the number of national members in the chapter's geographic area.

Trumpeter newsletter: Becky will not be able to mail the newsletter until late February but is coordinating with Anne Hanley. Monica offered to help if Becky had scheduling complications. Anne needs articles – including the Christmas Bird Count results – by the end of January. (Note: After the meeting, Anne said she was retiring as newsletter editor.)

Programs: January's program is on the Santa Marta area of Columbia. In Steve's absence, Matthew indicated that February through April programs are planned.

Old Business:

- Seventy-one people participated in the CBC.
- On Becky's motion and Monica's second, the board unanimously approved Craig Mandel's proposal for a partnership with Holbrook Travel, with the requirement that participants sign the hold-harmless waiver Rob distributed on Dec. 22, which the board approved by email consensus.
- Matthew reviewed some of the details of the annual report that the National Audubon Society requires. The board offered estimates of number of members and hours contributed to chapter activities. It agreed to not answer some demographic questions as with last year's report. He received guidance from Walt on financial figures and submitted the report to the national office.

New business:

- On Ken's motion and Monica's second, the board unanimously approved providing the red-headed woodpecker project \$2,000 based on its grant proposal.
- The board discussed the Minnesota Independence College and Community grant request for binoculars, field guides and other equipment. Matthew volunteered to follow up to ask that the organization resubmit the grant to include: 1) Bringing down the cost through a two-for-one binocular program; 2) Providing information about the proposed use of the equipment; and 3) Providing a follow-up report documenting how the equipment was used in the first year.
- The Refuge's Joel Voss met with the group to ensure that the board knew that he would be its MRVAC liaison. He reviewed the memo of understanding (that included co-promoting MRVAC meetings and activities) that will be finalized once the federal government reopens. He asked that we keep the building tidy. He reminded the board that federal rules and regulations govern the use of the building, and stressed the need to establish norms for security. The board agreed that separate rooms for board meetings and social/meeting gatherings would provide a more secure environment and suit its needs better. The Refuge will continue to be open on a limited basis unless the federal situation changes.
- Tracy Albinson will be resigning as webmaster on March 1. Her email to the board earlier this week included a \$1,050 invoice for redesigning the website. On a motion from Matt and a second by Becky, the board unanimously approved payment. The board discussed beginning a transition plan with an email to members from Steve Weston.

On Rob's motion and Ken's second, the board unanimously approved adjournment at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Rob Daves, secretary