



MRVAC Board Meeting Minutes: Feb. 27, 2020

Present at Minnesota River Valley Wildlife Refuge HQ: Rita Baden, Greg Burnes, Rob Daves, Matthew Schaut, Walt Stull, Bob Williams.

The agenda, treasurer's report and minutes were distributed ahead of time. Matthew called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. A quorum was present.

Secretary: On Matt's motion and Greg's second, the board unanimously approved the January corrected minutes.

Treasurer: Net worth is \$53,918.

Membership: Greg reported 943 national members, 143 local members, seven inactive. He sent out renewal notices to a half dozen members whose membership expires in March.

Trumpeter newsletter: The newsletters were distributed via email and Greg said 103 were mailed to members and another couple of dozen to interested businesses.

Programs: Stan Tekiela's presentation on bird nests is tonight's program. The spring lineup is in The Trumpeter.

Old business:

- Website Committee: The original proposal from web developer Christine Tierney that Rob distributed to board members on Jan. 17 was approved 8-0 via email vote. Matthew needs to sign the proposal before she can start. The board tentatively picked a color palate for the site. Rob, Bob and Matthew will work with Christine as the web committee, along with Craig Mandel (calendar). Rob volunteered to serve as the board's point of contact with her.
- Grants: The agenda included the grant requests, which Matthew reviewed and the board discussed. On Matthew's motion and Rita's second, the board approved requests from the Red-Headed Woodpecker Project (\$1,500), the Friends of the Refuge (\$1,500), Osprey Winds Environmental Learning Center (\$1,500), 180th Street March (\$5,000, half for land purchase and half to fund an information kiosk). The board asked Walt to include in his award letters a request that a) the organizations credit us publicly for the grant, and b) provide us a description of the grant results from their programs after they are completed.

- The board agreed to be a sponsor for the Landscape Arboretum's "Birding Day at the Arb."

New business:

- Bob met with the MOU president Dick King about a potential joint fund drive for the Sax-Zim Bog. The board agreed that it was a good idea that needs a lot of work, but took no further action.
- There was general agreement that while email exchanges between board meetings is necessary and can be useful, discussion of complex issues as was done in February is frustrating and confusing. The board agreed that members should continue to work with each other outside board meetings, but to refrain from combining threads and use board meetings and not email as the forum to debate complex issues.

On Matt's motion and Greg's second, the decision was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Rob Daves, secretary