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 **MRVAC Board Meeting Minutes: January 28, 2021**

Present via video teleconference: Rob Daves, Lee Ann Landstrom, Ken Oulman, Monica Rauchwarter, Matthew Schaut, Josh Sweet, Walt Stull, Steve Weston, Bob Williams.

Documents distributed ahead of time: December minutes (Rob); treasurer’s report (Walt). Matthew called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m., shared the agenda, and declared a quorum.

Secretary: On Rob’s motion and Lee Ann’s second, the board unanimously approved the December minutes.

Treasurer: The current budget showed total net worth as $55,932. Walt reviewed the past month’s income and expenses, which showed much lower income and expenses than in the past.

Membership: Steve has been updating the membership list on the master file and on MailChimp so we can send renewal notices. Rob’s been sending renewals to Matthew, but Steve needs to get those to keep the list updated. The search committee (Rita, Matthew, Steve) reported no activity. Steve reports local membership at, with 673 people signed up to receive the Trumpeter via email. Matthew will send Steve the new members he’s received from Rob from the website signup. Rob will copy Steve on new member signups. There was no immediate number for total membership for the annual report. Rob will write something for the website to let folks who become National Audubon members know to designate MRVAC as their local chapter.

Trumpeter newsletter: Josh has called for submissions by Feb. 18. Bob indicated that we probably will postpone the Bird-a-Thon for the fall as we did in 2020. There is no word on the Salt Lake birding weekend. Josh asked Steve for a CBC recap; Steve said Rick McGee will do something for the Bloomington CBC. Lee Ann may have something about the grant awards.

Programs: Kenn Kauffman will be tonight’s speaker . We have last year’s speakers for February through May. They include Jon Slaught in February, author of the award-winning *Owls of the Eastern Ice*.

Old business:

* Covid-19 Status: There’s no change in Gov. Waltz’ orders and the National Audubon Society guidelines for field trips or at the Refuge.
* Website: Rob has kept the website updated, including monthly-program posts and revising the grant criteria paragraph on the grant submission form.
* Trumpeter Service Award – There is one nomination.
* Year-end report: Matthew’s almost finished it, and needs to meet with Walt. It’s due Jan. 31.
* Birdflight and Music Patterns – Terry Wolkowitz of the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra sent a proposal asking MRVAC for $150 to purchase access to its Bird Flight Patterns and Music video. There was board enthusiasm for the program. Rob will respond.
* Grant proposals: Matthew shared the grant requests. After board discussion the board approved Nicole Pyle’s request for her Girl Scouts Gold Award bluebird trail project ($490). The board tabled Jefferson High School’s Earth Corps request until they provide additional information, specifically about how the project will have avian benefit. The board approved The Friends of the Refuge’s request for $1,500 for birdseed at the feeder station. Other organizations have contacted us requests but have not submitted them. Lee Ann will contact the Girl Scouts and The Friends about their successful proposal.
* Bird Strikes – There has been no further information from Normandale Community College.
* Doug Mayo told the group via an earlier email that he continues to work on the criteria we use to award grants.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Feb. 25, 2021.

On Rob’s motion and Lee Ann’s second, the decision was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Daves, secretary