****

**MRVAC Board Meeting Minutes: May 27, 2021**

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

Documents distributed ahead of time: April minutes (Rob); treasurer’s report (Walt); agenda (Matthew); grant criteria draft (Doug). Matthew called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m., shared the agenda, and declared a quorum.

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

Treasurer: The current budget showed total net worth as $54,537. We received an unexpected contribution from the Vanguard Charitable Fund; Walt reviewed other income and expenses. All grants and allocations have been payed except for the Red-headed Woodpecker project. We’ve received $876 from individual checks and GiveMN for the modified spring Bird-a-thon appeal; Bob said the goal was $1,000.

Trumpeter: Josh reminded the board that submissions for the July-August edition are due June 17. He reviewed past content for this edition.

Programs: Steve has arranged for Irene Bueno-Padilla of the University of Minnesota’s College of Veterinary Medicine to talk about the threat of NSAID drugs to vultures for tonight’s programs; she has waived the speaker’s fee. The June speaker is Gunnar Engblom of Peru.

Membership: Pam Albin has agreed to chair the membership committee. We’ll leave the current system in place until Pam is integrated and trained on the membership software. We don’t have email addresses for national members in our geographic area. Although Walt gets the membership dues, we don’t know who gets the actual report from the national Audubon organization; Steve will contact Greg Burnes to track that down. Steve sent an email to 90 lapsed members; 58 opened the email; 22 sent in local membership renewals and three were new members. We have about 100 current local members. We have 715 email subscribers; more than 300 opened the notice for tonight’s meeting.

Old business:

* Urban Roots – The organization resubmitted its proposal. On Lee Ann’s motion and Ken’s second, the board unanimously approved all the environmental education funding in the request but not the community cleanup portion. Lee Ann will let them know.
* Red-headed Woodpecker Project – Steve said the project is waiting on the state Legislature to pass a budget so it can specify what funds to request.
* The Refuge continues to be closed but is renewing outdoor education. Craig Mandel is leading trips and sending tips to Walt. Ken suggested we ascertain from Craig when he will start publicizing trips.
* Speaker’s Bureau – Bob and Rob shared a draft of the slide deck they had developed for an Eden Prairie talk in June.
* Grant criteria – Doug reviewed the updated draft for accepting and approving grants, which also will help guide applicants. Rob sent Doug the definition of MRVAC’s territory from the website. Bob will also send a definition to Doug. On Ken’s motion and Walt’s second, the board unanimously approved the guide.
* Board/Officer elections – Rita offered to yield her seat to a new board member. On Rob’s motion and Lee Ann’s second the board elected the current remaining board members (10) and officers’ slate to serve the 2021-2022 business year.
* Normandale Community College – The college has hired the Sun Control Company to install “feather friendly” treatments to cut down on bird strikes.

New Business:

* Gina Gile of Rochester wrote asking for our help preserving a heron rookery there. Matthew will let her know that we support the effort but that it’s more appropriate for her local chapter to address it.
* Matthew received a box of window treatments to use against bird strikes; we also have pollinator books.
* The board endorsed Lee Ann’s suggestion that she contact other schools about pollinator garden projects.

Matthew will be gone for the June board meeting; Rob will handle the Zoom notice and agenda.

On Rob’s motion and Ken’s second, the decision was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Daves, secretary