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**D-R-A-F-T**

 **MRVAC Board Meeting Minutes: June 24, 2021**

Present via video teleconference: Rob Daves, Claudia Egelhoff, Lee Ann Landstrom, Ken Oulman, Walt Stull, Josh Sweet, Steve Weston, Bob Williams.

Documents distributed ahead of time: agenda and May minutes (Rob); treasurer’s report (Walt); Egelhoff petition (Steve). Steve called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and declared a quorum.

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

Website: Rob reported that the website is up to date; if there are additions, let him know.

Treasurer: We ended the year with $32,496.10 in our checking account, $20,953.52 in CDs, for a total net worth of $53,449.62. We are about $2,000 short of our budgeted income and not quite $3,000 short of our budgeted expenses, which means we took in $722.23 more than we paid out. Note that we exceeded our Bird-a-thon and auction budgeted amounts but fell short for field trips, general contributions and local memberships. We can wait until the August meeting to allocate the surplus.

Membership: Steve reported that no local membership numbers were available. Other updates: We now have 722 email subscribers. For the meeting tonight, 47% looked at tonight’s email meeting notice. More than half of those who received the Trumpeter email opened it. We sent 90 reminders for dues; about half renewed. Steve was pleased with these proportions. He's ready to start working with Pam Albin as she moves into the membership chair. He will send her email address to board members. He will continue doing the email reminders because of MailChimp’s limitations. He has not checked on who’s getting the National Audubon membership reports.

Trumpeter: Josh reviewed the content for the upcoming edition, including upcoming field trips. The review draft should be out the first of the week. Walt will get some end-of-year budget information to Josh for a short piece.

Programs: The June speaker is Gunnar Engblom of Peru. Steve has arranged for Elana West and the Red-Headed Woodpecker project for the fall. Other topics include boreal chickadees, Sharon Stiteler, and James Paruk’s *The Great Northern Diver*. We don’t have a speaker for September yet.

Old business:

* Refuge COVID-19 status: Rob reported that according to Refuge officials, it was “hopeful” that we could hold our September meeting in person at the HQ building.
* Trumpeter Award: Rob reminded the board that because of inaction of the award committee, the board in April agreed to make the decision. Steve will ask Matt to send around the nomination document.
* Red-headed Woodpecker Project – Steve said the project continues to wait on the state Legislature to pass a budget so it can specify what funds to request.

New Business:

* Speaker’s Bureau: The presentation to the Eden Prairie Noon Rotary went well, Rob and Bob reported, and we now have a slide deck to use for future presentations.
* Claudia Egelhoff: Claudia petitioned the board to join other Audubon chapters all over the U.S. and other individuals and organizations in endorsing a carbon pricing bill (HR 2307) to help combat climate change. On Ken’s motion and Steve’s second, the board unanimously approved the endorsement.

Next board meeting: August 26 at 6 p.m. by Zoom.

On Rob’s motion and Steve’s second, the decision was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Daves, secretary