****

 **MRVAC Board Meeting Minutes: April 22, 2021**

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

Documents distributed ahead of time: March minutes (Rob); treasurer’s report (Walt); agenda (Matthew); grant criteria draft (Doug). Matthew called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m., shared the agenda, and declared a quorum.

Secretary: On Rob’s motion and Lee Ann’s second, the board unanimously approved the March minutes. He reviewed the progress of developing a PowerPoint slide deck for Eden Prairie’s Rotary talk. He updated the board on website activity in the past month.

Treasurer: The current budget showed total net worth as $58,032. Walt reviewed the income and expenses. He’s paying out affiliated group memberships this month. He reviewed the proposed 2021-2022 fiscal year (June through May) budget, $550 less than the current annual budget. On Matthew’s motion and Ken’s second, the board unanimously approved the 2021-2022 budget. Bob reviewed the spring GiveMN fundraising effort, a notice of which will be in the Trumpeter, and also should be on the website and Facebook page. By consensus the board agreed to provide the Birdflight video link as an incentive for those who donate $50 to the fundraiser. The May 1-11 GiveMN fundraiser is in lieu of the spring Bird-a-thon.

Trumpeter: Josh thanked those who met their deadline for the newsletter and reviewed the articles in the current draft of the May-June edition, which should be ready for editing before the weekend. He reminded the board that it’s time for board and officer elections. Robin offered to provide art for the Trumpeter.

Membership: Steve continues to look for a membership chair. We agreed to discuss the board and officer elections at the May board meeting. Steve reported 709 email addresses on MailChimp, which serves at MRVAC’S email and distribution tool for the Trumpeter.

Programs: Christine Herwig will have a presentation on the North Ottawa Impoundment tonight. For May, Steve has arranged for Irene Bueno-Padilla of the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine to talk about the threat of NSAID drugs to vultures. The June speaker is Gunnar Engblom of Peru. Steve asked for suggestions for next year’s programs, which he organizes during the summer. Most board members supported using virtual meetings during cold-weather months and streaming Refuge in-person programs.

Old business:

* The Refuge continues to be closed, and we still need to maintain Covid-19 protocols, especially in our non-Refuge trips.
* Trumpeter Service Award – Doug reminded the board that the living recipients comprise the committee that selects the award recipient. There has been one nomination, and agreement that we should send that nomination to the committee. If we haven’t heard from the committee by the next board meeting, then the board will take action.
* Grant criteria – Doug reviewed the draft for accepting and approving grant. Bob will send Doug the definition of MRVAC’s territory. Rob suggesting wording to take care of the guideline for grants, and the consensus was to use $3,000 as a guideline maximum. Doug will make the changes, distribute them and the board will vote on it in May.
* Matthew will ask Urban Roots to reapply, as their January application could not be found.

New Business:

* An artist requested funding for a sculpture for Riverfront Park in Mankato. The grant request had few specifics, including an amount, and many thought it didn’t meet our grant criteria. On Matthew’s motion and Rita’s second, the board unanimously agreed that we would not fund the proposal.

No schedule was announced for the next meeting.

On Steve’s motion and Rita’s second, the decision was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Daves, secretary