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 **MRVAC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes: April 28, 2022**

Present via video teleconference: Pam Albin, Rob Daves, Lee Ann Landstrom, Doug Mayo, Ken Oulman, Walt Stull, Josh Sweet, Steve Weston, Bob Williams. Documents distributed ahead of time: March minutes, treasurer’s revised report, revised agenda.

Rob filled in for Matthew and called the meeting to order at 6:04. Rob had sent out a revised agenda including grants received since April, 2021, and their current dispositions. There were no other additions.

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

Website: Rob reported that everything seems to be working okay. He posted an article from the *Trumpeter* as well as meeting notices. The new *Trumpeter* edition is online.

Treasurer Report: Walt sent a revised report with updated income from the checking account and the cashed CD. During discussion about the proposed 2022-2023 budget there were concerns about the live auction projected amount, with some thinking it should be decreased to $2,000 since we may not have a live auction and some attendees may not return due to the pandemic. Walt clarified the technology line item: We are charged as work is needed each month; it is not a monthly flat fee. He noted that the large field trip revenue is from Craig Mandel’s one-time Ecuador trip. By consensus, the board agreed that the additional $100 given to organizations this year should not be included in future budgets. Walt will revised his *pro forma* budget for a May board vote.

Membership: Pam reported 131 paid local members; there were 112 last month. Steve and Pam will create and send a reminder email to lapsed members. There are now 792 people on the email list (779 last month), of which 212 are local. There was a suggestion that an email be sent to ask them to join.

Trumpeter: The May-June issue is done and posted. Steve will send it out via email. July/August article requests will go out soon and include another request for editor. Josh asked if we’ve found a new editor; Steve has a potential candidate he will approach.

Programs: Kim Eckert will present in May on his revised book and needs to present via Zoom. The UMD presenter asked for his June talk to be online as well. Future topics and presenters include Sharon Stiteler and a New Zealand wildlife rehabber with local ties. Steve asked for other suggestions from the board and said he’d like to get a big name for winter such as Scott Weidensaul.

Grants:

MN Valley Friends, campus habitats, part b – We asked the friends revise its application with more details, which we have not received. Lee Ann will write to ask if they intend to reapply.

Normandale Community College Foundation – There was a discussion about whether we should fund the whole $6,000 even though they asked for $3,000. Lee Ann shared that our cooperating organization, Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis, doesn’t have any funds available. On Lee Ann’s motion and Doug’s second, the $3,000 request was approved unanimously. Lee Ann will inform them and also ask if they have plans to fund the outstanding $3,000.

Hastings Public School kiosk/sign – Rob shared with the board that some of the other funders now have come through with their portions of the costs since the board met last. On Walt’s motion and Steve’s second, the request for $3,000 was passed with one nay vote. Rob will inform them.

Friends of Sax-Zim Bog – Lee Ann asked them to re-apply for the boardwalk. We haven’t received the revised request. Lee Ann will remind them.

MYBird Club – See below.

Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery Project – The board approved $5,000 in March and Steve will ask if they still need the additional $3,000 in the original request.

Kennedy High School Green Club – Board members agreed that they like funding this type of project that blends youth interested in nature, citizen education and habitat improvement. The application was thorough and itemized, and proactively answered typical concerns. On Lee Ann’s motion and Doug’s second, the board unanimously approved the $2,000 request.

Non-grant old business

1. Henderson Hummingbird Hurrah – There was no new information.
2. Functionality of web-based grant submissions – Matthew continues to not receive the one sent automatically by MRVAC.org; it is likely an issue with his Yahoo settings according to the web programmer. Rob, who also uses Yahoo email, receives them and forwards them to the board right away. The board thinks this is satisfactory.
3. Board recruitment and elections – Steve will approach members he thinks might be interested. Several questions were raised: Should we change presidents, as is past practice, and will Pam agree to sit as a board member? Steve will ask Matthew if he wants to step down yet stay on the board.
4. Minnesota Youth Birding Club (MNYBC) – Rob met with Amy Simso Dean and prepared a short PowerPoint outlining the club’s needs, how it would affect MRVAC and some of the issues the process faces. MNYBC would like MRVAC to be its official fiscal agent and 501(c)(3) sponsor. They want to co-brand and co-promote programs, which include using MRVAC’s website. In return, MRVAC may get more help in fundraising, promotion of our events and recognition on their social media, e-blasts, and in-person hikes. It would cost to have additional web development done. The MRVAC treasurer would need to hold and distribute any grant money they receive (we can set up a separate checking account under our main account) and adjust our Stripe account so we can accept credit card payments. The board feels that MYBC needs to pay for and sign a legal contract (Rob will share a template of an existing agreement), apply for their own funding, place their programs on our website, and work with the treasurer to create financial reports. Board members were concerned about this extra work for Walt (who had to leave early) and the extra time and cost for the web development. The board thought MNYBC should provide a representative to the board who would be the main liaison to MRVAC. We may need to increase our liability insurance for the extra field trips; we don’t think our non-profit status will be affected. In sum, the board thinks that the partnership is a positive expansion for MRVAC and will continue to work through the process.

Board members noted that board meetings are not finished in one hour, business often is delayed and there is a crunch to prepare for the 7:30 p.m. member meeting. One suggestion was to meet on a separate Thursday via Zoom for 1.5 hours.

On Steve’s motion and Bob’s second, approval was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Daves, secretary, from Lee Ann Lindstrom’s notes