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 **MRVAC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes: May 26, 2022**

Present via video teleconference: Rob Daves, Amy Simso Dean, Lee Ann Landstrom, Doug Mayo, Ken Oulman, Matthew Schaut, Walt Stull, Steve Weston, Bob Williams. Documents distributed ahead of time: March minutes, treasurer’s report and annual budget, agenda, Refuge friends supplemental grant request.

Matthew declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:04.

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

Website: Rob reported that there were no known issues with the website. Some of the links to past programs are no longer available; there was a suggestion to post program links to a YouTube channel that we’d create. This would help alleviate the Zoom limit on space, but would be dependent on speakers’ approvals.

Treasurer Report: Walt said the income and expense items were straightforward and detailed in the report. He moved CD money from US Bank to our Star Choice Credit Union account and will do the same when the remaining two CDs mature. He reviewed the changes the board requested in the 2022-23 *pro forma* budget. On Rob’s motion and Ken’s second, approval of the annual budget was unanimous.

Membership: There is no update for local membership numbers. There are now 809 people on the email list. Steve said he will send emails to 60-100 members who need to pay dues. He reviewed several other chapters’ membership dues structures that included special rates for seniors, students, families and patrons.

Trumpeter: No report.

Programs: Kim Eckert will present this month via Zoom on his revised book. The UMD presenter on mammals asked for his June talk to be online as well. There is no update on next year’s programs.

Grants:

* MN Valley Friends, campus habitats, part b – The board thought that there were more direct opportunities to help local organizations with grant money and several of the original questions it had of the grant request didn’t appear to be answered. On Rob’s motion and Matt’s second, the board turned down the proposal unanimously. Walt volunteered to contact the Fiends of the Refuge to okay its request to use the grant money for birdseed.
* Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery Project – The board approved $5,000 in March and Steve said he has not heard if they still need the additional $3,000 in the original request.
* Hastings Public School kiosk/sign – Rob will get the contact information for the check to Walt.
* Friends of Sax-Zim Bog – No update.
* The Kennedy High School – Lee Ann reports that the school is thankful for our recent grant and has ordered plants and started on its rain garden.

Old Business:

1. MYBird Club – On Steve’s motion and Matt’s second, the board unanimously approved funding the next five MYBC walks at $900 while the board continues to work on hammering out a more permanent solution to the MYBC-MRVAC partnership. Matthew and Bob volunteered to work with Amy to address a long-term solution. Walt will talk with the insurance company about added liability.
2. Henderson Hummingbird Hurrah – There was no new information.
3. Board recruitment and elections – On Steve’s motion and Walt’s second, the board unanimously elected Rob, president; Steve, vice president; Matthew; secretary; Walt, treasurer; and Bob, Doug, Ken and Lee Ann as board members with three open spots for future candidates.
4. By consensus the board decided to limit board meetings to the meeting day each month.

Amy invited MRVAC board members interested in equity and diversity to a joint meeting with Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis.

New Business:

1. August fundraiser – Bob will start putting together The Great Minnesota River Valley Birding Day fundraiser for August.
2. Auction – As time had lapsed, the board decided to discuss the auction next month.

On Bob’s motion and Walt’s second, approval was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Daves, secretary,