

 **MRVAC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes: September 22, 2022**

Present: Rob Daves, Robin Kutz, Avery Blumenthal, DJ Langefels, Lee Ann Landstrom, Walt Stull, Bob Williams, Steve Weston. Distributed ahead of time: treasurer’s report, board meeting agenda, notes from Rob’s conversation with Audubon Minnesota.

Rob opened the meeting and declared a quorum at 6:10 p.m. He introduced DJ Langefels of Audubon Minnesota; Bob introduced Avery Blumenthal, a potential board member.

Trumpeter: We send out Trumpeter announcements to more than 800 via email and about

100 copies by USPS to individuals.

Membership: Steve said he didn’t know the latest membership numbers and agreed to provide a membership document ahead of time for future board meetings with updated key membership categories. He reported that we now have access to the list of national members in our area, resulting in our present contact list going from 816 to 1,163. Over 55% of the
national members opened the email welcoming them to MRVAC with about 3% of the list asking to be unsubscribed.

Secretary: No corrected June and August minutes were sent ahead of time for approval.

Website: Rob reported that he’d placed a tab on the top of the home page to make it easier for users to donate to MRVAC. He also reported creating a link on MRVAC.org so users could subscribe to Audubon Minnesota action alerts. There was a suggestion to add an interest line for to website forms for new members to use to indicate how they wanted to volunteer, and a comment line for any explanation of a donation or memorial.

Treasurer: Walt will send the charitable organization annual report to the board next week so we'll have time to approve it before the Dec. 15 deadline. He will continue sending monthly treasurer reports via email with no hard copy. He reviewed revenue and expenses. There was $3374 in year-to-date income and $1,029 in expenses. He reported that balances have remained stable over the past months. Insurance costs have dropped; he’s investigating why and will report back to the board.

Programs: Steve reported that he did not send the program announcement to MOUnet this month. Programs are scheduled for every month except June. Scott Weidensaul is slated for February. The September and October meetings are in person and via Zoom. November is the auction, with January through March only in Zoom. Foraging will be the May program, with a suggestion that the speaker use examples of foraged items rather than having breakout groups go foraging on the refuge.

Old business:

Grant proposals:

* Sax-Zim – Lee Ann reported that the bog folks will start working on a new trail funding request.
* Red-headed Woodpecker project – Steve reported no updates.

Lee Ann has contacted past school contacts for new school proposals. Rob reported thanks from the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District for our school rain garden grants, which are being maintained.

MYB: Rob briefed the board that he’d relayed the offer to share promotion, branding and grant support to Amy Simso Dean but that there’d been no decision about whether to continue that effort. Walt reported that he’d paid MYBC’s invoice for the $900 grant we’d approved. Amy is working on another grant request for September and October youth bird walks. Once an agreement is reach we can start to promote their walks on our website and social media.

Auction: Bob volunteered to talk with REI to use its facility. Lee Ann said she’d contacted Anne Hanley to get a list of commercial vendors. Bob will contact Marci Halfman to get the list, as she doesn’t do email. Steve reported getting donations for the auction.

Audubon Minnesota: Rob briefed the board on a meeting he had with DJ Langefels of Audubon Minnesota. It doesn’t want to lead MRVAC’s direction but asked for help in supporting its legislative and conservation issues. At Rob’s request, DJ provided Rob and Steve access to the national Audubon members list for members in our geographic area. Lee Ann asked how certain communities were assigned, suggesting there may be more appropriate way of aligning local zip codes with our membership area. DJ said he’d work to find that out, as Bob reminded the board that was done several years ago. Steve pointed out that the zip code-local chapter search function is not working properly on the national Audubon site.

Board member search: We welcomed Avery, a student at Carlton College. Lee Ann said she’d also talked to several people about serving.

On a motion by Steve and second by Walt, the board’s vote was unanimous to adjourn at 6:55 p.m.

From the notes of Lee Ann Landstrom and Rob Daves