**MRVAC Board of Directors Meeting**

**10/27/2022**

Held at the MRVNWR Headquarters. In attendance: Bob Williams, Doug Mayo, Matthew Schaut, Steve Westin, Lee Ann Landstrom, Walt Stuhl, Rob Daves, Pam Albin. Guest: Avery Blumenthal.

Due to technical difficulties the meeting began at 6:19 p.m.

**Trumpeter Report** – Steve and Rob. Newest issue is essentially complete; it will be disseminated in the next day or so. It contains some time-sensitive material. This is Sam’s first issue for MRVAC.

**Secretary’s Report** – Lee Ann and Rob took notes. Rob made corrections. Board approved Sept. 22, 2022 MRVAC Board minutes. Matthew should share the June and August minutes once he has assured himself he has made all the identified corrections.

**Website Report** – Rob. Suggestions were made at last month’s meeting to improve the donations page. Nothing has been done with this yet.

**Treasurer’s Report** – 1) September Report: There is a negative 51.92 for the general contributions due to moving some money to the Bird-a-thon. The final transfer of automatic donations has been completed from USBank to StarChoice. One of the last two CDs was cashed out; one other comes due on Nov. 14 at which time the USBank account will be closed out. 2) Charitable Organization Annual Report, filed with the Attorney General’s office, needs board approval so it may be filed. Motion to approve made by Steve, second by Doug. Motion is approved unanimously.

**Membership Report –** Local membership through Oct. 26 is 136; Trumpeter email list is now at 1,178, up from 815. Gain made my using the National Audubon list to find members in the MRVAC area. In addition to email, we are sending out Trumpeters to 20 organizations and 117 paper copies to individuals via the USPS. – In June, there was a 62% email response rate (people opening the email). This month, the rate was 59%, which Steve calls “incredible” since this response rate includes the new email recipients.

**Programs Report -** There will be no auction in November due to inability to find a venue to host the event. Plans are to resume the MRVAC auction in 2023. – Dec. 17 is the Bloomington Christmas Bird Count. Cedar Creek is Dec. 18. There will be a pot luck dinner after the Bloomington count, most likely at the MRVNWR Headquarters. January’s speaker is Linnea Rouse, who is now head of the American Bird Conservancy’s Upper Midwest conservation programs. February is Scott Wiesenthal. March, April and May are all set. A speaker is still needed for June. In November we will open a new Zoom Account as the current one expires. Steve will be the account “owner.”

**Old Business**

**Active Grant Proposals:**

1. Friends of the Sax-Zim Bog – The friends wrote Sept. 20 they it’s decided not to put in a boardwalk, and are working on a hiking trail instead.
2. Red-headed Woodpecker Project has not made a new proposal.
3. Hastings Public Schools has just started to design the sign.
4. Lee Ann has made some good contacts with new potential pollinator projects.

**Non-grant old business:**

1. No updates from Amy Simso-Dean regarding the Youth Birding with MRVAC proposal.
2. Auction – since we were unable to find an Auction venue for 2022, plan to begin in January with an intentional effort to find an auction site. Steve and Lee Ann suggested we consider paying a site facility fee if necessary.
3. Recruitment of new board members: Rob makes a motion to add Avery Blumenthal to the MRVAC Board. Rob nominates, Walt seconds, board approves the motion.
4. Rob has renewed MRVAC’s 501(c)(3) paperwork with the State of Minnesota.

**New Business:**

1. Audubon Minnesota legislative agenda – Rob shared this in an email to all board members. The Agenda has 10 points. Rob would like the board to give approval for him to report to Audubon Minnesota are approval of the legislative agenda. There was consensus that MRVAC supports the 10 items on the agenda. Some individual board members have received and responded to a questionnaire from Audubon Minnesota. All board members are encouraged to complete the questionnaire.
2. Animal Wellness Action request for support. Rob reports these folks request we write to our legislators as an organizational endorsing party to US House Representatives bill 405. Lee Ann moved that we sign on as an endorsing organization to HR 405 with Steve seconding. Doug requested clarification of the purpose of this effort; the purpose is to ask the Biden administration to reverse the Trump administration policy of permitting the use of lead based ammunition on National Wildlife Refuges. The board approved the motion unanimously.

Board is adjourned until December 2022.

Minutes taken by Matthew Schaut, secretary