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**MRVAC Board Meeting Minutes: Jan. 27, 2022**

Present via video teleconference: Lee Ann Landstrom, Doug Mayo, Matthew Schaut, Walt Stull, Joshua Sweet, Steve Weston, Bob Williams. Matthew called the meeting about to order shortly after 6 p.m.

Secretary: On Bob’s motion and Doug’s second, the November minutes were approved unanimously. There was no website report.

Trumpeter: Josh reminded the board that he is resigning in the summer and that a new editor is needed. There is one possible person, a new member. Josh reviewed article and topics from this edition last year. The next deadline is Feb 18.

Membership: Steve reported for Pam saying there are 113 paid local members, 66 not paid up. The meeting notice was sent to 753 emails with a 70% open rate (this is good). An additional 41 unsubscribed: 12 not interested, two moved away, four duplicate addresses, seven didn’t like the content, 13 gave no reason. Programs report: tonight is Karla Bloom on owls. February meeting is on spiders. March features Don Krodsma, well-known Mass. author and bird call expert.

Treasurers Report: There was a question about the affiliated groups gifts in November. The Minnesota Environmental Partnership was given the additional $100 but its typical membership fee is $175. Doug said he was okay with giving the additional $100 and would even give the groups more. Bob prefers that these groups ask for additional money with a grant request pertaining to special projects. Bob said there will be new Grasslands Uprooted sites coming up with high monetary needs. There is also the potential grant to Sax-Zim, which still hasn’t applied after reminders from Doug and Lee Ann. Steve will talk to Sparky again. Walt is in process of changing our accounts to StarChoice Credit Union once the November minutes are approved. Everyone thought his emailed course of action looked good. He will leave the CDs at U.S. Bank until they come due; the last one is this October. He will need assistance to ensure that auto-pay accounts and payments on the website get moved over to the new bank, i.e, Give MN, local membership on the website and match donors. He’ll leave $100 in the old checking account until the end of 2022. On Matthew’s motion and Bob’s second, the move to the new bank was approved unanimously.

Old Business:

* Matthew is working on the Chapter Report, due Jan 31.

Grants:

* Matthew reported that there are no applications in his email in-box.
* Lee Ann mentioned that the Friends of the Refuge has changed leadership but she heard they had an interest in funding Little Libraries and “campus habitat,” i.e. pollinator gardens in their two partner schools.
* Lee Ann is still waiting to get details on two potential Edina schools who are putting in raingardens.
* Steve will talk to the Red-Headed Woodpecker folks to get an update on their needs.
* Don Arnosti, Lyon County ditch – Bob tried to sign the petition today, but the website wouldn’t let him do so. Steve knows someone in Lyon County and will contact them for their thoughts.
* Henderson Hummingbird Hurrah – Ron Windingstad has been in touch with Bob and Matthew who tabled the petition in the past. If we participate this year, it would be good to have two or three participants. We think the date will be Aug 20. Doug and Matthew said they’d consider helping. Nye Nature Center will be there. We might be able to share a table with them.
* Bluebird houses in Burnsville – Lee Ann had contacted Caleb Ashling, the city staffer who wants eight to 10 new houses installed in two new prairie areas. He’d like someone to build those houses and someone to monitor them. Lee Ann will write a blurb for the Trumpeter. She also will announce the volunteer need at the membership meeting tonight.

The Refuge: At the membership meeting tonight Hanna McBrearty would like to talk about programs at The Refuge. She is a new visitor services ranger there. Joel Voss moved to a manager’s position at a refuge near Door County in Wisconsin.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Daves, secretary, via notes from Lee Ann Landstrom