

MRVAC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

May 25, 2023, 6 p.m. at The Refuge HQ in person

Present: Dani Collier (Zoom), Avery Blumenthal (Zoom), Rob Daves, Steve Weston, Pam Albin, Lee Ann Landstrom, Walt Stull. The meeting began at 6:19 p.m.

Welcome, introductions and agenda approval – Rob

Board elections – Rob

On Rob's motion and Walt's second, the board unanimously approved the 2023-24 slate of officers at 6:22 p.m.

Trumpeter Report – Sam (given by Rob since Sam was absent)

- The last issue was printed on April 25th and mailed out. An incorrect date was fixed in the online version. Articles for the next edition are due June 15th. Anyone can submit articles. Sam can write some if more articles are needed.
- The meetings and meeting dates need to be added to the calendar on the website.
- When the meeting Zoom links are ready, Steve will send them to Dani and Rob so the link can be posted in the news section of the website. Sam has access to the website.

Secretary's Report – Avery

On Walt's motion and Lee Ann's second, the March meeting minutes were approved at 6:29 p.m. The minutes will be added to the website.

Website/Social Media Report – Rob/Dani

- Rob receives grant proposals and email requests. The emails are mostly spam, but if there are legit inquiries about policy matters, Rob will share them with the board.
- An article about Doug Mayo should be finished by tomorrow (5/26). The article can be posted on social media and to the website.
- Steve asked how to post to the website and Facebook. Dani said she can add Steve or people can email items to her. Steve suggested that announcements be automatically posted on the day of meetings and when the Trumpeter is available.

Treasurer's Report – Walt

- **MRVAC monthly budget**
 - The March and April budgets were straightforward. MRVAC's net worth is \$61,000. There was nothing to vote on.

Membership Report – Pam/Steve

There are 1,198 people on the email list, which is up a couple from last month. There are 132 local members, which is down a little.

Programs Report – Steve

Tonight's program is on Golden-winged Warblers and next month's is on invasive carp from Peter Sorenson at the University of Minnesota (in-person and on Zoom). Steve needs speaker suggestions for six of the meetings from September through next June.

Old Business (board champion):

Grants:

- **180th Street marsh sign update**
- **Aspyn Acres request (Rob)**
 - The Aspyn Acres grant request had a large range (\$3,000 - \$10,000). Some of the money would be used on facilities and equipment. The board agreed to give \$2,000 to support Aspen Acres. Rob will email the contact.
- **Sax-Zim Bog suggestion (Walt)**
 - Lee Ann tried to coordinate with Sax-Zim Bog but it did not happen. The goal is to get money for naming rights. Rob said it is hard getting Sax-Zim to apply for a grant because of communication and personnel changes. Rob wants Sax-Zim to follow our grant guidelines so that we can deal with this in the proper way.
 - Osprey Wilds

Non-grant old business:

- **Auction (need a champion)**
 - Two people (including Scott Clark) are willing to do some of the auction work. Dani suggested advertising the auction on social media.
- **Audubon Update (Rob): National name change decision, chapter leaders meeting**
 - Rob met with other chapter leaders to discuss the Audubon name. Demographics are getting younger and more diverse. We need to make sure that the board has a vision of where to go. We will continue discussion at our next meeting.
- **Conservation updates (Lee Ann)**
 - This was a good year for conservation issues in Minnesota. State highways will have to do pollinator habitat additions. Lee Ann signed MRVAC onto a lot of habitat initiatives.
- **Trumpeter Award (Rob)**
 - Rob asked Rita to chair a committee of past Trumpeter Award winners. Rita contacted all winners, but no name was forthcoming and there were no nominations via the website. Rob suggested offering Doug Mayo the Trumpeter Award after his passing. There will be a memorial for Doug on July 8th or 9th and Steve wants to present the award to Susan (Doug's wife) at that time.

New Business

- **Name change/EDIB (equity, diversity, inclusion, belonging) (All)**
 - There was discussion about creating EDIB in the chapter leaders meeting.

Adjournment

- On Walt's motion and Steve's second, the board unanimously approved adjournment at 7:12 p.m.

Minutes taken by Board Member Avery Blumenthal.

2023-2024 Board and Officer Slate

Board candidates:

- Avery Blumenthal
- Daniella Collier
- Rob Daves
- Robin Kutz
- Lee Ann Landstrom
- Matthew Schaut
- Walt Stull
- Steve Weston

Officer candidates:

- Rob Daves, president
- Steve Weston, vice president
- Avery Blumenthal, secretary
- Walt Stull, treasurer