

Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter Board Meeting Minutes
for September 20, 2016

Present: Greg B., Becky L., Patti L., Ken O., Bob J., Bob W., Rick M., Monica, Matthew S.

Meeting starts promptly at 7:00 p.m.

Secretary's Report – presented by Greg. Minutes are amended to reflect accurate cost of insurance, which is \$649.00/year.

With this emendation, motion is made to approve the minutes. Matthew makes the motion, Ken seconds, the Board approves.

Treasurer's Report – presented by Bob W. Bob presents updated budget. He reports receipt of a \$100.00 memorial gift in memory of Delores Hagen. Delores initiated the Henderson Hummingbird Hurrah. One CD is cashed in, with \$2400.00 earmarked for MRVAC website redesign (see Old Business below).

Trumpeter Report - presented by Becky. Articles for next Trumpeter due by October 31, 2016. Extra print copies provided to Monica to distribute at Richardson Nature Center.

Membership Reports – presented by Patti. Patti reports 78 local, and 1058 national members.

Programs – Steve not present. September and October programs reviewed.

Old Business:

Henderson Hummingbird Hurrah – Bob J. and Bob W. manned the MRVAC booth. Bob J. gave a great talk. Bob W. had a great time selling books and t-shirts.

Improving the MRVAC website – Decision is made to stay with WordPress. Greg presents proposals from Tracy Albinson for improving and invigorating the MRVAC website. Tracy proposed a couple of options: 1) \$1800.00 to redo the website; 2) \$2100.00 to add a calendar function; and 3) an additional \$150.00-\$200.00 for needed software tools.

Bob J. makes motions the Board accept Tracy's proposal “with costs no to exceed \$2400.00 and work to be completed by Thanksgiving.” Ken O. seconds the

motion. Motion passes.

Board discusses ideas to improve content and add timely elements. Ideas include: “MRVAC Treasurer observes Minnesota's first sharp-tailed sandpiper”; reports on sightings and happenings at Richardson and other nature centers; MRVAC field trip reports; status reports on Bob J.'s new book, with Bob picking a “bird of the month” to highlight; updates on how grantees have utilized their MRVAC awards.

Note is made of the grateful letter received from James Whitt, Eastside Neighborhood Services, detailing what he was able to do during the Summer of 2016 after receiving a MRVAC grant.

MRVAC By-Laws – Bob W. has worked with Larkin Hoffman Law firm to draft amended by-laws. By-laws indicate we could move to 3-year terms; the Board decides to leave terms at one year. Board could move forward without complete approval of membership according to the by-laws; Board decides to continue to present board-nominees to general membership for approval. The May meeting (last of the fiscal year) will be deemed the Annual meeting. Board must make a motion to have meetings and name the location of the meetings. Tiered memberships will be removed from the by-laws.

A motion is made to approve the amended by-laws. It is tabled after Bob J. suggests that each board member first read the amended by-laws thoroughly so that we are all familiar with their contents. Copies of the amended by-laws are presented to each Board member present. A motion on whether to approve the by-laws will be made at the October MRVAC Board meeting.

New Business:

Audubon Plants for Birds Campaign – MRVAC can support this by providing a link to the campaign on the MRVAC website.

Motion made to adjourn by Becky L. Bob W. seconds. Meeting adjourns at 8:30 p.m.

Matthew Schaut, MRVAC Secretary