

MRVAC Board Meeting Minutes for January 19, 2016

Present: Bob Williams, Dianne Rowse, Becky Lystig, Greg Burnes, Rick Magee, and Ken Oulman.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Secretary's report: Minutes from Jan meeting accepted with changes – Greg to ask Tracy to post

Treasurer's report: Bob W. reviewed the current financial report. Received local renewal, \$2,600 from National, and monies from our charity events. Only one-off expense, state filing fee. Bob also signed MRVAC for Amazon Smile – agreed to place an article in next month's Trumpeter

Bob has orders for Audubon Adventures and will place them soon.

Trumpeter Report: Becky ordered 100 fewer hard copies for the Jan/Feb issue. Recommended reducing another 50 for next issue due to more conversions to digital only. Becky found a few folks receiving newsletter were not in either local or national membership rosters. We have converted ~ 50 members to digital format only delivery and we will continue ask folks to convert. Cost of last issue \$285

Membership report: Local #'s up to 71, National down to 1192 from ~ 1300 due to National revamping their database. Patti finding issues with the conversation and continue to contact national.

Programs report: Steve not present - Three Rivers RNC has confirmed reservations for June 9th, 5-8pm for our annual picnic. We had about 85 present for January's refuge meeting with Sparky and expect a strong crowd for the Feb meeting with Bob J.

Old Business:

President Elect – Greg - Board needs to identify a president elect

New Board Members – Greg is inviting Monica R. from RNC to join the board. Greg asked board members to think about others that could join

Owl Festival - Dianne brought up the Owl Festival in Houston MN. Greg to ensure it is mentioned in the Trumpeter

Izaak Walton League - Greg mentioned the wide range of conservation issues the IWL is pursuing. Bob mentioned it might be interesting to see if **Don A. from MN IWL** would be willing to write a conservation article for the Trumpeter – GregB will check

New Business:

Birdathon – Need article in upcoming Trumpeter – Dianne agreed to write and submit, Greg to mention at next refuge meeting and solicit participation. Birdathon dates May 1 – 16

Climate Watch - National Audubon sponsoring a Climate Watch initiative – need more information from national Greg to follow-up

Bird Friendly Cities – Been successful in other parts of the country. Bob to follow-up and get more information, Bloomington might be a possible candidate.

Grant Request – The request from RNC to assemble birding “backpacks” for distribution through the Bloomington School District's Office of Education Equity was discussed and the board raised some clarifying questions that Greg will follow-up on. We are awaiting a request from the Arboretum for two different programs.

Trumpeter Award – Bob informed the board the 2016 Trumpeter award recipient has been selected. Presentation in May

Facebook Postings – need board members and others to post

Website – Bob suggesting we could pool MN chapter resources to create a more dynamic website. Greg to pursue with chapter leaders (Meeting in March?). We need to pursue a social media strategy to attract new members. Bob mentioned the Minnesota Birding Facebook page is popular.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm

