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**MRVAC Board Meeting Minutes: October 22, 2020**

Present via video teleconference: Rita Baden, Rob Daves, Lee Ann Landstrom, Ken Oulman, Monica Rauchwarter, Matthew Schaut, Walt Stull, Steve Weston, Bob Williams.

Documents distributed ahead of time: agenda (Matthew); September minutes (Rob); treasurer’s report (Walt). Matthew called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m. and declared a quorum.

Secretary: On Rob’s motion and Rita’s second, the board unanimously approved the September minutes.

Treasurer: The current budget showed total assets and total net worth as $53,374.92. Walt reviewed the past month’s income and expenses, and reported that he’s renewed one of MRVAC’s CDs. Bird-a-thon contributions continue to arrive.

Membership: Rob suggested creating a search committee, as no one has responded to several requests to fill the membership chair. He suggested using an edited version of the current membership list as a starting point. Steve, Rita, and Matthew volunteered.

Trumpeter newsletter: Josh Sweet had informed the board that he needed copy for the current Trumpeter by Oct. 20.

Programs: The program for the 7 p.m. October 22 meeting will feature Laura Erickson, who has a new book on bird breeding behavior. Steve said he’s had several requests to record the program. Stan Tekiela will be the speaker on Nov. 19; the meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m., with the Zoom waiting room open at 7 p.m.

Old business:

* COVID-19 – The Refuge visitor’s center remains closed due to COVID-19; trails are open.
* Pollinator Grant – Lee Ann has started a conversation with Jefferson High School in Bloomington about a pollinator effort. Normandale Hills Elementary is still planning for a spring planting; we’ve offered $2,000.
* We’ve not heard anything from Dakota County about the status of the 180th Street Marsh land sale.
* GiveMN/Auction – We don’t have the resources to do an online auction. Bob will research the value of the Birds of North America book for auction. The GiveMN drive is Nov. 19 (the same day as the November meeting). The board agreed by consensus to each pitch in some money to form a matching fund for those who contribute. Monica suggested that examples of our grant recipients be posted on our GiveMN page; Bob will follow up.
* Maintaining the website – Lee Ann expressed concern that the website isn’t being kept current. Rob said the information provided to him is on the website, including program notices, minutes, news and what’s in the Trumpeter. He reminded board members to send him the information they needed on the website and explained that Craig Mandel was responsible for updating trips. Steve agreed to send him program notices to go in the news and events website pages.
* Old Cedar Avenue Bridge sign – Bob will follow up with The Refuge about MRVAC’s sign.
* Annual Report – The National Audubon Society advised us that the annual report will be due at the end of the year.
* Bird Strikes – Lee Ann said that members of the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis and Normandale Community College are attempting to work with Feather Friendly to get a window film estimate mitigation costs.

New business: None.

The next board meeting is 6 p.m. Nov. 19, 2020.

On Walt’s motion and Rita’s second, the decision was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Rob Daves, secretary