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**MRVAC Board Meeting Minutes: Aug. 26, 2021**

Present via video teleconference: Rob Daves, Robin Kutz, Lee Ann Landstrom, Doug Mayo, Ken Oulman, Walt Stull, Matthew Schaut, Josh Sweet, Steve Weston, BobWilliams.

Documents distributed ahead of time: agenda and red-headed woodpecker project recovery project request (Matthew), June minutes (Rob); treasurer’s report (Walt); Trumpeter draft (Josh). Matt called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. and declared a quorum.

Secretary: On Rob’s motion and Walt’s second, the board unanimously approved the June minutes. Rob asked board members to update their email address books with current board members. He said website problems that surfaced from updates earlier in the month have been fixed. He reminded the board to submit photos (JPG only) with their articles.

Treasurer: Fieldtrips are starting again, so we are getting some revenue from them. Year-to-date our income $1975; our expenses, $2,516. We have $31,504 in our checking account and $20,953.52 in CDs. Walt said he’s putting GiveMN gifts and undedicated checks into the Bird-a-Thon account.

Membership: Steve said the local membership list totals 165, including non-renewals. He said he’ll transfer membership lists to Pam Albin this month. We have more than 700 active email subscribers. He will send her email address to board members. He will continue doing the email reminders because of MailChimp’s limitations.

Trumpeter: Josh reported that the upcoming edition is the 55th. He reviewed the content for the upcoming edition, including upcoming field trips and has asked for edits.

Programs: The scheduled September speaker is Clinton Nienhaus, the Sax-Zim bog head naturalist. Steve has arranged for Elana West and the Red-Headed Woodpecker project for October. There are no plans for the November auction. Other future programs tentatively scheduled include Kim Eckert (new Minnesota birders guide), Cara Snow (boreal chickadees) and Emily Pavlovic (feathers’ secrets), Michael Joyce (the state’s mammals).

Old business:

* Refuge COVID-19 status: The building is not open yet and an opening date is still to be determined. September’s general meeting will be virtual.
* Trumpeter Award: We get a lot of spam through the website. Matthew agreed to share his candidate’s formal nomination with the board prior to its September meeting.
* Red-headed Woodpecker Project – On Doug’s motion and Rob’s second, the board unanimously approved the grant request for $3,000. Steve will ask the project’s leadership if they need more.
* Normandale Community College – The college is installing technology to help mitigate bird strikes.

New Business:

* Matthew reported that the Oct. 1-2 National Audubon Annual Conference is virtual and affordable this year.
* By consensus the board agreed to let the Zoom subscription lapse and use GoToMeeting for future board meetings.
* The board discussed allocating surplus funds budgeted for grant requests and affiliated organizations, including preserving land in Sax-Zim bog, the bog friends’ sign, and increasing allotment to our usual applicants. There are nine affiliated groups we fund each year, plus Audubon Minnesota. By consensus the board agreed not to allocate any of the surplus budgeted funds this month and continue the discussion in September.
* By consensus, the board agreed to ask Pam Albin to become a board member after she takes up membership chair duties.

Next board meeting: Sept. 23 at 6 p.m. by GoToMeeting.

On Rob’s motion and Steve’s second, the decision was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Daves, secretary