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**MRVAC Board Meeting Minutes: Oct. 28, 2021**

Present via video teleconference: Rob Daves, Lee Ann Landstrom, Doug Mayo, Ken Oulman, Walt Stull, Josh Sweet, Steve Weston, Bob Williams.

Documents distributed ahead of time: Treasurer’s report, September minutes, a second grant request from Red-Headed Woodpecker Project. Matt called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.; there was a quorum.

Secretary: On Rob’s motion and Steve’s second, the motion to accept the minutes was unanimous. Rob reviewed recent website activity.

Treasurer: Walt reviewed the submitted report and indicated little income and expense activity. He said there have been no memorial contributions in Jack Telfer’s estate. Steve suggested getting two $5,000 CDs with different maturity dates. Walt said another CD was maturing on Nov. 14. Rob suggested looking at credit unions’ interest rates, especially the Star Choice Credit Union, instead of banks’ interest rates. Walt wanted to know if it made sense to put some of the funds into a money market account. He will explore using a money market fund vs. CDs or keeping the checking account where it is.

Membership: Steve says we are at 101 current local members. He reported 725 email subscribers, with 54% percent opening the program announcement email. Steve said Pam Albin will be maintaining the local membership list; he will continue to maintain the Mailchimp email list.

Trumpeter: Josh said the Trumpeter went out today at 3:30 p.m., with a third of the mailing list opening it immediately. He reviewed the content. Josh plans on serving on another board and will continue to edit the Trumpeter. MRVAC will need to have a new editor in place by January 2023.

Programs: Tonight’s program is on the Red-Headed Woodpecker project. November’s program will be Alex Sundvall talking about birding on Attu Island in the Aleutians. December is the Christmas Bird Count, so we do not meet (the potluck dinner is up in the air, but it’s likely not to be held). Speakers aren’t set for January or February, but Donald Kroodsma will be speaking in March on birdsong. The April program is Kara Snow and Emily Pavolic. Steve has other speakers lined up but not scheduled for a specific month.

Old Business:

* Refuge COVID status: The board expects that the building will be closed in November.
* Steve pointed out that we’re relatively cash rich, and now would be a good time to allocate additional funds to the affiliated groups we have a past practice of supporting. Steve suggested an additional $100 to American Bird Conservancy, Audubon Minnesota, MOU, Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, CURE, The Raptor Center, Friends of Sax-Zim Bog, Hawk Ridge and Osprey Wilds (replacing Hunthill). On Ken’s motion and Lee Ann’s second, the board’s approved it 7-1 one with Bob Williams voting no.
* In lieu of the traditional November fundraising auction, we’ll be promoting GiveMN. Steve and Bob will promote Give ToThe Max.
* Doug may attend the Audubon Minneapolis’s inclusion/diversity session.
* Trumpeter Award: Absent any activity from the past winners committee, the board agreed that Matthew should send the single current nomination to the entire board prior to consideration at the next meeting, and that there are likely other, stronger candidates who could be nominated.
* Sax-Zim donation: Doug has not heard anything from his request that the Friends of Sax-Zim submit a grant. Lee Ann also volunteered to contact the friends.
* Bob suggested we work to identify property in the Minnesota River Valley that we could help protect, working with an ad hoc committee of conservationists. On Steve’s motion and Doug’s second, the board unanimously approved asking Bob to explore the idea and present a proposal in the future.
* Earthwatch Institute grant request: Having no quorum, too little time to understand the request, too little information, and some other objections, the board tabled the discussion until November.

The board adjourned at 7:10 p.m. as members had left and there was no quorum. The next board meeting is Nov. 18 at 6 p.m. via a virtual medium. The members’ meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 18.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Daves, secretary