**MRVAC Board of Directors Meeting Agenda and Minutes**

**August 25, 2022 6 p.m. Zoom**

**Present:** Rob Daves, Steve Weston, Bob Williams, Lee Ann Landstrom, Doug Mayo, Matthew Schaut, Josh Sweet.

September and October board meetings will be in person at the Refuge.

**Trumpeter Report –** Josh. September/October edition will come out this weekend (draft). There is a ton of content: eight pages long. Sam Warren is going to be the new Trumpeter editor. Josh and Sam will co-coordinate the next edition then Sam will take over. Josh will be available if any questions arise after Sam assumes editorship.

**Secretary’s Report –** Matthew.Lee Ann had some suggestions for corrections on June minutes. Rob wants the grammar polished prior to posting. Vote on acceptance of the minutes postponed until Rob and Matthew review the minutes.

**Website Report –** Rob.Bob Rob posted Bob’s submitted a Hummingbird Hurrah report.

**Treasurer’s Report –** Walt. Walt submitted the treasurer’s report.

**Membership Report –** Steve/Pam.Mailing list about 815. Steve is still looking for a list of members from the National Audubon Society. There are 129 current local members. Sixty-six percent of people opened the Hummingbird Hurrah email; 6 percent clicked being “interested.”

**Programs Report –** Steve.September’s program is Tom Gable about the Voyagers Wolf Study. October is on red-tailed hawks. January is Linnea Rowse, American Bird Conservancy Upper Great Lakes Region. February is Scott Weidensaul. March hasn’t been determined. April is marsh birds and the marsh birds survey. There is a presentation planned on foraging for next spring. Programs will once again take place live at the Refuge. Some are expected to draw larger audiences and also will be via Zoom (January and February at least). Another planned program will be about a mammal big day done by a couple from Minnetonka. To prepare for the resumption of in person meeting, Rob will be meeting with Ranger Hannah to go over the audio/visual systems at the Refuge, which have been updated.

**Old Business:**

**Active grant proposals:**

1) Friends of the Sax-Zim Bog – Lee Ann has requested that they re-apply for a Wood Thrush Woods boardwalk. This has not yet been received.

2) Red-Headed Woodpecker Recovery Project – Request: $3,000, and another for $5,000 to help cover costs of a staff to conduct a RHWO population survey. The board approved $5,000 in March. Steve was to ask for clarification about the $3,000 with no update as of this meeting.

3) Normandale Community College windows press release – Lee Ann gave a quick update. A press release was created. She is unsure if it was ever distributed.

**Old business:**

1. My Youth Birding Club and its relationship with MRVAC – Bob had elicited input from lawyers. The board discusses the lawyer’s feedback, especially about insurance, liability and financial management. The lawyer laid out three possible alternatives. First, the fiscal agency option is ruled out by unanimous agreement of all the board. The second alternative is pre-approved grant sponsorship. Projects thus sponsored by MRVAC but carried out by My Youth Birding Club might include paying for kids to attend bird walks, efforts to find sponsors and obtaining sponsor funding. My Youth Birding Club would propose a project and MRVAC would decide whether to approve that grant and write a check to cover the project. Concerning the second alternative, discussion included oversight: Should MRVAC assume any legal or financial responsibilities? An advantage of My Youth Birding Club is using the infrastructure MRVAC already has and the Audubon brand. Bob wanted to know if there are paid salaries. Rob knows the lead staff receive paid training. Bob said they would have to have some sort of insurance themselves, which might be expensive. Bob cautioned the Board that if we move forward there could be substantial legal costs in creating the agreement. The third alternative is a trademark andmarketing agreement. The second and the third alternatives could be done simultaneously. The third option could be done more simply. There is consensus among the board for the third option. Rob will speak with Amy and share our decision.
2. Auction (Steve?) – Rob has requested space for this year’s auction at the Refuge Headquarters. He will handle finding a refuge site. He plans on speaking with Ranger Hannah at the Refuge Headquarters in person next week. Steve will contact auctioneers. It is time to begin soliciting donations. There is a question of who will manage the refreshments. Once the location is confirmed, we can advertise the auction on the MRVAC website and Facebook page. The date is Nov. 17.
3. Relationship with Audubon Minnesota/Recovering America’s Wildlife action alerts to members (Steve). This is designed to be a targeted effort to contact decision-makers when a bill is coming up. We want to let people know they can sign up for these; Rob will put this on the website. Steve would like someone on the Board to write a piece for the Trumpeter on this.
4. AltLawn Sept. 24 Birding Walk (Lee Ann) – Alternative Lawn is pro-pollinator event. Lee Ann has attended events of theirs and provided literature and will do so again. They have asked for someone to lead a bird walk on Sept. 24.
5. Recruitment of new board members (Steve, all). – There are three open positions on the board of directors.
6. Publicity coordination -- Advertising events (such as the Hummingbird Hurrah or the Bird-a-thon): For the website, send to Rob; for the Facebook Page, send to Matthew or Lee Ann.

**Future Business:**

In December, need to renew our 501(c)(3) paperwork for the State of Minnesota.

Minutes taken by Matthew Schaut, secretary.