



**Minutes of Membership Meeting September 7, 2005
Frontenac State Park**

Meeting was called to order by President Jim Grandy with 11 members present.

Harry Roberts welcomed members to Frontenac and explained a bit about the park as well as handing out maps.

Treasurer's Report: Larry reported there are 22 membership applications in thus far and included a list of those businesses. The report was presented with data for the past month, following discussion it was approved as presented.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the August meeting were reviewed with no changes. The minutes were approved as recorded.

Old Business:

Marketing Committee: Members of the committee updated the membership on the status of the planner for next year. Of the 8 RFP's sent out, 3 publishers declined to send proposals for various reasons – though did ask to be included in the RFP list for next year. Three publisher returned only sketchy proposals which seemed to indicate either a lack of interest or lack of understanding of MVP's needs. The 2 viable proposals came from ECM and Rivertown Publishing. The Marketing Committee met with Ginny Lee from ECM and Herdie Baisden reviewed their proposal for the membership. After submitting a proposal Rivertown publishing then declined stating they had another project that would not make it possible for them to meet MVP's timelines. However, upon discussion with Rivertown, they have indicated they would be willing to work with MVP if we could be flexible in our timelines. The membership discussed the options, costs and concerns at length. Because we do not have all the information from Rivertown at this time and they are the preferred vendor by the membership, a motion was made by Mary DeRoos and seconded by Mike Kennedy to empower the Marketing Committee to talk with Rivertown and make reasonable decisions regarding the planner so a decision is not delayed till the next membership meeting. The motion was approved with one dissenting vote.

800 number: The cost of this was considered during the budget discussion and members agreed it is costing more than warranted given the number of calls being received [about 30 – 40/month] Upon discussion and volunteer agreement by Larry Hovde, it was moved to terminate our arrangement with the answering service as of October 1 and forward the calls to Hovde's. The motions was to terminate with the answering service and reimburse Hovdes for expenses as they occur. Motion was made by Sheronne and seconded by Mike, motion carried.

Individual webpages: Jim again reminded everyone that this is available to them and also restated the password so members can access it.

Welcome Center: The contacts there continue to be really helpful for us and again all members are encouraged to get any written pieces they have about their business to the Center for the information rack. This weekend is the Laura Ingalls Wilder event in Pepin that should bring lots of visitors to the center. We still need an "OPEN" sign to put in front of the center if anyone has one available. Mike suggested we check flags.com.

New Business:

Budget for 2005-2006: Larry compiled the data for the past year as well as the budget and proposal for 2005 – 2006. The figures for the budget were discussed. It was moved, seconded and approved by the members present to accept the budget as proposed.

Birding: Mary DeRoos reported that the initial meeting was held prior to the membership meeting. A decision was made that rather than one weekend gathering as has been done in the past, the emphasis would be on a yearlong festival of events in all MVP communities with greater emphasis on the events in mid-May when the birding is particularly good. Each community or group of communities is encouraged to establish their events and then with a contribution to MVP they would be included on the birding webpage on the MVP site. Audubon will again participate and help facilitate the establishment of outings such as the boating and train trips. MVP will share the use of signage that we already have for events as is helpful. The next meeting for birding will occur again before the next MVP membership meeting at 6:00pm. Mary also reminded members that if you wish to have Audubon birding maps available – contact Bonnie Koop with Audubon and she will have them at the next meeting.

Reminders: We are still needing member for the Board if anyone would consider volunteering.

Membership applications are due and the list of members will be going to the planner publisher soon. Bea Koch volunteered to call members to remind them to get in their membership applications.

We want to get ahead on an accurate list of events around the lake for 2006 to be included in the planner. Each community please take time to develop your list to submit – we know that visitors look at that listing so it is helpful to all of us.

Around the Lake: There was little time so just a reminder to all that this is a busy time and please let the touring public know what is available.

The October meeting is at Heavens Valley Lodge in Winona.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Carol Wiersma, Secretary