



## MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PARTNERS

[www.mississippi-river.org](http://www.mississippi-river.org)

### **Minutes of Membership Meeting February 1, 2006**

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Grandy with 24 members present.

Heather Stowe welcomed the group to the Quality Inn and provided information about the features of the facility.

**President's Report for 2005:** Jim presented his statement on the activities of the organization for the year [see attached].

**Treasurer's Report:** Larry Hovde presented the financial report for December as well as activities through January. The balance for the organization at the end of the month was about \$7800.

Kathy Silverthorn raised a question about a listing of Missing Checks for the Birding Festival and Larry explained those were checks that were written following the 2004 festival that have never been cashed.

It was moved and approved to accept the report as presented.

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes of the December meeting were presented and with no corrections the minutes were approved.

**Election of Officers for 2006:** Kathy Silverthorn and Pat Mutter of the Nominations Committee presented the slate of candidates they had enlisted and requested motions from the floor for additional names to run for the various positions. With no nominations from the floor, it was moved and seconded to accept the slate of candidates as presented and the motion carried with no dissenting votes. The two individuals elected for Member-at-Large positions will determine at the next Board Meeting which of them will serve the two-year At-Large term and which will serve for one year in the opening for Past-President. The Officers elected for 2006 are as follows: President - Jim Grandy, President-Elect – Mike Kennedy, Treasurer – Larry Hovde, Secretary – Carol Wiersma, Member-At-Large – Heather Stowe and Elaine Miller. The other current Member-at-Large is Herdie Baisden who completes his two-year term next year. While Larry has agreed to serve as Treasurer, he did ask that someone else consider taking on the role.

### **Old Business:**

**Marketing:** Herdie Baisden and Harry Roberts reported on the status of the MVP Travel Planning Guide. Copies of the proof had been reviewed in each community by a process devised by the Marketing Committee and Board. The Planner will go to print the beginning of next week and copies will be delivered by February 15. The three locations where RiverTown Publishing will deliver include Bird-Song -Winona, Maiden Rock Apples – Stockholm, and Bushel & Peck - Lake City. Members are requested to pick up their copies immediately for distribution up and down the river; the earlier we

can get them into distribution the more information we will have available to the traveling public. Herdie thanked Harry Roberts for writing new additions to the Planner which include– Scenic Vistas, Fishing in the Area, and Touring the Back Roads. These features were encouraged by RiverTown Publishing even though the total length of the Planner exceeded the agreed upon number of pages. Yet there will be no cost to MVP for the publication; all costs are covered by member advertising. The membership thanked Herdie and the Marketing Committee [Harry Roberts, LaVone Weer, Kathy Silverthorn, and Cheri Eddy Crigler] for their efforts.

**Birding:** Mary DeRoos reported that the events and surrounding plans for the Birding and Nature Festival are coming together very well and there is a very busy schedule for the three days in May. Friday evening will feature a presentation by Kenny Salwey and Saturday evening will feature Carol Schumacher. Mary is finalizing the schedule and the information will soon be on the MVP web site. She encourages all members to be aware of the plans and encourage any “birders” they know to attend.

**Committee Sign-up:** All members are encouraged to sign up for the committees on which they would like to participate. Particularly we need people to be on the Gardens Committee. There are also several towns that do not have Town Captains and thus no representation.

#### **New Business:**

Danielle Benden from the Winona Museum of Marine Art spoke about their progress and wanted all members to know that if a group would like more information about the Museum, she would be happy to speak to their group. She also had brochures available for members to take to their businesses.

#### **Up and Down the River:**

Pepin - The Laura Ingalls Wilder annual meeting is next week; also the North American National Yacht Racing Championships were held last weekend on the river near Pepin as the ice at the original location [Lake Winnebago] was deemed unsafe.

Wabasha- Grumpy Old Men Festival is the end of February, their Home & Travel Show is the 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> of March, and the Soar with the Eagles event will again take place later in March.

Alma- A new restaurant – Kate and Gracie’s - is open and providing very fine food. Saturday [2/4] there is a spaghetti dinner fund raiser and later in the evening at the school is big band dance.

Red Wing – Eagle Watch weekends are being held the last 3 weekends of Feb. & first 3 weekends of March. The bike trail along the Cannon River is expanding.

Lake City- Lake City Theatre has presentation Feb. 10-11 of Greater Tuna – and it is a dinner theatre so will serve tuna casserole. The theatre is located at the city hall ballroom. Morning with Women is being sponsored in conjunction with Mayo Clinic.

Frontenac- The annual candlelight ski/walk is Saturday, Feb. 4 and there is \$5 off a yearly membership if you purchase it that night.

Stockholm – There is a new business being built and two buildings along Hwy. 35 which will be opening businesses this year, so things will look/be different.

In-service training was done by John Flottmeyer of Voila’ regarding the setting up of individual businesses web pages. He also reviewed other parts of the MVP website and answered questions. It is encouraged that all businesses get their web pages done as we are entering the tourist season and the use of the website will be increasing. [See Welcome letter for user ID and password.]

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes recorded by: Carol Wiersma, Secretary