



**MINUTES OF MVFN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2023
Preliminary Presentation 6.45
AGM 8:25 p.m.**

The Nature Talks Presentation and the Annual General Meeting of MVFN were held via a ZOOM session, on the above date, with an attendance estimated at 53 paid members. Total attending the AGM was 44. Ron Williamson welcomed attendees and explained that regretfully, the scheduled speaker for this evening's talk, Dr. Catherine Scott, was unable to be present due to problematic travel arrangements from B.C. to Ontario. However, he added, she will be invited to a future Nature Talks Presentation evening.

On behalf of the Club, Ron Williamson expressed sincere appreciation to Ken Allison for his continued support of MVFN's Nature Talk sessions. Ken Allison then proceeded with his presentation which allowed an opportunity for all present to view photos, submitted by members from the area, of bird sightings, insects, animals and trees.

The Agenda proposed for this evening was reviewed and members were informed that the Annual General Meeting for 2022 would follow the Presentation. Ken Allison then welcomed and introduced the speaker for tonight – Dr. Jeff Skevington, an Adjunct Professor at Carleton University and Ottawa U. and Research Scientist with the Canadian National Collection of Insects, Arachnids and Nematodes at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada as well as being a renowned writer of several publications and articles. The Presentation focused on a self-guided trip through Australia during the period December 5, 2022 to January 26, 2023 and covered the Outback region as well as Dr. Skevington's camping experiences with his family in Australia.

On behalf of the Club, Victoria Miller expressed the Club's thanks and appreciation to Dr. Skevington for his attendance this evening, with less than 24hours notice. She commended him on his excellent photo presentation of the various species of birds, insects, animals and flora to be found in Australia.

Ron Williamson then took this opportunity to inform members of upcoming Nature Talk themes and speakers for the 2023 membership year and added that the Website has been updated for easy reference. He also extended sincere thanks to Denis Gallant for his technical abilities in arranging the ZOOM sessions for the Nature Talks Committee's events as well extending appreciation to the Committee's planning team members. Members were also informed that tickets are now available for purchase for the April 20, 2023 Spring Gathering evening at a cost of \$30.00 per person. This event will be held at the Almonte Civitan Community Hall from 5:45 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. and will take the form of an in-person meeting.

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The AGM formal meeting was called to order at 8:25 p.m. and chaired by Val Wilkinson, MVFN's President. She welcomed everyone to this virtual meeting and reviewed the Agenda format that she planned to follow during the meeting regarding the voting process. She drew attention to the various Committee positions currently "Vacant" and encouraged members' participation.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Ron Williamson, seconded by Bob Smith that the Agenda be approved. **CARRIED on a vote count of 35**

2. Declaration of Pecuniary interest: None

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM MEETING – MAY 19, 2022

Moved by Patty Waters, seconded by Brenda Boyd that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on May 19, 2022 be approved. **CARRIED on a vote count of 37**

4. (i) 2022 Annual Report
 (ii) Committee Reports – 2022
 (iii) Financial Report – April 1 – December 31, 2022

Moved by George Yaremchuk, seconded by Paul Frigon that the above-mentioned MVFN Reports for 2022, be accepted. **CARRIED on a vote count of 35**

5. 2022 FINANCIAL REVIEW

Moved by Paul Frigon, seconded by George Yaremchuk that the 2022 Financial Review submitted by Mr. John Moore, be accepted. **CARRIED on a vote count of 35**

6. CHANGE TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Moved by Patty Waters, seconded by Louise Beckinsale that WHEREAS, the MVFN financial year has been changed from April 1-March 31 TO January 1-December 31;
 BE IT RESOLVED that the MVFN Annual General Meeting be held not more than 60 days following the last day of the previous fiscal year. **CARRIED on a vote count of 37**

7. ELECTION OF MVFN BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2023

A list of proposed Board members for the year 2023 was tabled. However, the President welcomed nominations from the floor as well as pointing out that there were vacancies in the following areas:

- **Treasurer, Director at Large, Conservation & Habitat Rehabilitation Chair**

The President also pointed out the following proposed changes to the Board of Directors:

- Paul Frigon is to be the 1st Vice-President

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- Brenda Boyd is to be Past-President
- Louise Beckinsale will assume the chair of Publicity
- Sandy Duncan will assume the position of Secretary
- George Yaremchuk will no longer sit on the Board but will be joining the Tech Support Committee
- Ron Williamson and Rosalind Reid will serve as co-chairs on the Nature Talks Committee

Moved by Ken Allison, seconded by Sylvia Miller that the proposed list of Board members be approved as follows:

President:	Val Wilkinson
• 1st Vice-President:	Paul Frigon
• 2nd Vice-President:	Eric Lay
• Past President	Brenda Boyd
• Secretary	Sandy Duncan
• Director at Large	Cliff Bennett
• Finance Chair	John Blais
• Membership Chair	Sylvia Miller
• Environmental Education Program Chair	Bob Smith
• Nature Protection Chair	Tineke Kuiper
• Nature Talks Co-Chairs	Ron Williamson/Rosalind Reid
• Publicity Chair	Louise Beckinsale
• Treasurer	Vacant
• Director at Large	Vacant
• Conservation & Habitat Rehabilitation chair	Vacant

The motion CARRIED on a vote count of 39

8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Val Wilkinson addressed, as President, some of the comments contained in her report. She acknowledged the dedicated efforts of Past President, Linda McCormick, in the many new areas that she introduced as well as carrying out Technological improvements that were much needed in communications and storage of information, as well as her efforts in improving the Website. Work will continue in these areas with the valuable help and support from Brent Eades. Thanks and appreciation were also extended to Iain Wilkes for the many hours he spent on the Website. He has since stepped back from this duty. She commended Ken Allison for his expertise in keeping members informed and to Denis Gallant, thanks were extended for his expertise in technical support during the ZOOM meetings.

The President thanked members of the Board for their continued support and assistance during her first year as President and she assured members that every effort will be made to make 2023 a successful year for the Club. She also took this opportunity to thank all those committee members and volunteers who work hard behind the scene, to make belonging to the Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists an enriching experience.

On behalf of the membership, Val Wilkinson was thanked for her efforts in her role as Club President.

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9. **OTHER BUSINESS:** Cliff Bennett reported that the Bursary Committee is in need of a Chairperson. He welcomed nominations from the audience for this position and added that this committee meets three times a year and its main objective is to receive applications and award the Bursaries.

Moved by Cliff Bennett, seconded by John Blais that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Beverly Blais
Recording Secretary.