Friends of Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge
Annual Meeting
January 14, 2020
Oak Savanah Learning Center

The meeting was called to order by President Myrna Krueger at 7:00 pm. Introductions were made around the room with 23 people present, including refuge staff in attendance and 11 Friends board members in attendance.

2019 Refuge Report: Alaina Larkin
- Staff changes, goodbye and hello effecting both permanent and seasonal staff.
- Prescribed burn to remove cattail—let the lupin bloom and the wild rice grow.
- Other invasive species treatments include utilizing goats and cattle to graze areas.
- Record crane count with over 14,000 counted this year up from 11,000.
- Infrastructure improvements include the parking lot and lighting of OSLC, new kiosks along county roads 9 and 5. As well as kiosks on Wildlife Drive and Mahnomen Trail and welcome station on wildlife drive.
- Bur Oak planting of 250 saplings with 70 growth tubes.
- Support for the Friends of Sherburne, school visits, public events like the Wildlife Festival, Photo Club and other Friends' projects.
- 2020 objectives include completion to the new refuge signs and kiosks, along with other trail improvements, continued support for the Friends of Sherburne projects (new wildlife observation blinds), refuge water control repairs, and continued support for the Fish and Wildlife Service mission with new hunting and fishing opportunities.

The minutes of the January 15, 2019 annual meeting were presented. A motion was made by Bill Kolbinger and seconded by Steve Chesney to accept the minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting as presented. Motion passed.

President’s Report: Myrna Krueger
Friends Accomplishments 2019:
- We focused on delivering and enhancing nature education experiences. We hired a part time Naturalist Contractor.
- The Welcome Station grand opening is set for 2020.
- Together with refuge staff we supported the 2019 Wildlife Festival.
- The Friends supported the Spring Celebration, the Bur Oak planting, Youth Game Warden Camp, and the Youth Photography Contest.
- We co-hosted the “Rhythm and Brews” fundraiser with the Sherburne History Center.

Friends Plans/Goals for 2020
- We want to complete the wildlife observation blind, information kiosks, and enhance the trail signage.
- We are continuing to work, cooperatively, with the Sherburne History Center to host the annual “Rhythm and Brews” fundraising event.
- We are continuing the “Friends Read” program in April we will be discussing the book: The Hidden Life of Trees by Peter Wohlleben

Lest we forget to say “Thanks”
- Special thanks to Deb Sorenson, after three years on the board is leaving. And Lee Johnson is retiring from the board after serving for 12 years as Vice-President, President, editor, photographer, and Friends Policies and Procedures advisor.
Thanks to store manager, Sharon Kolstad, who is leaving after three years of service. Sheri Olson and Diana Shonyo were welcomed as new store managers.

Thanks to Steve Karel, Alaina Larkin, and the staff for their work and enthusiasm.

Thank you to the entire Friends board for all of your hard work and dedication. And all of the individuals who have worked on committees and volunteered to help out this past year.

And a final thanks as well to our donors and Community Supporters.

Treasurer’s Report: Carol VanHeel
2019 Actual vs Budget variances, Fund Balances and 2020 Budget were presented.

- **2019 Year-end Fund Balances**
  - Cash Assets $83,072
  - Net Income $20,469

- **2020 Budget**
  - Projected income $54,604.00
  - Projected expenses $49,644.00

A motion was made by Steve Chesney and seconded by Deb Sorenson to accept the 2020 budget. Motion passed.

**Board Nominations: Bill Kolbinger**
Nominees for 3-year terms, January 2020- December 2022

- Carol VanHeel (returning)
- Susan Julson (returning)
- Scott Suhsen
- Randall Holt-Woehl

A motion was made by Matt Finn and seconded by Bill Kolbinger to elect the nominated directors as stated to the board of the Friends of Sherburne. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Carol VanHeel and seconded by Lee Johnson to adjourn the annual meeting. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

In attendance: Myrna Krueger, Steve Chesney, Carol VanHeel, Alaina Larkin, Bill Kolbinger, Susan Julson, Don Leaton, Mary Leaton, Mike Brubaker, Matt Finn, Marilyn Danielson, Bruce Ellingson, Lee T. Johnson, Deb Sorenson, Larry Gerwing, Tony Stock, Diana Shonyo, Scott Suhsen, Sheri Olson, Sam Lobdell, Randall Holt-Woehl, Ann Pasch, Jenny Hengel.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Brubaker, Secretary