Dear RMBL Members, Friends, and Community

Greetings! With the 2024 field season upon us, we — President Dan Blumstein and new Chair Susan Avery — write to you all with an update on the Board's current actions and priorities.

As RMBL enters an important transition with Ian departing from his role as Executive Director, we continue to prioritize financial stability and bolster our Trustees and staff to ensure a smooth transition. We also look forward to hosting top candidates for the Executive Director position at Gothic this summer. Below is an overview for what we have in store for 2024.

Talented and committed Board and staff: This year, we welcomed new Trustees Jim Brogan, Hamish Greig, and Carol Johnson; and we thanked those that have recently left: John Haley, Elizabeth Hughes, Kurt Giesselman, Bruce McLean,** and Kailen Mooney, for their outstanding service. With the input of the governance committee, Susan Avery is our newly elected Chair and Ken Williams is our new Secretary.

As the search for a new Executive Director moves forward, we continue working to ensure a smooth transition. We're dedicated to maintaining a strong year-round staff and we have reorganized some roles and hired new people to ensure RMBL's ongoing success. A strong and stable staff is essential during the transition as this will help our new director efficiently take the lead. We are extremely grateful for the strengths of our year-round staff.

Processes in action for hiring a new executive director: We've formed two committees to search for a new Executive Director — a committee of scientists that will encourage people to apply for the position and a search committee that will evaluate applicants and recommend potential candidates to the Board. After a round of online interviews, we will invite finalists to RMBL this summer so our community can meet them and provide feedback to the search committee about their suitability. Ultimately, the Board will make the final hiring decision. We are excited about the opportunity to hire a new director who will bring fresh skills and perspectives to RMBL.

RMBL's financial position remains strong: The financial stability of RMBL is our highest priority, and we're happy to report that we are in a strong position this year from grant funds and a new development strategy. We've secured funding from the National Science Foundation for our undergraduate program and have launched a new partnership with the CU Rady School of Computer Science and Engineering. These will generate revenue and support our mission to focus on education and provide a data-rich environment. We have expanded our development team and created a strategy to approach relevant private foundations. We've also begun to plan a celebration for our 100-year anniversary in 2028.

Breakthrough for the Village at Mt. Crested Butte: The town of Mt. Crested Butte has provided final plan approval for the Village at Mt. Crested Butte (formerly known as North Village). However, construction is likely on hold until problems related to wastewater capacity are handled. Ultimately, our next director will guide this project.

The Board of Trustees is incredibly passionate about RMBL and we are committed to being accessible to the community. We will continue our successful program of joining field crews to learn about their research. If you're around this summer, please join us at our Tuesday Social Hours (5:00 PM at the Ruby Lounge before dinner and the weekly science talk), where we hope to have various Trustees in attendance.

Dan Blumstein, President

Susan Avery, Chair

*** It is with profound sadness that we regret to inform you of the passing of Bruce McLean this May. Bruce was a highly effective, thoughtful, and devoted board member as well as a wonderful friend and colleague. We will miss him dearly.*