

BOARD MEETING 04/08/26

08 April 2026 / 7:06 PM Meeting start

INTRODUCTIONS - MEMBERS PRESENT

Karen Dostal, Rob Pendergast, Susan Schuller, Willow Pingel, Sarah Wood, Scott Reilly, Brad Branwell-Zinda, Amiee Wetmore, Bob Lane, Luke Trittelwitz, Anthony Martynski, Janet Smith, Emily Ritter

Guests: Anne & Larry Graham

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

- **Discussion Items**
 - **Collisions proposal to schmeeckle** Bird safe glass application demonstrations
- **Approval of Agenda**
 - Motion to approve amendments to agenda by Janet S., seconded by Brad B-Z; motion carried & approved

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

- **Scott Reilly**
 - Science teacher @ Central Sands high school in Amherst
 - Peace Corps; bird work in Arizona; field work in Central & South America; Masters in Environmental Education at UWSP

NOTES

- **Approval of Minutes from March 11, 2026** Motion to approve March meeting minutes

- Motion to approve minutes (3/11/26) with corrections to spelling errors by Luke T., seconded by Janet S.; motion carried & approved

TREASURER'S REPORT

- **Policy Clarification** CFCW Funds, Deposits to Agency Fund
 - Agency fund is for income generated by ALAS, e.g. bird seed sale, books, etc.
 - Board discussed leaving \$10,000 in Agency fund as principle
 - Janet will draft official Agency Fund policy & bring to the board for a vote next meeting

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Naming Committee (Brad B-Z. & Susan S.)

- John Munson had really good ideas for a roll-out process
- Luke's document: Strategic Priorities for the Future of the Organization
- Nancy Turyk, John M. Brad B-Z., Luke T. & Anthony M. have volunteered
 - Motion by Amiee W. to approve 5-person subcommittee to move forward w/suggesting new name consisting of Nancy T., John M., Brad B-Z., Luke T. & Anthony M., seconded by Karen D.; motion carried & approved

Red Shouldered Hawk Grant Proposal for Approval

- Red shouldered hawk project moving into phase 2: fledgling telemetry tracking to study migration & dispersal
- 4 year study with grad student @ UW Green Bay; total cost: \$40,000 & raising money from several sources
- Gave \$2,000 for last study; being asked for \$2,000 for this as well
 - Motion by Bob L. to approve \$2,000 distributed over a two year period, seconded by Emily R.; motion carried & approved

Membership Coordinator Update

- Still discussing with Jackie Mather as potential new membership coordinator

Donation to the Prairie Chicken Project

- Informal proposal for funds from Bill Koepke from Prairie Chicken Project
- No specific amount requested; asking for general support, donations, & memberships
 - ALAS is no longer official sponsor for Prairie Chicken Festival; want to do that again

UWSP Bird Banding Intern Request from Dr. Riddle

- Waiting for formal request

Birdathon Team

- Think about forming team for this next year; should get started early

Mitch from Great Lakes Audubon to Lead Hike for Policy Makers

- Asking ALAS representative will lead a hike for policy makers including Vincent Miresse
- Asking to find location, date, time, etc. (Paper Mill Trail?)
- Sarah Wood will respond

Booth at Prairie Chicken Festival

- April 11th – 7:30 to 11:30am
- Karen D. to share a table with Sarah W.

Prairie Chicken Field Trip

- Brad B. asking for \$700 to be paid to Peggy Ferrell to cover blind fees for three blinds
- Motion by Karen D. to make payment of \$700 to cover three blinds for two days, to be paid back by participants, seconded by Bob L.; motion carried & approved

Planning Programs for Next Year

- Bring your speaker ideas! We will do this via email; Susan will send out a Google Form / Sheet to add ideas, then we will create a voting form like last year.
- Hoping our programs can reflect our strategic goals

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Events & Programs

- **Presenter (Karen D. & Brad B-Z.)** Oneida Bird Monitoring, introduced by Anthony M.
- **Field Trips (Susan S.)**
 - Birding by the Bay – Good! 6 people joined; Tundra Swans, black-necked stilt & yellow-headed blackbird
 - Prairie Chicken blinds waiting list
 - Wyalusing Camping Trip 1st week of May
 - What's Up on the Bluff? in May
- **Weekly Walks (Rob P.)**
 - 170 cumulative species w/winter wren; woodcock walk next
 - Sarah W. leading walk on April 25th at CWES; should post on Audubon Jr. page as well
- **Bird Banding at Schmeeckle**
 - Have approval for this on Saturday the 23rd; Susan will send out volunteer requests
- **Boston School Forest (Karen D. & Sarah W.)**
 - Earth Day Event; all figured out; Karen D., Sarah W., Scott R.

- **Birding by Ear Request Update**
 - Karen talked to Colin at the ADRC; he will meet with visually impaired support group to gauge interest
- **Collision request at Schmeeckle**
 - Amiee W. and Bob L. have scaffolding needed for install; need to go through UWSP risk management department
- **Contractors & Bird Safe Windows**
 - Emily R. reached out to someone in Stevens Point and they don't offer bird safe glass
 - Would like to simply contact construction companies in area and make sure they are aware of option
- **Bioblitz**
 - Saturday August 1st, Mauston solar farm - move to next agenda

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Conservation (Rob P.)

- Evers vetoed bill that would have allowed selling of land near egg farms that would have affected spread of avian influenza
 - Proposal risked setting troubling precedent for public lands being sold; should be really rare
- Garlic mustard pulling at Kozi park, plan for date in May

Website (Anthony M.)

- Fixed a couple buttons on events; toggling looking at mobile vs desktop

Publicity (Willow P.)

- MacMillan Library
- New board member Kelsey Bell interested in helping with social media

Membership (Amiee W.)

- New method of sending e-letter worked really well

Education (Bob L.)

- Golf club in Iola would like help erecting large telephone poll and putting eagle nest on platform
- Luke will reach out to Brenna from Southern Wis Bird Alliance for eagle nest launch information
- Selected spots for 8 birdhouses at CWES; will need to set up on posts with predator guards
 - Scott will have students out there on Wednesday, or can find another date for volunteers

Newsletter (Lora H. & Susan S.)

- Newsletter Deadline: 5/1

Meeting adjourned 8:48 PM