

Aldo Leopold Audubon Society

# BOARD MEETING 01/14/26

---

14 Jan 2026 /7:00 PM Meeting start

## MEMBERS PRESENT

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

Other Guests: Bob Freckmann, Anne Graham, Larry Graham, Mary Bratz, Dick Stevens, Joe Schulz

## NOTES

- **Introductions**
- **Approval of November Minutes** Motion by Brad B-Z. to approve with the suggested edits, seconded by Janet S.; carried & approved
- **Treasurer's Report**
  - Our insurance will be renewed
  - ALAS selected as the Friday 1% Giving for Stevens Point Co-op in August
  - Janet shared the financial report. Total assets in our general operation fund is at \$15,182.93 at 12/31/25.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Upcoming Events & Programs

- **Presenter** Michael Demchik w/Managing Forests to Create Bird Habitat Using Conventional Timber Harvest (Brad, Emily, or Luke to introduce?)

- **Jan Field Trip** to Sax-Zim Bog January 31st – February 1st overnight winter birding field trip; informational meeting January 22nd in Pineries room at the library
- **February Field Trip** 2026 Snowshoe Hike; Rob needs to contact someone about borrowing/renting snowshoes
- **Weekly Walks** – 100th cumulative participant!
  - Good weather at Buena Vista, next two in Wisconsin Rapids
- **Christmas Bird Count** – (Point/Amherst/Others)
  - Amherst: Most raptors Karen’s ever seen; rough-legged hawk, Cooper’s hawk; 35 people involved, totals in Newsletter
  - Stevens Point: Will be in next newsletter
  - Mead: Very cold, nothing too exciting except shrike
- **Newsletter Deadline** Jan 30th

## ACTION ITEMS

### Grant Request from Bridger Barrett in November – Madison Elementary Outdoor Classroom

- **Discussion: How much should we contribute to the project?**
  - Bridger presented at the last meeting. Madison Elementary PTO submitted a proposal for an educational grant which are typically limited to \$500, but we currently have \$1,000 available in discretionary funds; could combine them for a total of \$1,500
  - Motion to utilize \$500 education grant as well as \$1,000 from discretionary for a total of \$1,500 toward Madison Elementary School project by Karen D., seconded by Brad B-Z.
    - Susan S. abstains; vote carries & passes

### Discussion & Vote on Potential Name Change

- The ALAS Board heard from Emeritus and guest members who shared their thoughts about the issue regarding a potential name change for our chapter.
- **Guests shared their strong feelings for keeping the name**

- There were concerns that this would be a step backwards for the organization. There was expressed worry about starting from scratch
- The name “Aldo Leopold” was granted to use by Aldo Leopold’s daughter giving direct permission to use her father’s name specifically as a chapter of Audubon. If we drop Audubon, we might lose our ability to use Aldo Leopold in the name as well. We must talk to the foundation to get permission if the name is changed.
- Potential loss of membership & donations
- Irreversible
- **Some people mentioned some Pros of a Name Change**
  - Title of org should invigorate people to get to know what organization does, and be related to the mission
    - Our mission: foster love for all living things & protection of ecosystems
  - Broader name could lead to potential gain of membership + more inviting & inclusive
- **Guests shared concern about how the subcommittee surveyed members and the general public.**
- **No motion was made by the board. Topic of discussion was tabled.**

### **Loon Sign at Sunset Lake**

- **Asking \$300 to put up sign to educate anglers about the dangers of fishing tackle to loons**
  - Motion by Bob Lane to approve; seconded by Amiee W.; carried & approved
  - Loon Rescue hoping to put same sign up at other locations as well

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Almanac (Lora H./Susan S.)**

- Newsletter deadline January 30th

### **Membership (Amiee W.)**

- Amiee doing research on delivery system; select digital format for sending newsletter going forward

### **Education (Bob L.)**

- Thank you to those that showed up to the birdhouse building at Jensen Center! Kids seemed happy with bird houses

### **Conservation (Rob P.)**

- EPA changing waters of United States meaning
- Should keep an eye on Knowles–Nelson funding and get info out

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm