

# BOARD MEETING 10/08/25 - DRAFT

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08 Oct 2025 / 7:00 PM Meeting start

## MEMBERS PRESENT

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

## ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

- **Discussion** Window Collisions Project

## NOTES

- **Introductions** Welcome Luke Trittlewitz!
- **Approval of Sep Minutes** Motion by Amiee W. to approve, seconded by Brad B-Z.; carried & approved
- **BOD Highlight** Amiee W.
- **Treasurer's Report** Corrections to July/August report, re-filed

## ACTION ITEMS

### Luke Trittlewitz to Join the Board

- **Vote to approve Luke to BOD** Motion made by Bob L.; seconded by Brad B-Z.; carried & approved

## Budget Approval

- **Budget Summary and Discussion**

- *Annual budget spreadsheet can be found in Google Drive*
- Total of \$33,500 in income and expenditures
- Annual budget for printing and mailing is biggest expense, & we must send physical newsletter as chapter of National Audubon
  - Has been more expensive this year since we tried out color printing
- Grants are estimated from last year & website hosting and Zoom costs change year to year
- Lincoln Center and Schmeckle have waived room fees for us this year
- Would like to add line item for donor designated contributions under income
  - Keep track of how that money is used
- Would like to add line item for WIX credit card transaction fees under expenditures
  - Look into potentially passing off fee costs to purchasers or have fees waived as nonprofit?

- **Propose Changes**

- Move CWES camper scholarship from university scholarship line item to discretionary donations
- Add \$500 line item for donor designated contributions under income
- Add \$500 line item for WIX credit card transaction fees under expenditures
- Income & Expenditures Updated Totals: \$34,000

- **Vote to Approve Budget With Updates** Motion made by Karen D.; seconded by Bob L.; carried & approved

- **Other Notes**

- UWSP Scholarships now need to be at least \$1,000 and must be sent in by December 1st
- Should draft official policy clarifying Endowment & Agency funds purpose and procedures

- Would like to make it official that Agency fund always holds at least \$10,000

### Org. Credit Card

- Any objections? Can put liability insurance, automatic renewals for WIX domain, etc. on card
- Look into options such as Charity Charge

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Upcoming Events & Programs

- **Presentation** Birds of Panama by Erik Bruhnke
  - October 15th 7p.m. @ Lincoln Center
- **Field Trip** Migration on the Mississippi Trip
  - November 8th, 7a.m. to 6p.m.
  - Meet @ parking lot across from Chase Bank for carpooling
  - Posted in newsletter
- **Weekly Walks** Going well!
  - October 12th and 18th

### Other Announcements

- **Jaegerfest 2025** Birder gathering at Wisconsin Point, Superior, WI
  - Wisconsin's largest unofficial birding festival started by Wisconsin Society for Ornithology; 3rd weekend in September
  - "Klepto parasite" jaegers will chase other birds like gulls and harass them until they regurgitate their food for the jaeger to catch
  - Event report:  
<https://www.wsobirds.org/about-wso/news/1993-jaegerfest-2025-field-trip-report>

- **Loon Rescue** Sunset Lake incidents
  - Juvenile loon rescued from fishing line
  - Two juveniles released on lake and two later found dead
  - Canada Goose had died on loon nesting platform; suspected to have bird flu
  - Karen D. working on writing a grant for signage at Sunset Lake

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

### Birdseed Sale Update

- **Final Tally** 89 preorders totaling roughly \$11,000; almost 450 items; 75% of orders made online.
- **Comparison to Last Year** 81 preorders; 387 items; 66% of orders made online.
- **Suggestions**
  - Waiting to hear back from Midge on whether more volunteers are needed next year
  - In future, could partner with campus students doing bird research

### Google Folders-Issues?

- Everyone should have correct permissions
- Some issues, Amiee's access mostly fixed

### Window Collision Project

- **Safe Passage for Birds Program** Began partnership in 2022
  - Our student point person, Molly, had project identifying which buildings on UWSP campus are most dangerous for birds
- **Bird Safe Window Treatments on Chem Bio Building**
  - Molly's project identified the worst building as the CBB; window treatment for this would cost about \$42,000
  - She had drafted a grant proposal the application of the window treatments, but has graduated and since this needs to be submitted by a student, this project needs to be revisited

- University facilities manager supportive of staff helping prep windows for installation
- **New Library and HEC Building Renovations**
  - The university has installed bird safe glass as part of these projects.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

- Newsletter deadline October 31st

### Website (Anthony M.)

- All field trips up and up to date

### Field Trips (Brad B.)

- Upcoming Migration on the Mississippi trip

### Publicity (Susan S.)

- Janet and Susan can pick up and distribute around town
- Possible to print extra newsletters to hand out to people at programs?

### Membership (Amiee W.)

- Amiee updating membership database; sent 875 emails and many came back undeliverable
- Renewal reminders sent out; working on mail merge
- Any interest in statistics? How many new members monthly, how many people who were given free trial membership renewed afterward, etc.

### Name Change Sub-Committee (Susan S.)

- Please spread news! Need to hear from as many members as possible, hoping to get together at the end of the month to compile data

## Education (Bob L.)

- Approved grant last spring for virtual school at CWES
  - Will be working on a few different kinds of bird houses for kids to put together
  - Bob could use volunteers to work on them and speak on birds & nesting on November 25th around 11 a.m.
- Continuing to send out letters about grant opportunities
- Partnering with a woman in Amherst who has money to contribute to local schools for bird and habitat improvement projects

## Conservation (Rob P.)

- Endangered and threatened species seen on bird walks
  - Endangered: black tern
  - Threatened: upland sand piper, Henslow's sparrow, greater prairie chicken
- Menomonie Data center update:
  - \$1.6 billion data center
  - City council voted yes to rezone land for development, but center will only 50-75 permanent jobs and use 75,000 gallons of water every day
  - Mayor says won't pursue development agreement; Mayor has veto power over council votes

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm