

BOARD MEETING 05/14/25 - Approved

14 May 2025 / 7:02 PM Meeting start

MEMBERS PRESENT

Karen Dostal, Rob Pendergast, Susan Schuller, Willow Pingel, Scott Reilly, Anthony Martynski, Janet Smith, Jan Seiler, Joe Schulz, Bob Lane, Emily Ritter, Brad Branwell-Zinda, Ned Grossnickle, Aimee Wetmore, Anne Graham, Brad Baum

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

- **Conservation Report** Anne Graham, Cozee Park Prairie
- **Announcements** Brad B-Z., Mead Hike

NOTES

- **Approval of Minutes** Motion by Susan S. to approve, seconded by Brad B-Z.; carried & approved
- **Introductions** Welcome Emily Ritter & Aimee Wetmore

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fishes of Wisconsin River w/Justin Sipiorski (Joe S.)

- Good to go; to be introduced by Karen, Susan, or Joe

Program Selection for Next Year (Susan S.)

- Results:
 - 1st: Conservation of Menomonie Lands w/ Jeff Gringan

- Tied for 2nd: Osprey Research w/ Bruce Bacon, Wisconsin Green Fire w/ Terri Dalton, Darwin's Finches w/ Jen Koop
- Tied for 3rd: Banding Birds at Hawk Ridge w/ Frank Nicoletti, Talking Trash w/ Susan Schuller, The Power of Birds w/ Craig Thompson
- Look at Susan's poll for the rest
- Bob L. and Karen D. will be on program committee this year

National Audubon's Payment for 2024 (Karen D.)

- National Audubon started new reporting system
- Karen sent in via drop box; they said they never got it, so we are missing out on \$1100 from 2024
- Technical glitch on their part, they finally received it, but they could not go back in accounting to pay us
- Break it off into sections for 2025, share excel file work

Beginning Birder Walk & LGBTQ+ Focus Group

- This Saturday (May 17th) at Mead
- Hope to bring more diverse audience into birding

Fall Family Field Day at the Mead

- September 7th
- Need to get word out to kids & families; Susan will have something this saturday at Schmeeckle Bird Banding
- Brad B. and Scott R. can help with this

Bird Banding Schmeeckle Saturday

- Saturday (May 17th)
- First group 7 a.m.; put up nets by 6 p.m. Friday
- Try to have one other activity just in case low birds
- Rob can walk people back to look at nesting owls

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Tabling at Master Gardener's Garden Parade

- July 12th
- Contact Dorothy Stewarwald (715)371-1080
- Looking for one or two people to table at Garden Parade on July 12th
 - Anthony M., Rob P., Emily R. interested
- Everyone really likes the different types of nests
- Anthony will contact Dorothy

ACTION ITEMS

Speaker Honorarium for Matt Reetz

- Came to speak during Earth Week; bonus presentation
- He said no payment needed, but we should perhaps contribute to Southern Wisconsin Bird Alliance; nice to show partnership to other chapter
- Asking \$200 to have honorarium sent to Southern Bird Alliance for Matt Reetz; motion by Brad B-Z.; seconded by Janet S.; motion carried & approved

Discretionary Funding (Jan S., Karen D.)

- EOY Spending from 2022-2023 (5/8/2024)
 - Natural Resources Foundation \$500
 - Wisconsin Conservation Voters \$250
 - Raptor Services \$500
 - Raptor Education Group \$500
 - Central Wisconsin Kestrel Research \$600
 - Loon Rescue \$500
 - CWEZ to sponsor a camper \$400
- *CWEZ*: money we sent them went to their endowment fund, which does sponsor a camper, however:
 - They also sent us a form to fill out to support a camper; we could directly sponsor a camper instead of sending check to go to endowment
 - This year, fill out form: give CWEZ **\$500** to support camper from Portage County
- *Wisconsin Wildlife Federation*: has appeal to public service commission for decision on Vista Sands Solar Project:
 - This year, make one time donation toward legal expenses: **\$250**

- The rest the same as last year; total list: \$3600
- Asking to approve \$3,600 to be distributed to discretionary funds; motion by Susan S.; seconded by Brad B.; carried & approved

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Almanac (Lora H.)

- Newsletter deadline TBD in last part of August

Website(Rob P.)

- Bird walk info posted; Susan added info on upcoming programs
- Anthony M. to be taking over; Susan sent e-mail to set up logins to collaborate on website
- Add Brad B. as collaborator to website to tackle discrepancies between website and Facebook

Field Trips (Brad B.)

- Saturday May 10th: Blooms on Bluff led by Bob Freckman
 - Lots of blooms: trilliums, spring beauties, etc.
 - Total of 16 people
- Two field trips in June:
 - Saturday June 7th, Buena Vista Grasslands w/Janet and Amber of Central Wisconsin Kestrel Research
 - Banding kestrels & chatting with them
 - Update website from meeting in Bancroft to meeting at Historical Site at corner of F & W
 - 7 people signed up already
 - Saturday June 14th & Sunday June 15th: Crex Campout
 - Overnight field trip to Crex Creek
 - Meet at Headquarters of Crex
- Brad will be submitting 'What You Missed' article for each field trip for newsletters

- Anyone interested in being on Field Trip planning committee, need to set up date to talk about that

Publicity (Brad B-Z.)

- Field trip collaboration w/ other organizations:
 - Wild Ones group, Clean Green Action Committee
- Programs for next week programs all set up on Facebook
- Stevens Point Calendar not setting up our last few events; Community Spirit of Amherst will have calendar of events for next year's events
- Aimee interested in taking over for Jan posting physical adverts around town at libraries, cafés, etc.

Membership (Janet S.)

- Membership tech issue figured out; Google storage issue

Education (Bob L.)

- Usual number of requests for grants; contact Iola and Amherst schools, smaller schools not interested
- Charter school sent e-mail but not formal request, Bob following through on that
- Bob continuing to repair replace and move bluebird houses; not been successful in getting in contact with people
- Biology scholarship: Emily Johnston

Conservation (Rob P.)

- Workday May 31st at Buena Vista for prairie chickens
- Garlic mustard removal in Cozee park (city park right across from UPS on Minnesota Ave.)
 - Five year prairie project out there by powerlines to keep brush down; Erickson property attached to park, Kent Hall got stewardship grant to purchase some property as well
 - Working on turning into native grasses; working with city to remove invasives
 - Removal workday: garlic mustard & knapweed; this Saturday (May 17th) 10a.m.
 - Perhaps get sign for next year for Prairie Project

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm