Aldo Leopold Audubon Society

BOARD MEETING 2/14

14 February 2024 / 7:01 PM Meeting start

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ned Grossnickle, Rob Pendergast, Susan Schuller, Brad Baum, Anne Graham, Larry Graham, Jenny Christopher, Willow Pingel, Joe Schulz, Bob Lane, John Munson, Jan Seiler, Janet Smith

NOTES

- **Additions to Agenda** Birdseed sale & announcement
- **Approval of Minutes** Motion by Janet, seconded by Ned; carried & approved

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bats with Chris Yahnke

- February 21st

Newsletter Deadline

- March 1st
- Articles & announcements to Laura

New Lenovo Laptop

- Total $879 for computer & virus protection
- Can potentially be used for programs/talks
- Membership database now accessible & will be backed on external drive
- Working on national database accessibility

Bird City Application

- Sent in by Janet
- $179 paid by the city

Year End Report Complete

DISCUSSION

Volunteer Application Forms

- In Google Drive; QR codes go to interest forms for minors and adults
- Potential changes:
    - Announce programs & projects first w/links to pages
    - Shorten length
    - Remove birthdate, criminal charges, emergency contact info (for adult form), health/physical limitations, service learning hours, availability, on call
    - Remove *requirement* for address, expectations from volunteering, relevant skills/hobbies
    - Keep special accommodations and add section for explanation if "yes"

Request for Earth Day Presentation/Program

- For 55+ community program The Landing Adventure Camp in Wausau
- Seeking Earth Week program or workshop; 45 mins - 1 hour
    - Rob: potentially citizen science/e-bird workshop
    - Bob: potential bird house building/assembling workshop

ACTION ITEMS

Jewels of Nature II Recommendation

- Willow, Susan, Bob met and suggest 500 copies w/Seaway's quote of $3,396 & sell for $15; aim for Fall release
    - Motion by John to approve, seconded by Ned; carried and approved
- Potential ways to build buzz:
    - Getting it in bookstores
    - Book signing by Alan
    - 90.5 fm ALAS segment by Alan to do some readings
    - Fall essay contest

Cornell Land Trust Grant Application

- North Central Conservancy Trust requests partnership & matching fund for their grant up to $1,000 for land trusts regarding bird conservation
    - Leading education on future properties; skill based programs & speakers
    - Add forum for environmental conservation groups to meet & share
    - Motion by Janet for ALAS to provide matching funds up to $1,000 for grant, seconded by Rob; carried and approved.

Solar Project in Buena Vista Township

- 6,737 acres in Plover, Buena Vista, Grant - Breeding area for prairie chickens & other wildlife
- Solar Project extends south to Wisconsin Rapids
    - In need of a buffer zone so fence doesn't jut against wildlife area
- Public comments to Public Service Commissions through March 1st
    - Jim Keir suggests 1 mile buffer zone; Grant city counters with ½ mile
    - Proper management & considerations should be taken for wildlife
    - Considerations:
        - Predators may use fence as perch to attack prairie wildlife
        - Restorative prairie in buffer zones
        - Prairie chicken population already in decline
        - Potential affect on migratory birds & other wildlife
- ALAS Members & Organization consider submitting comments
    - Janet & Rob volunteer to write letter on behalf of ALAS
    - Members should consider making private comments as well
    - Comments to environmental assessment coordinator:
        - psc.wi.gov; file comment on lower left side of page, locate docket: 9820-CE-100

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Website

- New Weekly Bird Walks tab under Resources
- One buyer for bird art - check will be sent

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm