Aldo Leopold Audubon Society

BOARD MEETING 03/11/26

11 March 2026 / 7:02 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 Trittlewitz, Anthony Martynski

Emeritus: Anne & Larry Graham

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

- **Discussion Items**
    - **Boston School Forest** Earth Day April 19th
    - **ADRC** Visually Impaired Support Group wondering if any of us would do birding by ear with members of that group
- **Approval of Agenda**
    - Motion to approve amendments to agenda (additional discussion items & moving March treasurer's report to April meeting) by Luke T.; seconded by Karen D.; motion carried & approved

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

- **Sarah Wood Grad Research**
    - LSU Grad - History Degree; Naturalist in Kansas working w/Raptors; Hawk Ridge, Sax-Zim Bog & Lake Superior Zoo
    - Now going for Masters in Env. Ed., grad assistant at CWES & researching what gets young people into birding
    - Will have public presentation at end of semester - Early May

NOTES

- **Approval of Minutes from February 11, 2026** Motion to approve February meeting minutes
    - Motion to approve minutes (2/11/26) by Sarah W., seconded by Karen D.; motion carried & approved
    - Motion to approve closed session minutes (2/11/26) by Brad B., seconded by Bob L.; motion carried & approved

TREASURER'S REPORT

- **Policy Clarification** CFCW Funds, Deposits to Agency Fund - Pushed to next meeting

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Newsletter Delivery Method (Amiee W.)

- We will transition electronic delivery from standard process of sending via g-mail to sending through WIX's campaign platform
    - Free service w/current subscription, 200 contact cap per campaign
    - Interactive newsletter; headers, clickable pics and blurbs, etc.
    - Personalized membership renewal notices
- Thinking about brevity of newsletter & specific online formatting
- Motion to officially transition e-delivery of newsletter from g-mail to WIX campaign platform by Amiee W., seconded by Bob L.; motion carried & approved

Naming Committee & Process Forward (Susan S.)

- Willow & Susan met with Southern Wisconsin Bird Alliance to talk about their process
    - Invited sub-committee participants to research and suggest final group of names for Board to vote on
- Aldo Leopold Foundation replied to inquest about continued use of Aldo Leopold's name and said it is now trademarked

- Need time to make announcement in newsletter and get forms on website; open question to gauge interest & experiences
- Plan to vote on forming this committee at April meeting
- Potential co-chairs: Brad B-Z, Luke T., Karen D., Sarah W. Anthony M.

Nomination Committee

- Willow & Scott willing to do this again
- Reaching out to current board members

Membership Coordinator - New Membership Coordinator

- Amiee W. will remain on the board but cannot continue as membership coordinator.
- We need to seek another coordinator to transition over the summer.

Boston School Forest Earth Day Event - Booth

- April 19th 1pm - 4pm
- Karen D. & Sarah W.

Birding by Ear - ADRC

- Visually impaired support group wants to know if we can take a group out
- Karen will get more information from Connor O'Keefe
- Sarah W., Karen D., & Willow P.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Events & Programs

- **Presenter (Karen D. & Brad B-Z.)** Terry Daulton, introduced by Bob L.
- **Field Trips (Susan S.)** Prairie chicken blinds date change; waiting list
- **Weekly Walks (Rob P.)** People still coming, next two posted on website

Chapter Annual Report Submitted (Susan S.)

- Submitted March 8th; received
- Have Janet look for payment from National

Bird City Application Submitted (Janet S.)

- Submitted!
- Janet & Susan met with city parks department & forester Todd & city assistant, $175 fee for us to keep bird city status
- Application now more collaborative

Collisions Proposal Drafted (Susan S. & Emily R.)

- Proposal will be submitted to Jim Buchholz for bird safe glass at Schmeeckle Visitor's Center!
- If they're open, having each window pane be a different demonstration of the bird safe glass to give the public an awareness of different options; would be great if we could also get a display about why it's there
- Could contact construction companies in the area just for awareness

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Conservation (Rob P.)

- Garlic mustard removal sometime in May
- Crane hunt still not official, contact legislators, Susan will forward e-mail

Website (Anthony M.)

- Get pics sent to Anthony M. or Susan S.

Field Trips (Brad B.)

- Bay Area Birding March 29th

Publicity (Willow P.)

- Presenter & field trip posts up on FB

Membership (Amiee W.)

- Now tracking stats
- Volunteer listed

Education (Bob L.)

- No requests for grants
- Amherst science & shop teacher interested

Newsletter (Lora H. & Susan S.)

- Newsletter Deadline: 3/27/2026
- Put something in April newsletter about naming sub-committee

Meeting adjourned 8:41 PM