Bird Conservation Alliance of Central WI
October 14, 2026

Attendees:
Board Members: Susan Schuller, Kelsey Bell, Janet Smith, Scott Reilly, Karen Dostal, Amiee Wetmore, Emily Ritter, Bob Lane, Brad Branwell, Rob Pendergast, and Anthony Martynski
Guest**:** Amber Eschenbauch

I. Introductions
II. Meeting called to order at 7:03pm by Susan
III. **MOTION** to approve the agenda by Janet, seconded by Bob. All in Favor. Motion Carried.
IV. **MOTION** to approve the minutes from September 2026 by Karen, seconded by Janet. All in Favor. Motion Carried.
V. **Treasurer's Report** presented by Janet
    A. **Budget** for 2026-27 Discussion. Janet presented the draft budget and worked with Susan on this. The board discussed and overall agreed with the budget. Susan mentioned a few line items that could be adjusted. Amiee suggested the line item for the PO box be the exact amount.
    MOTION: With those minor adjustments mentioned, Janet moves to approve the budget. Seconded by Aimee. All in Favor. Motion Passed.
    B. **Giving Tuesday Campaign.** The Community Foundation asked if we are having one. The board discussed. With a volunteer board, it is difficult to do well. No, we will not this year. Susan will let them know.
    C. **Birdseed Sale -** so far over $7,000 raised. We will know more at the next meeting. We are set up with Square Up to take point of sale orders.

VI. Announcements
    A. **Logo Design Update** - 2 submissions received. Deadline is Oct 30th.
    B. **Ribbon Cutting Event** at Madison Elementary School Outdoor Classroom is 10/21 @5pm. You are all invited.
    C. **Christmas Bird Count** - Marueen Janz is the new contact for Stevens Point. Jean Mansavage may host one in the area. If you know of other CBC events happening, we can post on our website and social feed.
    D. **Grow for Birds Plant Grant** - Kelsey shared about a small grants program for a Bird City to receive $500 for plants. Due 11/6.
    E. **Stevens Point Co-op** sent us $425.78 for their Giving Friday 1%!! The deadline to get on next year's is 10/23.
    F. **Community Foundation Funds** - Karen, Janet, and Susan met with the Community Foundation to get our name changed on the funds. No issues at all.

G. **Owl Banding Update** - We donated funds to help Brad get set up with Owl Banding. He provided an preliminary update as he is in the middle of the season/month. 72 owls captured. One Barred Owl

VII. Discussion Items:

A. **Nomination for WSO Award -** Janet and Brad are interested in Nominating Gene Jacobs for the WSO Award under BCACW as the nominator.
   1. **MOTION**: Bob moved to nomination Gene Jacobs for a WSO Award with Brad writing it, seconded by Janet. All in Favor. Motion passes.

B. **Window Strikes.** Emily provided an update on the window strikes work done at UWSP. Bob and Karen have a display with sample bird safe ideas. We lent it out and one of the items broke. Bob will look to get a replacement. They will be talking to Golden Sands Builders Association. Discussion on public buildings being planned and if bird friendly glass will be installed.

C. **Chapter Files are all in Google.** Permissions for the board have be set to have access. Anyone can print flyers to distribute through their networks. Let Susan know if you need access to something.

D. **Discussion on a new URL -** Susan shared some ideas for an updated URL for our chapter. BirdsCW.org was selected. Susan will get that set up and automatically forwarded.

VIII. Committee Reports

A. **Programs**: Janet is talking about Panama and Karen will introduce her. Snacks/drinks are covered.

B. Field Trips:
   1. Paddling the upper chains - 6 canoes, Bob has 3 kayaks, life vests
      a) Bob and Scott will be leading, 2 to 2.5 hrs, 10AM to 1 PM
   2. Mississippi field trip in November - fliers not up/no poster. Susan didn't get a QR code to Lora in time. Kelsey mentioned you can make QR codes in canva and track things.
   3. Anthony's Green Bay bird walk - potential on March 30th

C. **Conservation**:. As of 2024, no known nests of Connecticut Warblers. In 2022, Ryan Brady formed Connecticut Warbler group. We should report any sightings to eBird, maintain habitat at stop over sites. Spruce bog conservation.

D. **Publicity**: Kelsey is making posts for the programs and events. She recommends creating a recognizable and consistent template. She encourages everyone to share, like, comment on posts. Also, remember to take pictures at events and send them to her.

E. **Membership**. Send items to Aimee for the digital e-news. National has some issues with their members portal. We are working on it. Walter Wright could help

with syncing spreadsheets. Janet will talk with Walter and connect him with Jackie.

F. **Education**: Bob met with teachers and continuously shares the grant opportunity with schools
G. **Newsletter**: Articles are due 10/30. Scott plans to do Kids Corner again. Susan will include information about the Madison Outdoor School Ribbon Cutting. Other potential articles are on Owl Banding, Kestrel Rsearch, Red Shoulder Hawk. Articles should be 250-500 worlds.

Action Items

- **Amy:** Apply for the Stevens Point Co-op "1% Friday" nomination by **October 23rd** 1415.
- **Brad:** Write the WSO award nomination for Gene Jacobs 4.
- **Brad:** Provide a full season report on owl banding for the newsletter 16.
- **Jackie/Walter:** Update the membership database template to mirror the national export format 1718.
- **Susan:** Coordinate the ribbon-cutting event and capture photos for social media 1319.

Meeting adjourned: 8:47 PM

Meeting Minutes written by Emily Ritter and Susan Schuller