



Saint Paul Bird Alliance

Board of Directors Minutes Monday, March 2, 2026, 5:00 – 6:30 PM

**Amherst H. Wilder Conference Center
451 Lexington Parkway North
St. Paul, MN 55104
Conference Room 2510**

1) Welcome and Call to Order

The Saint Paul Bird Alliance Board of Directors meeting was held on Monday, March 2, 2026. President Kiki Sonnen called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm. Those attending were Vice-President Debbie Brown, Treasurer Neil Carlson, Secretary Amanda Rice, Monica Bryand, Craig Cox, Owen Stefanich, Lucas Lin, Allison Campbell Jensen (guest), Micki Long (guest).

2) Recent bird sightings

3) Approve Last Month's Minutes

Neil motioned to approve minutes, Debbie seconded. Unanimously approved.

4) Treasurers Report - Neil Carlson

Neil provided the following update on our current assets as of today. Grant checks have been distributed.

- US Bank Checking: \$14,507.67
- US Bank Savings: \$8,219.18
- US Bank Certificate: \$17,088.14 – Maturity date is July 10, 2026
- TruStone Certificate: \$35,953.42 – Maturity date is February 2027

5) UBC and Warbler Weekend

Craig motioned to approve \$1,000 to support, Debbie seconded. Unanimously approved.

6) Committee reports

a) Communication and outreach - Amanda Rice

- i) Kiki, Amanda, Greg and Allison met last week. Greg volunteered to manage the MailChimp side of things, Allison will create an editorial calendar and will start pulling content together with Greg and Amanda.
- ii) There will be a Volunteer Appreciation Party at Como Park West Picnic Shelter on Tuesday June 23 from 430-730 pm. Pot Luck. All are welcome.

b) Conservation committee - Debbie Brown and Monica Bryand

- i) Chimney swift monitoring - close to 150 initial volunteers, up from 15 last year. Training in process. Will also have hands-on training and more direction for timing, including Duluth area. Will have more swift-sits in the summer.
- ii) Kestrels return in March. The team is updating predator guards where needed.
- iii) Still waiting to hear from St. Paul as they go through the hiring process for a new contact.

- iv) Landscape Revival scheduled June 6 in Lake Elmo.
 - v) Keystone Wildlife Management Area - committee would like to become more familiar with this area for future conservation work.
 - c) Education committee - Kiki Sonnen - no update this month
 - d) Field trips and events committee - Kiki Sonnen
 - i) Our Spring Volunteer Event is scheduled for March 26, at Maplewood Nature Center at 4:00 PM: Guided birding on the boardwalk led by John Zakelj, and then at 4:45 PM we'll have pizza dinner and discussion regarding 2026 field trips and events. Monica volunteered to pick up pizza.
 - e) Grants committee - Craig Cox
 - i) Discussed memo from January 29, 2026 with revisions to future grant process.
 - f) Nominating committee - Kiki Sonnen. Kiki is leading this, including Debbie, Monica and Owen.
 - g) Program committee - Kiki Sonnen. Hope Flanagan is speaking in March on insects (in-person). Kara Snow will speak on pileated woodpeckers April 9 (Zoom). Carrol Henderson will speak on May 14 (in-person).
- 7) Other business -
- 8) Motion to Adjourn

Craig moved to adjourn at 6:00 pm. Amanda seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Item 6: 2026 Annual Report to National Audubon & Priority Goals (5:40 PM)

We are currently preparing our Annual Report. Kiki, Greg and Neil have been drafting the report.

The suggested priority goals for the 2026 calendar year are:

- Priority 1: Build Organizational Strength
- Priority 2: Strengthen Volunteer Recruitment & Retention
- Priority 3: Diversity / Diversify

For reference, last year's goals were:

- Engagement: Working with volunteers to provide participants with easy ways to get involved in conservation and advocacy.
- Conservation: Supporting other organizations through grants and volunteers, while identifying habitat projects for our chapter to own.
- Advocacy: Building a platform for members to have a voice.