



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 1, 2026, 5:00 – 6:30 PM

Amherst H. Wilder Conference Center

**451 Lexington Parkway North
St. Paul, MN 55104
Conference Room 2510**

Zoom Link

[May 4, 2026 BoD meeting minutes](#)

[May 14, 2026 Annual Membership minutes](#)

Agenda

1. 5:00 pm Technical difficulties connecting to Zoom caused delay in opening meeting.

2. 5:04 p.m. (approx.) Welcome by Kiki Sonnen

3.. 5:05 Recent Bird Sightings

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher; Willet; Comon Nighthawk, foy; Black-Crowned Night Heron, in decline; [ABB Always Be Birding]; Tennessee, Redstarts, Red-Eyed Vireos coming through, through intense listening while walking the dogs, Grey-cheeked Thrush; Nighthawk roosting in a tree in Nicollet County (first time spotted in tree)

4.. 5:06 Minutes of the May Board of Directors meeting–Approved

5. 5:08 Minutes of May Annual Meeting–Approved

6. 5:10 Treasurer's Report dated May 31, 2026

Checking and Savings: \$48,061.24

Checking –2071: \$16,085.44

Savings–3181: \$14,887.66

Certificate of Deposit – 9236: \$17,088.14

Cash flow in last 30 years –

Money in: \$6555.88

Money out: \$6,783.77

–Insurance paid for; got domain names paid for, for St. Paul Audubon and Saint Paul Bird Alliance.
We are securing the St. Paul Audubon name.

6. 5:20 Committee Reports:

A) Conservation Committee–Monica reported. Great signup for Swift Sits, including Brainerd and all over.... Will be announced. Keystone is a great area north of Stillwater, but DNR not protecting from dogs and dog training. We need to protect the ground birds. It's similar to Pig's Eye, we want to get eyes on it. Short-eared Owls and other species.

Keystone Field Trip: 4:30 p.m., June 11. –A plan for the place? Yes, but don't know where it is at right now.

–More audio troubles on Zoom... “we'll talk louder”

B) Events & Field Trips

Friday, June 5, car caravan at AHATS, nesting birds;
June 6, Landscape Revival, Lake Elmo;
Grassland Birds with John Z. will be June 9 at Battle Creek;
June 14, Sponsored trip for Battle Creek, Sun Ray Library;
June 15, Silverwood Park;
June 17 birds and beers;
June 20 Grassland Birds at Battle Creek;
June 23 Reservoir Woods;

C) Landscape Revival Report–Neil is going, likes to table, a triple threat, SPBA, Master Naturalist, Glowing Rocks!

D) Volunteer Appreciation Party

June 23 Volunteer Appreciation Picnic, 4:30 p.m., potluck, for BoD and Volunteers, Como Park West Picnic Grounds Pavilion

E) Grants committee: Craig Cox, nice email from recipients; one needs our logo? Which format?
Craig will find out: JPEG or PDF

6. 5:45 Communications / Technology Discussion

Questions posed originally by Jeff Cook:

A) Where are we now? How did we get here? What is being done now? What will need doing as Greg B transitions management services? (Time, support, technology, costs, etc.)

B) What does Board think our focus is now? Should it be different? How effective is our communications?

C) Realizing we can't do everything, what would attract a more diverse audience to further our chapter's main mission? Should we target different audiences?

Members vs. potential members? Age? Birding experience? Specialized interests? Photography? birds in art? Music?

D) What is possible for the future? What are options worth exploring? Could stronger communications open up new possibilities for our chapter?

From Neil Carlson to Everyone: white board notes

Current realities on communication. 1. technology piece. 2. how we engage people.

Continuity need backup 2a: What we are communicating and how we are communicating

Greg would like to phase out. Innovation: No changes.

Domain services: We rent them. Greg Burnes Web site back-end host services: Greg does content services. Need to go somewhere else. We have Mail chimp. It automatically sends information out to people. It also has our mailing. Allison has our social media. Currently in great shape. Need someone to create the content to enter it into the website. Wants to not do that anymore. Good to have someone else put in the web. Would like someone else to drive content on social media and newsletter. It is mostly announcing events. Write articles and take pictures.

Allison will be able to help with content now that she is done with the two other obligations. Communication content has stayed stagnant. Things going great and needs to be updated.

Digital and physical presence are important to the community. How we show up in them. Options that interest the group to sustain interest. Brainstorm session. Juggle ideas. Talk about what we do with these ideas. Get momentum behind this. What options interest the group sustain and grow. Write up what happened on field trip and share it. Produce ebird list. Get photos of event. Need to exploit this. Asking field trip participants to contribute. Several photographers. Person will be grateful to be asked to send photos.

One volunteer writes the partner article. Leader article is done. People submit photos. Pocket parks that people go to: It is their patch park. Highlight people that we give grants to. Is there a communication playbook. with passwords? {Yes, per GB, ACJ} This would help with the risk management. Spreadsheet on the shared drive has passwords that has email double authentication.

Need some training to board members on how to do all of these things. with written materials. Not simple. What we are trying to do is a fairly good footprint. Do we have a communications committee? Formalize a committee on communications. There is a structure how

we do this. There is a place where people can officially be part of contribution to committees.
Structure

Are we talking about content and structure? We are talking about both. There may be people interested in content and other people interested in the back end.

Greg offers thought. It would be great for someone to proactively go out and get content. Person actively asking for articles and pictures for Cardinal and website. The content has to resonate with the mission. Make sure it is centered with the mission.

Communication should focus both on internal and on outreach to the community. This is the beginning of the conversation.

Long term ideas: More than 5 colleges with communication studies departments. Has a meeting with central high school AV options. Establish and seek out long term options - mutually beneficial or paid by stipend. Establish a credible long-term relationship.

Summary: set guidelines for articles that are suitable for submission. Committee chairs to talk about work that we are doing. Need good guidelines for articles.

Article guidelines: When is it due? We have interim people interested in short term and long term work. Long term is relationships. People work on this summer to work on transition. Set up community coffees. Write down long term pursuits. Shepherding.

Summarize. Short term blue ribbon taskforce on communication. Guidelines and governance issues.

Long term solution: the change part is hard. Jeff Cook would like to be part of the long term solution for communications.

What is the long term communication?. 1> Establish relationships with community with Universities and new people with stipends... Targeted resourcing from finance. Group to introduce them to.

A tactical group for communication. A long term group for outreach to the community. Coordinate FB and newsletter with Instagram. Have an interim task force. Talk about grantees.

So we need to have specific written instructions on how to do all of the things related to communications. So it is clean and working with back up.

We do have a grant program where an organization would improve the communication for this organization. We would have to change our thinking about how we do. If there are opportunities in this cycle to generate content. Or fewer grants and build communication infrastructure. Need a story from each one of them and it would inspire members. We would have more grant requests.

Short term group logistics for communication and Jeff will reach out to groups. UBC did a nice article interviewing Greg about Warbler weekend. Easily could use the article.

Craig, can reach out to a couple of grant recipients

We need guidelines for the articles.

September board meeting: Report from the communication groups, ad hoc and long-term (whatever is available).

7. 6:15 LCMR Grant Ideas– should have had guidelines out months ago, Monica says. Trying to get answers; they do have legislative funding.

- Partner org to hire intern,with our SPBA help? Would need to change our thinking about what gran programs do.

* Wildlife & Pollinator Corridor(s): Ramsey County vision–A red fox could get from Pig’s Eye to WBL without crossing a road. Not buying land but connecting public lands and so forth, so that “the ducklings don’t get smashed in the road.”

* Witness Trees & Bird Allies–Trees around 100 years or longer . . .

* Other ?

8. 6:30 Adjourn

