



Saint Paul Bird Alliance

Board of Directors Minutes Tuesday, September 8, 2026, 5:00 – 6:30 PM

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

[Zoom link](#)

[06-01-2026 BoD Meeting Minutes.docx](#)

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1. 5:00 Call to Order - Introductions - share highlight of the Summer

Kiki Sonnen, week at Itasca State Park, sketching and watching birds; Jeff Cook, Bobolink families in Wolf Lake area; Neil got his liver scanned at the Fair; Allison, Alaska inland passage, amazing habitat, sea lions; Debbie Brown, went to Maine, Sandpipers and Semipalmated Plovers, on the move; Craig Cox, no highlights, nice birds in backyard; Monica, went to North Ottawa Impoundment, 200 Hudsonian Godwits, tripped nearby but nothing broken; Micki, Sucker Lake strange-looking woodpecker? Juvenile Red-Headed Woodpecker; Jen, got the Common Ringed

Plover—not a lifer, saw in Tanzania; Swallow-tailed Kite, also not a lifer. The homeowner for the kite sightings is very generous to birders who come to see it.

5:10 Review and vote on minutes of our June Board meeting Moved to approve by Neil, seconded by Craig; no changes; passed by acclamation.

5:15 collection of stickers and buttons "I am a Birder & I Vote" Micki shared her goodies with the group

2. 5:20 Treasurer's Report (including Insurance coverage) (Neil)

Assets moved up about \$7,000, generous donors; Notes from Neil*

Checking and savings \$55,452.93

Checking \$23,228.01

Savings \$14,742.49 (Why is this lower 10/5/2026?)

CD 9236 \$17,482.43

Trustone CD \$33,850.31 Renews 2/2027

Neil: Made a request to insurance, could you send us a policy? No Response. Neil will get back at them.

Kiki—Kenyon Saylor, our fellow who sends the thank you notes: is this person retired? Neil sends a thank you note for any checks, personalized. Does not do the online ones. Is there an automatic thank you after a donation? Neil does not know.

If donate, could we get them to get Cardinal?

Ben Wilson, who has been hosting our website, is resigning due to illness. Matt Christenson, who is our web master, will be transferring our website from Ben to Matt's website. Our volunteer Greg Burnes is working with both Ben and Matt in the transfer. We are not waiting for our web traffic to slow down. Matt now knows he needs to modify plans for our website to acknowledge our high web traffic and accommodate for further growth.

5:25 Grants update (Craig) Sent a report via email to the Board.

Only one grant proposal in. According to our new criteria, University of Belize cannot apply, not a 501c3; operating budget exceeds \$500,00. Craig will send out another

reminder to previous recipients. Change system? Monica, each go out and talk to two organizations. Craig: If they say no, I will ask them why.

Cimarron—tours, classes, bluebird houses, growing foods; would like to improve pollinator habitat. Could do a bird grant.

Info for grants? Is there a flyer? Or on the website? Our website under The Who We Are tab lists Grants. When you hit that tab it explains what we give grants for and how and when to apply.,,, there's a fine line promoting and recruiting grant applications. We do not necessarily want to have to review 30 applications when we can only accommodate 8 or 9 grants . Debbie: Thank you for your work on this, Craig.

5:35 Program Committee update (Micki)

Document; programs January to May, no confirmation; some lack of communication with partners... Jennifer Ackermann, people want to do admission event. \$6,000?? Kiki didn't like the idea.

Neil has a possibility, pollinator under solar farm. Debbie, \$300 is what we do.

we can negotiate 35W pollinator corridor—all the way to Mexico

Ferin Anderson, a book on Fire, Shakopee Wakan Sioux, just wrote a book: Monica will reach out. Hope Flanagan is winding down her speaking gigs; Monica is her press agent.

Micki—How about if we sent a questionnaire to members: What are you most interested in?

Mags from DNR—Swifts

5:45 Conservation Committee report (Monica & Debbie)

Debbie: 11 June trip had to be re-scheduled, due to thunderstorms, day off

Kestrel nest box project

Ed Davies: big house could be used for a retreat [Kiki—or is this **Rob Daves**??]

Chimney Swift project: 10 to 15 folks last year; this year, close to 100, even Cold Spring, Bemidji, Winona, etc. Think the lack of bugs caused by drought prompted many Swifts to leave earlier than usual. Mahtomedi, will be there again on Sept. 14, about 50 people. Think we can grow it next year.

Landscape Alternative in June

Bird-safe glass: St. Paul is still pondering. Responding person was cordial. Kiki
St. Paul planning dept., writing to cities who have bird-safe glass: How is it going?

Go directly to property owners. College kids who see dead birds on the street are our allies.

Neil will promote again at the Stillwater event.

5:55 Field Trips & Volunteer Events (Kiki)

Sept. 22: Interesting one on dragonfly migration at Pig's Eye; an expert Hawk Ridge, 35,000 Red Meadowhawks in a couple of hours.

A couple of field trip leaders are retiring: Louise Iseball, Snail Lake. Micki is happy to become a field trip leader for Snail Lake and Sucker Lake. A retired teacher

Mary Lee is retiring, AHAT: not going to be replaced. She has people who work the bluebird trails, Craig Andresen lives close. A lot of Kestrel boxes and Osprey platforms.

Kathy left...laying out the schedule for the year, contacting all the leaders. A huge job, says Kiki

All federal land has to have a natural Resources officer...

Communications handle the promotion of field trips. Send a calendar to all walk leaders, pick a date or propose new ones—TBContinued, Kiki and Debbie will consult.

Volunteer event: Maplewood Nature Center, Wed. Sept. 23, 4 p.m., John Z. will lead a trip around the Nature Center, invite grant recipients; pizza, then discussion about 5 p.m.

Returned to question of criteria for grants . . . Craig: U of Belize, can we ask them to re-apply if don't get enough grant applications?

6:05 Communications (Jeff; Micki and Monica)

- a. Newsletter guidelines: first item—pull in some newsletter articles, Black birders, Pride month, topics related to a program. Substantive changes need to be reviewed by the author. Timeline is 10 days ahead of publication.
- b. Update on Communications Sustainability
- c. Communications Committee Chair DRAFT

Should be prioritized to have a chair; this is a lot of work, a position that some people have as a full-time job. Reality check on the uphill battle to have a person in this role.

Jeff—can lead the effort to recruit person to do the Chair; maybe a co-chair. Find someone to be in this role, presented to President for approval.

Recruiting is the hard part; \$2,000 stipend for one year of service. Contemplate 6 months and 6 months. Cut the time; can thank the person

4. Communications and Media Internship DRAFT

i. Two sponsors: Concordia U, St. Paul & Central, paid for by One Track: H.S. person feels it could be complex, better at college.

ii. Concordia would do this internship for credit, generally by semester.

iii. Completion of an internship would be \$500 stipend.

Possible board actions: \$2,000 for Communications lead; \$500 for college student intern in communications.

Table for next time>>>>more time to read through these very well-thought-out documents . . .

Recruitment for paid volunteer role....Jeff would be happy to be on a phone call with a recruit.

Jeff would like to recruit, not formally; Neil moves that Jeff can start scoping out recruit s...second by Craig. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Neil points out that this new position should not be held by a board member, for tax purposes.

Write something for the Cardinal

8. *DID NOT DISCUSS 6:36 Emerging Issues:*

a) Highview Industrial Project on AHATS land

b) New Protocol for background checks for Big River Journey volunteers

c) Misuse ? of email addresses amongst field trip participants

d) Retirement of key field trip leaders

6:40 Adjourn – Neil moves, Mlcki seconds. Voted yes.

Next BoD meeting Oct. 5, 2026