

CMAS Minutes for November 19, 2025 Board Meeting

Present: Dan, Jim, Jonathan, Jean, Hank (remote), Nicki, Ellen, Doris, Tess

The minutes from October 15, 2025 were approved.

Financial report: Checking balance = \$2859.42 as of 11/19/25

Planned expenditures for the last printed & mailed newsletter and for postcards

A total of \$106.55 was donated to the Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery Project. A thank you letter was sent to us by Siah St Clair for the donation.

Publicity & Communication Committee is working on a final draft of the content guides for Facebook, CMAS Website and our Newsletter as well as Postcard design. The plan is for the speaker/presentation summary to be posted on FB (short 1 paragraph summary) with a full report on the website. The newsletter will focus on member/volunteer spotlights, project updates, education and calls to action. Volunteers are needed to help write articles and interview members for spotlights. The newsletter will be distributed during the first full week of the month. The cut-off for articles is the last workday of the previous month. Earlier is preferred.

Roster changes: A new roster format is available. Nicki, Dori and Dan have access to BOX & can download the roster. The new format lists 432 members and has contacts for 541 supporters (people who have contacted NAS via email) in the past three years. The membership committee will prioritize obtaining email contacts from present members through January 2026, before attempting a new membership drive. At this time we have approximately 250 member emails.

CMAS postal permit for bulk mail will expire on 2/15/26. Renewal within 2 years requires only payment of the annual fee of \$370.00.

CMAS will mail the information Postcard in early February, 2026 (while we still have the bulk mail permit) to all members who have not yet signed up for the digital newsletter.

Our participation in a Kestrel house building and informational event has been confirmed with Tom Poser of Stearns County Parks to be held on Saturday February 21 at Warner Park. A 1"x10"x8 ft board is required for each house. Possibly only 10 will be able to sign up for this event – we will get clarification from Tom Poser before the January meeting.

Kids to Park Stearns County event is tentatively scheduled for May 16, 2026 at Quarry Park. Jackie Fallon will be there again.

Great Backyard Bird Count is February 13-16, 2026. Tom Poser suggested Warner Park with possibility of using the indoor space as a warming house & social space with hot chocolate. However, it may not be the best place to see birds at that time of year. Beaver Island Trail by the boat landing at SCSU was suggested as a good location to meet as we had good success there last year. Saturday, February 14 is the probable date we would meet.

Christmas Bird Count for St Cloud/Collegeville will be on Saturday, December 20 with people meeting at the Unitarian Fellowship between 7-7:30 am. Brian Jungels is our contact for the CBC. Participants

should keep track of mileage (both driving & walking) as well as time spent both in the vehicle & on foot. Participants will meet at Kay's Kitchen in St. Joseph at 1:00 pm to share results.

Tonight's speaker – Deanna Leigh – Plant Watch/Citizen Science – MN DNR

Upcoming speaker scheduled:

January 21 - Tanner Barnharst – Lichens in Minnesota

January newsletter cut off to Nicki is December 31.

Jim will bring refreshments for January.

Minutes submitted by Ellen Heneghan