

CMAS Minutes for January 21, 2026 Board Meeting

Present: Dan, Hank, Jonathan, Jean, Jim, Nicki, Doris

The minutes from November 21, 2025 were approved.

Chapter Financial Reports:

2025 Budget , actual budget versus proposed.

Due to increase in fees and inadequate customer service, Dan proposed moving CMAS business account from Wells Fargo to another institution.

Moved by Jim to investigate Magnify Credit Union as a possible candidate for our account.

Seconded by Jonathan. Jim will investigate and bring a recommendation to the February Meeting.

2026, proposed budget

Income: \$3,365.00

Checking: 3,351.91

Expenses: \$1,505.00

Savings (CDs): \$3,381.45

Jonathan noted that our 2026 budget is in a great position: Our anticipated income is more than twice the amount of our anticipated expenditures.

Proposed Fundraisers

Pizza Ranch

Both Nikki & Jim have contacted Pizza Ranch for fund raising requirements. Jim has filled out an on-line application and will follow up.

Barnes and Noble

Nikki to follow up with Barnes and Noble about a fund raising book fair. They need our 501c number as well as additional info. Note: We will receive 10% of sale proceeds from in-store as well as on-line sales for 1 day. We will need to publicize.

Dan will print, write and mail welcome letter to all new members. Dan, Nikki and Doris have access to member roster.

After much discussion, proposal to add Mail Chimp annual fee (\$156.00) to budget approved. Motion Proposed by Dan and seconded. Nikki, Jean and Dan voiced their strong approval for the need to have access to this messaging system. They felt that multiple forms of communication are needed to ensure that the widest number of people are able to access our info. Note: This additional fee is needed as we have outgrown Mail Chimp's free version.

Kestrel House Building in partnership with Stearns County Parks was confirmed for Saturday, February 21 at Warner Park. Stearns County Parks contact is Tom Poser. Stearns County Parks will publicize the event on its website, will provide 10 nest box kits and fund half of the \$200.00 cost of the kits.

CMAS responsibilities are the following:

- *Dan to create Nest box building power point. This will include information from Jackie Fallon on Nesting Box placement and pole height recommendations.*

- *Brian Jungels to give a 10 minute presentation on kestrel nesting box construction and placement.*

- *CMAS will provide \$100.00 toward the cost of the nest box kits. Note: To this date, CMAS collected \$75.00 for the kestrel kits. Dan proposed adding an additional \$25.00 to this fund from the CMAS budget. Seconded by Jim.*

- *If our nest boxes are successful, Dick Doll has volunteered to band the nestlings.*

Jean Johnson read the minutes from the Outings Committee meeting.

HIGH POINTS:

Established 4 types of outings: CMAS sponsored tours, Co-sponsored tours, Bird Counting events, Bird-focused tours as part of a larger event

Established parameters for all events:

Partnerships encouraged, Leaders must be vetted by CMAS, Publicize in newsletter, on our website and social media pages. Information in announcements must include outing focus, leader, start & end time, meeting address, and disability information. CMAS outings are open to all.

Outings should be in CMAS geographic area, but not limited to it.

List of Outings:

6 confirmed outings in Spring, 1 confirmed outing in Summer, 2 confirmed outings in Fall, 2 confirmed bird counts in Winter, 5 new suggested outings.

Comments by board members:

Jonathan appreciated that all the Outings information was now in one place. To his knowledge, this was the first time this had been done.

Jim agreed to send confirmed outing information, publication ready, to the publicity committee.

CMAS BOARD has approved support of all Audubon UMR policy proposals for 2026. This allows our name to be included in all letters sent to legislators.

Great Backyard Bird Count scheduled for February 14 at Beaver Island Trailhead.

Speaker for February 18: Mike Lee, plant biologist.

February Refreshments: Hank

CMAS annual meeting in April. Proposal by Hank to honor the Pecks for their many and sustained contributions to our community. Date?

Jim motioned to end meeting and we adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Jean Johnson.

I did not hear the discussions about the March or April meetings. Were they discussed and was a motion put forth to pay \$50 toward speaker fees & provide door prizes at the joint April meeting? Please accept my apologies for missing this information.