

CMAS Minutes for March 18, 2026 Board Meeting

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

The minutes from February 21, 2026 were approved.

Financial report: CD transferred from WF to Magnifi, \$1131.24 – 7 months at APY of 3.9%, CMAS received a \$1000 DAF grant for continued work on neonics curtailment for some of the funds. Donor is Karl Krueger of Big Lake. (Ellen will make contact with possible speaker about neonics.)

Fund Raiser at Pizza Ranch in Waite Park on Monday, May 11, 5-8 pm. CMAS gets a percentage of all money spent after 5 pm. We will have a table with flyers about CMAS – volunteers are needed to staff the table. Jean is checking on getting a banner to advertise CMAS and use at a variety of events like this.

Jim has filed the 990-N (IRS) and MN Sec of State Renewal as non-profit for 2026

March newsletter sent to 298 (261 members) Annette & Doris learned MailChimp procedure. 12 new members for February. Plan to have postcards at event tables & send to members who are not yet signed up for digital newsletter – will need to print 600 postcards. Printing costs approx. \$200, potential mailing to about 300 would be \$.56/card

Possible free memberships to National Audubon @\$20 each, up to 5/year for non-members who are active in an environmental project/activity related to Audubon. Passed by board.

We plan to give a service recognition award to John & Linda Peck for their many contributions and service. It will be presented to them at May 11th meeting at Pizza Ranch or at May Picnic at Peck Farm on May 31st. In addition to the certificate, Hank proposed that we could plan a buckthorn busting/invasive species control event at Rockville County Park and/or give a donation to the Raptor Center in their honor.

Jean & Jim are waiting to hear if they will be meeting with MN legislators in early April.

Annual meeting originally scheduled for April 15 will be held instead at Pizza Ranch on May 11.

Outings schedule: AHFS - beginning birding walks scheduled for 4/25, 5/16, 5/23 and 5/30 from 7-9 am – Jim will lead with Herb Dingmann & Jean assisting. If interested in attending, register ahead
Woodcock outing on 4/17 at Sand Prairie WMA – Brian will lead. (Jim will pick up birding kits prior to outing.)

Albany WTP – late April and/or 8 or 9 May – Brian will lead.

SJU – Spring Birding Day is May 9 (SJU is asking for volunteers to lead groups.)

Grebes on Lake Osakis on May 27– Sign up with Jean with a \$10 deposit

Swift sits at Lastaedian Manor in Brainerd June-August, Jim will coordinate.

Swift sit in Cold Spring on Thursday, August 13 – Dan is contact

Tentative field trip: Loons on Cross Lake – Tess is checking. Tess is also checking on optional outing on paved/handicapped trails. No new information available.

Ellen called Becky Reynolds with Girl Scouts several times offering help with bird/nature activities or badges. She never returned the calls. Nicki has also attempted to contact her.

Kids to Park Stearns County event is scheduled for May 16, 2026 at Quarry Park from 10-2. Jackie Fallon will be there again. Volunteers are needed for a CMAS table & to lead bird walks.

Volunteers needed to staff CMAS table at April meeting at SJU.

Other area Audubon groups can be invited to our meetings or are welcome to sign up for our CMAS newsletter. Brainerd Lakes Area Audubon has already signed up.

Tonight's speaker – Dick Dols – Purple Martins

Upcoming speaker scheduled: - April 21 at SJU at 6:30 pm, Founder's room, Quad 170, John Latimer, KAXE Staff Phenologist

April newsletter cut off to Nicki is Monday, March 30.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Minutes submitted by Ellen Heneghan