

CMAS Minutes for August 13, 2026 Board Meeting at Dan's

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

Jonathan Fribley felt that he was unable to continue on the CMAS board due to his work/travel schedule. The board approved that Nicki Blake-Bradley will fill the balance of Jonathan's term which runs until April 2027.

The minutes from May 11, 2026 were approved.

Budget update from Jim – Our account has increased by \$235 since the May 11 meeting. We received a deposit of \$320.85 from National Audubon. We also received \$100.20 in cash from the Pizza Ranch fundraiser in May. All CD's (\$3439.30) are now with Magnifi. In the future, we may need to look at costs for website management.

Summer newsletters were sent to 305 recipients (204 members) via MailChimp. NAS roster for July lists 478 members plus 19 local members.

Welcome letters were sent to 16 new members for June and 11 new members for July. We average 12 new members/month.

A proposal was made and a motion passed to have local memberships run on a calendar basis starting in January 2027.

Discussion of proposed Board Checklist to list who is responsible for what – orientation of new members, when are multiple quotes needed, etc. (Dan has a copy of the Board Checklist.)

Discussion of proposed Conflict of Interest Policy – It is not required, but highly recommended. The board approved a motion to implement a Conflict of Interest Policy. (Dan has a copy of the Conflict of Interest Policy.)

Discussion of General Liability Insurance – NAS suggests that all chapters carry liability insurance. We will study different policies available and possible participant waivers and decide by December how we will proceed on the issue.

Buffalo – CMAS will participate with a table and canopy with activities for children (Nature Trivia and/or Bingo) at their Great Outdoor Fair at Sturgess Park on Buffalo Lake on Saturday, September 19, 2026 from 10 am to 2 pm. Doris and Dan and Warner and Claire will volunteer at the table. Beth Opheim is the contact: beth.opheim@ci.buffalo.mn.us

Fall Speaker programs arranged by Hank – September 16: Jessica Heim – Cultural Astronomy, October 21: Russell Groves – UW Madison, Groundwater Contamination – Neonics, (Presenting via Zoom), November 18: Sarah Hewitt – Audubon Conservation Ranching Program – we will have Zoom for attendees. (Karl Krueger is aware of the October speaker.)

Project: Hank is coordinating with Tom Poser of Stearns County Parks and the Pecks for an October buckthorn/invasive species removal event. Date planned is Saturday, October 10 from 1-3:30 pm, with a rain make-up day of Saturday, October 17. Meeting place is the Rockville County Park shelter.

Cut-off for September Newsletter – Friday, August 28 – Annette will handle MailChimp distribution as Dan and Doris will be out of the country from August 28 – September 13.

Nicki volunteered to bring refreshments for the September meeting. It was proposed and approved that whoever brings refreshments for monthly meetings should be reimbursed by CMAS for up to \$25. Receipts should be given to the treasurer.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Ellen Heneghan

After the Board Meeting on Thursday, August 13, several board members joined other CMAS members for an 8 pm Chimney Swift Sit in Cold Spring. Total participants at Swift Sit – 16.

Total chimney swifts counted – 123

During the Swift Sit, we were joined by Monica Bryand, the swift project coordinator, from the Urban Bird Collective (651-246-5522) who gave a brief talk on chimney swifts in Minnesota.