CMAS Minutes for September 16, 2026 Board Meeting

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

The minutes from August 13, 2026 were approved.

Budget update from Jim – We received $221.05 additional funds from the Pizza Ranch fundraiser in May for a total of $321.25.

September newsletters were sent to 307 recipients via MailChimp. NAS roster for August lists 480 members plus 19 local members.
Welcome letters were sent to 14 new members in August.

The MN Chapter Leaders meeting was held on September 11 at Sherburne NWR. Hank, Jim, Jean and Ellen attended. Hank gave a summary of the meeting while other participants added other details. Two items of particular interest : A marsh bird survey in Stearns County was discussed – Jean will contact DJ Langfels for more information about training & CMAS participating in it. Austin chapter did a fundraiser with Runnings involving bird seed sales, a possibility for CMAS.

Committee volunteers/sign-up form: Membership – Dan, Programs – Hank, Outings – Jean & Jim, Publicity & Communication – Nicki, Education – Jim, Nominating – Ellen

CMAS project ideas (either funded by us or by Audubon grants) – Banner(s) to use for events – (Jean will check on this) benches in parks, kestrel boxes in collaboration with Stearns County Parks

Website queries: several positive comments & some suggestions about website; alert about proposed lighted dome around mockup space shuttle, request from U of M raptor center to present to CMAS & asking for volunteers to transport injured birds

Event: 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 9 am to 2 pm. Doris and Dan and Warner and Claire will volunteer at the table.

Event: Hank is coordinating with Tom Poser of Stearns County Parks and the Pecks for a buckthorn/invasive species removal event as a tribute to John & Linda Peck for the extensive contributions by both of them over many years. 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. (Jean will pick up equipment needed from Stearns County Parks.)

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

Cut-off for October Newsletter – Friday, September 25

Ellen volunteered to bring refreshments for the October meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm

Minutes submitted by Ellen Heneghan

Tonight's speaker: Jessica Heim – Cultural Astronomy