

Audubon Board Meeting 8/28/2025

1. Meeting called to order at 6:09 pm
2. Roll Call
 - a. Present: John Imboden, Jenny Young, Mary Ellen Newport, Kathie Wiley, Jared Gugnitz, Kirk Waterstripe
 - b. Absent: Kathy Flegel
3. Board members for the coming year
 - a. President - John will be president again for a year
 - b. Vice President – Jenny will move to Publicist. VP will be vacant unless someone else steps in
 - c. Secretary - Jared to remain Secretary
 - d. Treasurer - Kathie to remain Treasurer
 - e. Publicist - Kirk will move to Member at Large, and Jenny will move to Publicist
 - f. Past President - John will contact Kathy Flegel to see if she is willing to stay on another year, and also to talk about the nomination/voting process for next year's officers
 - g. Member at Large - Mary Ellen will be stepping down, Kirk will step into this role
4. Youth Initiatives
 - a. This initiative will be headed up by Kirk in the Member At Large role
 - b. This will be a topic at the Michigan Audubon conference, which John will be attending
5. Treasurer Report
 - a. 2025 Budget
 - i. We had a few extra unexpected expenses with Alison Vilag's presentation, so that ate up a good part of the surplus
 - ii. If we mention NMC, and thank them, and put their logo on our promo materials for Alison's presentation we save some amount of money
 - iii. Overall we're pretty much on track to spend our budgeted amount for the year
 - b. Bank Accounts
 - i. Main: \$3570.25
 - ii. Walter Hastings: \$1107.00
 - iii. CD: \$2128.93
 - iv. Total \$6806.18
 - c. Upcoming fees
 - i. Domain hosting
 - ii. Honorariums for Alison Vilag, Kirtland warbler program
 - iii. Refreshments
 - iv. Web hosting
 - v. Total upcoming fees: \$1023
 - d. Expecting \$700 income from membership dues
 - e. Non-recurring Donations

- i. Should we donate some of the money in our Walter Hastings account?
 - ii. Maybe use it to sponsor a Motus tower in the area for tracking migration?
There is now one on Beaver Island, so maybe somewhere in the Benzie area would be helpful.
 - 1. Mary Ellen has a tower we can have, just need to find a location to place it and purchase an antenna
 - iii. Or send some amount to Friends of Whitefish Point?
 - f. Treasurer's report accepted by Kirk and seconded by Jenny
6. Non-Profit Status
- a. \$275 fee for applying was paid
 - b. Kathie filed the paperwork with the IRS
 - c. We will retain our same EIN, but it will be changed to a non-profit status
 - d. Our application is still under review
7. Membership numbers
- a. Paid, complementary, lifetime, and officers: 150 members
 - b. This is higher than last year
 - c. Expect approx \$700 to be raised from membership dues during the coming cycle
8. Other initiatives
- a. Need to figure out where the loon platform should be located next year. Mary Ellen has a connection with GTRLC and they might have a body of water that could house the platform.
 - b. Mary Ellen's connection with a GTRLC land steward said they would like to partner with us on some scientific efforts to inventory birds on their properties
 - c. Scott Swan from GT county asked about the possibility of another bird survey on Power Island next year
 - d. For private requests to survey birds, we will start accepting suggested donations
 - e. Mary Ellen will be doing some presentations at the Interlochen Public Library starting in January
 - f. Kirk would like to send a survey to ask members how they consume the newsletter and also about which nights are best for meetings to make sure we're serving the needs of the membership
9. Waterbird Society
- a. Meeting upcoming next week. Mary Ellen to report back on their needs for volunteers
 - b. The conference is Sept 29-Oct 3
 - c. Trips to Whitefish point, sleeping Bear, and Sault Ste Marie on October 3rd
 - d. They are looking for donations for their silent auctions
10. Upcoming Events
- a. Sept 12 – Bug Night field trip
 - b. Sept 18 - Kirtland's warbler program
 - c. Sept 28-29 – Whitefish Point Trip
 - d. Oct 23 – Alison Vilag
 - e. Nov 20 – Birds of India with Sharon Benjey
 - f. Dec 18 – Member photos

11. Next Meeting is Sept 25 in the Thirlby room, then Oct 9th in Study room D, then Nov 13 in the Thirlby room
12. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.