

East Cascades Bird Alliance Board of Director 2026 Annual Retreat Minutes

Date and Notice

The Board of Directors Meeting was held at Bend Downtown Library on Sunday, January 4, 2026.

Attendance and Quorum

The following Board members were in attendance: Wendy Andrick, Aaron Jenkins, Miriam Lipsitz, Gordon Wetzel, Laurel Collins, and Stephanie Swift in attendance. Meeting began at 12:47 PM PST and ended at 3:30 PM PST.

1. Call to order
2. Approve December 2025 minutes (motion: Steph/Miriam)
3. 2025 recap
4. Budget - 2026
 - Winter Raptor Survey – \$2000 this year for data work, in addition to annual \$2000 allocation
 - Harney County Bird Festival: three ECBA volunteers will drive vans for festival
 - Motion to reimburse Friend of Malheur up to \$1500 for travel expenses for van drivers. Motion: Steph/Miriam.
 - Friends at Malheur. Should we be doing more with them?
 - Motion Laurel/Wendy
5. Executive Committee discussion
 - For 2026:
 - President: Wendy Andrick
 - VP: vacant
 - Treasurer: Gordon Wetzel
 - Secretary: Aaron Jenkins
6. Members/Terms - review
 - 1-2 open slots on Board
7. Review Strategic Plan
8. Update name on Google docs
9. Annual Report for National Audubon - due March
10. Calendar - Update events for 2026
11. Resolution for Financial Authority
 - Motion that Exec Comm Officers have financial authority on ECBA financial accounts, as of Jan 4, 2026 (Miriam/Steph)
12. Resolution that we assign ECBA officers Wendy as President, VP vacant, Treasurer Gordon, Secretary Aaron.
12. Miscellaneous
 - PSAs at Source, other media
 - Volunteer Spotlight in Chatter

- February Board meeting – create a list of places where to put up ECBA posters with barcode
- Hatfield – Judy wants new point person in talking to management
 - Bird list there
- Redmond Ponds update
- Bylaws/Google Documents – Steph will review to update ECAS to ECBA
- Board Onboarding process discussion
- Field Trips – start including more description on expected terrain to be more inclusive
- Foster relationship with Bend Parks and Rec
- Osprey Watch – pamphlets; site at Tetherow
- Mentee for Chatter – include in newsletter
- Gail Sabbadini – Beginning Birder effort.
- Rainshadow/ACR. Seth in charge of conservation ranching at WA Audubon.
- DHWW Committee - Margi, Sevilla, Gordon, Aaron lead
- Youth Programming – Youth field trip at DHWW?
- Restart Weed and Seed Days. Start at Lower Bridge?
- Sagegrouse Merch update. Watercolor artist working on design.
- Instagram. Steph to try it.
- Cabin Lake. Place camera?
- Schoolhouse Blind at Summer Lake. Paint the inside.
- MOTUS update.