



In-Person

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call - Verification of a quorum
3. Public Appearances
4. Reading and Approval Minutes
 - a. [1000 Islands Environmental Center Committee Minutes of February 19, 2026](#)
5. Financial Report
 - a. [February Financial Report](#)
6. Correspondence
7. The Friends of 1000 Islands Report
8. Naturalist Report
 - a. [February 2026 Naturalist Report](#)
9. Committee Reports
 - a. Administrative/Finance Committee Reports
 - b. Education Committee Report
 - c. Building & Grounds Committee Reports
10. Old Business
11. New Business
 - a. Pancake & Porkie Breakfast - March 21, 2026
12. Good of the Center
13. Next Meeting - Thursday, April 16, 2026
14. Adjournment

NOTICES

THIS MEETING IS ACCESSIBLE TO THE HANDICAPPED. IF REQUESTED THREE (3) DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING, A SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE AT NO CHARGE.

1000 Islands Environmental Center Mission Statement: To provide children, adults and families the knowledge and skills needed to build a sustainable balance among the environment, economy and community through education, conservation and recreation.



1000 ISLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

1000 ISLANDS COMMITTEE

City of Kaukauna

Nature Center Building

1000 Beaulieu Court, Kaukauna

Thursday, February 19, 2026, at 6:30 PM

MINUTES

Members Present Breitzman, Eggleston, Timmons, Hietpas, Manion, Jakel, and VanBerkel

Not Present Rumbuc, White, and West

Also Present Brad Garrity and Cassie Kohls

Jakel called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM. A quorum was present.

Public Appearances None

January 15, 2026, Committee Meeting Minutes

Jakel requested the following revisions to the January 15, 2026, minutes:

- Remove Pautz from the list of members present.
- Update the record to show that Jakel, not White, called the meeting to order.

VanBerkel moved to approve the minutes with these corrections, and Eggleston seconded. Motion carried.

December Financial Report

VanBerkel reported that program fee revenue increased in 2025, while interest income declined due to the closure of the CDs and the transfer of those funds to the Community Foundation endowment. He noted that endowment interest is calculated using a three-year average. In response to Jakel's question about the 5499-miscellaneous income account, VanBerkel explained that those funds were added to the accounting logs when the CDs were closed to balance the books. VanBerkel moved to approve the report, and Timmons seconded. Motion carried.

January Financial Report

VanBerkel noted that the Committee has discretion over the 4810-interest income account, including whether to allocate funds to the endowment principal or the 201 restricted account. Garrity reported that interest income had been budgeted at \$7,500, but actual revenue fell short due to the closure of the CDs, which eliminated that source of interest income. He also explained that the Common Council approved an ordinance replacing Section 1.44, changing the Committee structure to an advisory committee and superseding existing 1000 Islands operating procedures. Garrity further clarified that the annual endowment distribution cannot be returned to the principal and must instead be used to support 1000 Islands' operational costs, which was the original intent when the Community Foundation endowment was established. Breitzman moved to approve the report, Manion seconded, and the motion carried. VanBerkel voted nay.

Correspondence

The Committee reviewed the Community Foundation endowment year-end statements, as well as the January statement. Eggleston was pleased with the totals. VanBerkel moved to approve and place the endowment reports on file, and Breitzman seconded. Motion carried.

Friends of 1000 Islands Report

Hietpas reported on Eagle Days, noting a \$450 profit from the food stand. Planning continues for the March 21, 2026, Pancake and Porkie Breakfast, with donation requests and flyers underway. Hietpas also provided an update on spring maple syrup plans. Volunteers cannot operate city-owned vehicles, so the Friends will explore alternative sap-collection methods this year. Staff expressed interest in assisting, and a trailer may be secured to hold the sap tank. Eggleston noted she may be able to donate a trailer. VanBerkel thanked the Friends for their monetary contribution to 1000 Islands.

January Naturalist Report

Garrity reported that January programming was slower, and the building closed twice due to extreme cold. Jabber's memorial raised \$400 in donations. He noted that a Migratory Bird Salvage permit from U.S. Fish and Wildlife is no longer required under new regulations. In response to VanBerkel's question about donated animals, Garrity explained that federal law allows the public to bring a deceased wild animal to an authorized facility within 24 hours. The public cannot transport endangered species. The Wisconsin DNR scientific collectors permit authorizes 1000 Islands to intake and maintain their collection. Garrity is continuing work on cataloging the collection. No permit is required for migratory birds or the eagle specimen.

The Eagle Nest Group continues progress on the habitat camera. Donations have been received, and habitat camera installation is planned for 2026. Gonnering is researching additional needs, and volunteers are considering a fun-run fundraiser. Kaukauna Utilities suggested installing the habitat camera on their building for a hardwired connection.

Eagle Days attendance matched 2025 levels. Garrity thanked the Friends for sponsoring the National Eagle Center presentations. Kaukauna Public Library's cultural presentation had a high attendance. He also thanked volunteers including the Bald Eagle Nest Watchers at the viewing stations, where more eagles were seen later in the day.

Inquiries were raised about slippery trails and liability. Garrity stated that staff work to keep the boardwalk clear and will explore purchasing a snow thrower. Weekly trail updates are posted on Facebook.

The Year in Review showed increased income, more programs, and rising participation from outside schools. Highlights included the completed boardwalk, new trail-crossing signage, and a grant awarded to the Friends to support the full-time assistant naturalist position.

The goat program is now in its tenth year and continues to be a successful outreach effort. The Goat Team will continue discussing its future direction. Manion moved to place the January Naturalist Report on file; Hietpas seconded. Motion carried.

Sub-Committee Meetings

Admin-Finance Sub-Committee – next meeting on March 17, 2026, at 1000 Islands.

Education Sub-Committee – no meeting planned.

Building and Grounds Sub-Committee – Garrity reported Streets Department has begun removing dead ash trees behind the sugar shack, and the area will be replanted with maple seedlings. The wood is being chipped for trails. Hietpas stated Grignon may need some logs. VanBerkel stated some logs could be nurse logs or habitat. Garrity expressed there are many logs remaining for that purpose.

Old Business

Plans for the nature center's front entrance project were reviewed. In response to Jakel's question about the timeline, Garrity reported that the project has been approved to go out for bid but has not yet been advertised. The anticipated completion timeframe is late summer to early fall 2026.

New Business

Garrity reported that the solar water heater is leaking and a plumber has been contacted. In response to Hietpas's question about replacing the system, Garrity stated he intends to keep the current setup, possibly with an updated graphic.

Kaukauna Utilities will refurbish the hydroelectric display.

Good for the Center

Friends will be purchasing two thermometers to temp food at food stands and at the annual Pancake and Porkie breakfast.

A book signing with author and former Kaukauna High School environmental science teacher Ron Vander Velden will be held at 1000 Islands on March 20, 2026.

Next Committee Meeting

The next Committee Meeting will be on Thursday, March 19, 2026, at 6:30 PM in the Nature Center building.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Manion moved to adjourn the February 19, 2026, Committee Meeting at 7:42 PM. Seconded by Breitzman. Motion carried.

Cassie Kohls

City of Kaukauna 1000 Islands Environmental Center Budget vs. Actual Jan 1, 2026 - Feb 28, 2026

Account	February Actuals	YTD Amount	Budget Amount	Amount Over Budget	% of Budget
Income					
4391 - Kaukauna School Dist Aids		\$0.00	\$15,000.00	(\$15,000.00)	0.00%
4392 - Outagamie County Aids		\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	100.00%
4694 - Facilities/Building Rental (Taxable)	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$1,500.00	(\$1,425.00)	5.00%
4695 - Facilities/Building Rental (Non-Taxable)	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$500.00	(\$375.00)	25.00%
4696 - Programing Fees		\$299.00	\$9,000.00	(\$8,701.00)	3.32%
4716 - Gift Shop Sales	\$491.17	\$960.42	\$5,000.00	(\$4,039.58)	19.21%
4802 - Donations & Contributions	\$4,293.94	\$25,022.90	\$40,000.00	(\$14,977.10)	62.56%
4810 - Interest Income		\$5,449.64	\$7,500.00	(\$2,050.36)	72.66%
4910 - Env Center Restricted Donate	\$289.16	\$589.37	\$0.00	\$589.37	0.00%
4911 - Fundraising Sales	\$670.68	\$750.68	\$0.00	\$750.68	0.00%
Total - Income	\$5,944.95	\$43,272.01	\$88,500.00	(\$45,227.99)	48.89%
Expense					
5101 - Regular Payroll	\$15,725.68	\$26,690.61	\$193,774.22	(\$167,083.61)	13.77%
5104 - Temporary Payroll		\$0.00	\$6,849.96	(\$6,849.96)	0.00%
5151 - Retirement Plan	\$962.03	\$1,638.00	\$11,907.69	(\$10,269.69)	13.76%
5154 - Social Security	\$1,014.17	\$1,723.54	\$13,162.97	(\$11,439.43)	13.09%
5157 - Group Health Insurance	\$3,351.48	\$7,902.96	\$41,417.64	(\$33,514.68)	19.08%
5160 - Group Life Insurance	\$12.62	\$25.24	\$159.00	(\$133.76)	15.87%
5163 - Workers Compensation	\$311.18	\$602.71	\$4,037.60	(\$3,434.89)	14.93%
5205 - Seminar Expenses	\$280.64	\$280.64	\$1,500.00	(\$1,219.36)	18.71%
5211 - Education & Memberships		\$0.00	\$500.00	(\$500.00)	0.00%
5260 - Animal & Bird Care	\$136.57	\$248.31	\$2,000.00	(\$1,751.69)	12.42%
5264 - Programs	\$194.03	\$293.32	\$3,000.00	(\$2,706.68)	9.78%
5276 - Conservancy Zone Maint		\$0.00	\$2,500.00	(\$2,500.00)	0.00%
5303 - Communications	\$50.00	\$100.00	\$600.00	(\$500.00)	16.67%
5306 - Heating Fuels	\$992.90	\$992.90	\$3,000.00	(\$2,007.10)	33.10%
5309 - Water Sewer & Electric	\$886.59	\$1,651.40	\$10,000.00	(\$8,348.60)	16.51%
5312 - Maintenance - Buildings	\$681.13	\$890.72	\$4,500.00	(\$3,609.28)	19.79%
5315 - Maintenance - Office Equipment	\$126.27	\$252.54	\$1,500.00	(\$1,247.46)	16.84%
5318 - Maintenance - Automotive		\$0.00	\$500.00	(\$500.00)	0.00%
5325 - Contractual Services	\$870.95	\$1,880.90	\$12,000.00	(\$10,119.10)	15.67%
5334 - Printing Expense		\$0.00	\$400.00	(\$400.00)	0.00%
5401 - Office Supplies	\$144.20	\$144.20	\$600.00	(\$455.80)	24.03%
5404 - Clothing Expense		\$0.00	\$700.00	(\$700.00)	0.00%
5407 - Automotive Supplies	\$15.56	\$15.56	\$300.00	(\$284.44)	5.19%
5410 - General Supplies	\$39.36	\$90.28	\$1,000.00	(\$909.72)	9.03%
5416 - Custodial Supplies		\$129.74	\$1,800.00	(\$1,670.26)	7.21%
5431 - Postage		\$0.00	\$100.00	(\$100.00)	0.00%
5440 - Concession Product	\$203.44	\$741.11	\$3,000.00	(\$2,258.89)	24.70%
5499 - Miscellaneous	\$85.53	\$85.53	\$1,500.00	(\$1,414.47)	5.70%
5804 - Equipment (including Office)		\$0.00	\$1,500.00	(\$1,500.00)	0.00%
5897 - Restricted Funds - Animal Care/Jabber		\$400.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	0.00%
5898 - Restricted Funds	\$4,298.28	\$4,315.74	\$9,000.00	(\$4,684.26)	47.95%
Total - Expense	\$30,382.61	\$51,095.95	\$332,809.08	(\$281,713.13)	15.35%
Net Income	(\$24,437.66)	(\$7,823.94)	(\$244,309.08)	\$236,485.14	3.20%

Lines bolded in red are 201 accounts

1000 Islands Donation Report

Donations Posted: Feb 2025

Account: 201-48501-4802

Date	Name	Memo	Amount
1/31/2026	Eagle Days 2026 - Donation Collections		\$ 317.00
2/4/2026	Memorial Donation - Donald N. Promer	Transferred to Endowment	\$ (100.00)
2/10/2026	Goldin Iron & Metal	In Memory of Vicki Kerry	\$ 26.40
2/12/2026	Friends Reimbursement	Food purchased for Eagle Days Food Stand	\$ 45.00
2/17/2026	Tree Sale Order Form		\$ 5.00
2/18/2026	Kaukauna Utilities	2026 Tree Sale (Final Payment)	\$ 3,717.46
2/18/2026	Park Community Charter School	In Memory of Vicki Kerry	\$ 26.40
2/18/2026	Marion R Lemke Trust		\$ 94.48
2/18/2026	Memorial for Vicki Kerry (Goldin)	Transferred to Endowment	\$ (26.40)
2/20/2026	Donation		\$ 15.00
2/20/2026	Memorial for Vicki Kerry (Park)	Transferred to Endowment	\$ (26.40)
2/28/2026	Bernhardt Kressner & Jeffrey Promer	Website Donations	\$ 200.00
TOTAL:			\$ 4,293.94

Account: 201-48501-4910 - Env Center Restricted Donate

Date	Name	Memo	Amount
2/28/2025	Journal Entry	Interest on 1000 Islands Restricted Cash	\$ 289.16
TOTAL:			\$ 289.16

Account: 201-48501-4911 - Fundraising Sales

Date	Name	Memo	Amount
2/13/2026	Sales Tax - January		\$ (4.32)
2/28/2026	2026 Seedling Sales		\$ 675.00
TOTAL:			\$ 670.68

Account: 201-48501-4912 - Jabber

Date	Name	Memo	Amount
TOTAL:			\$ -

Account: 201-48501-4913 - Memorial Purchases

Date	Name	Memo	Amount
TOTAL:			\$ -

Other Donations Received in Feb

Date	Name	Memo	Amount
TOTAL:			\$ -

1000 Islands Environmental Center

February 2026 Naturalist Report

Brad Garrity – Naturalist, 1000 Islands

Admin/Finance

- Brad and Kat attended the Wisconsin Parks and Recreation Association conference in Wisconsin Dells with others from Community Enrichment, Parks Dept and Street Dept. Sessions and trade shows were held over two days that provided new insights and ideas for the Conservancy Zone including trail signage, educational displays and playscape items, as well as topics on native plants and grasses, urban trees, leadership, team building, inclusion, and more. We were able to network with other professionals in similar roles and make some key connections.
- Cassie received her new computer, a long overdue upgrade! All staff now have updated computers within the past two years. The intern computer is still an older model but was updated with current software and cleaned by Tim in IT and will be sufficient for their work.
- The Summer Intern position was posted at the end of February, and we have received many applications of which about half are qualified and viable candidates for the position. Phone interviews begin in mid-March.
- Brad attended the biannual NEWNA meeting at Neville Public Museum in Green Bay, networking and collaborating with other nature centers and organizations on a variety of topics and current events. Of note was the presentation by Neville staff and tour of their upgraded Discovery Center for kids which features many hands-on stations, a gorgeous mural that ties into the learning, and multilingual books and materials.
- The 1000 Islands Committee Ordinance modifications that reflect the changes from a governance committee to advisory were approved and adopted by Council. Attorney Greenwood advised that the ordinance update and language supersede any existing 1000 Islands operating policies or resolutions to the contrary, and City policy and operating procedures take precedence where there is any conflict with 1000 Islands policy. 1000 Islands is able to continue with department specific policy where allowed under the City guidelines and/or Mayor or Council approval.

Education / Programming

- Wisconsin DNR Hunter's Safety was held at the Center in early February through River Valley Outdoorsmen. Ron Van Nuland coordinated and taught the class to around 20 participants. This year was earlier than in past years and was just as successful. This continues to be a very popular program, and many people in Kaukauna remember coming to 1000 Islands for Hunter's Safety.

- Bald Eagle Nest Watch Training was held via Zoom on Feb 7th and the Nest Watch officially began February 15th, coinciding with the usual start of nesting season in the central section of the state.
- A winter survival skills and tracking program was held Feb 7th, led by Naturalist Garrity. We had 25 people show up and it was a gorgeous day. We were able to snowshoe along the Valley Trail, marking our first public snowshoeing program since 2020, and the first since getting the new snowshoes in 2021.
- Kat put together a wonderful self-guided program for participation in the Great Backyard Bird Count through Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Participants had many resources provided for bird identification, use of binoculars, and support in downloading and setting up the e-bird app.
- Brian and Paula Jacobs, along with Megan Knuth led a Valentine's Day Lip Balm Make and Take program. This popular program gives the opportunity to learn about products made of bees wax and then a hands-on maker session to produce flavored lip balms. Given the popularity of these types of programs, two sessions were held with 18 attending the morning and 21 in the afternoon.
- The Fox Valley Technical College Environmental Education class spent an afternoon with Brad to learn more about 1000 Islands and how we develop and deliver programming. They were presented with our Sugar Bush Maple Syrup program and had hands on training as they will be participating at Pancake and Porkie Breakfast presenting educational information and hand-on experiences.
- Our Junior Naturalists were invited to volunteer and work alongside the FVTC students at Pancake and Porkie at the educational stations.
- We had some off-site field trips at Park Community Charter School. Brad presented a lesson on Sound and Light with learning stations for two First Grade classes, and both Brad and Kat presented for two 3rd grade classes on Fossils and led the groups in making their own plaster of paris fossils.
- We had a special Saturday Edition of 1000 Little Wonders which was done drop-in style. Participants could read stories, had a bird themed scavenger hunt for the hiking portion, and were able to do a fun craft inside the Center.

Building and Grounds

- A group from SOAR volunteered, helping to spruce up around the Nature Center, as well as doing some early cleaning and prep in the Sugar Shack.
- Eric has built a new enclosure for Gonzo the Russian Tortoise with a larger viewing space as well as an upper deck with a ramp for Gonzo's enrichment. He and Kat are working on locating the proper reptile lamps, and as long as Gonzo is done with his brumation period, he should be moving in very soon.
- The painted turtles have moved into their new aquarium. It will eventually be moved into the Fox River Room by the fish tanks once we are ready to remove Gonzo's old enclosure as the turtle tank currently sits on top of that display.

- The solar water heater has spring a leak and has now been emptied. We are working on quotes for a new tank as well as energy cost savings calculations to decide on eventual replacement or removal of the system. Through the process it was discovered that a few of our valves for shutting down water to the solar tank system and also for diverting to full use of the main water heater had failed and were replaced.