



## Bird Conservation Network

5225 Old Orchard Road Suite 37 Skokie IL 60077  
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BCN QUARTERLY MEETING  
Saturday, July 9, 2005  
Wheaton - DuPage County FP Headquarters

### DRAFT MINUTES

#### Attendees:

Randi Doeker	B&B	Glenn Gabanski	DBC	Wayne Svoboda	Ft. D.
Christine Lee	CAS	Bob Fisher	DBC	Ann Haverstock	Kane
Joan Bruchman	CBCM	Eric Secker	DBC	Judy Pollock	NAS-CW
Sigrid Schmidt	COS	Jeff Sanders	ENSBC	Charlie Habecker	Thorn Creek
Walter Marcisz	COS	Libby Hill	ENSBC	Mary Anne McLean	Thorn Creek
Jeanette Bider	CBO	Suzanne Checchia	ENSBC	Donnie Dann	TNC

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 by president Donnie Dann.

Two special guests addressed the group:

John Rogner, Field Supervisor, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, discussed the updates to the US Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

John Oldenberg, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, described the cleanup and remediation of the West branch of the DuPage River.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE

1. Minutes of April meeting - approved by voice vote.
2. Treasurer's report - Glenn Gabanski

Donnie Dann advised the group that it may cost \$150+ to reconstruct the BCN checking accounts, which is necessary because of IRS paperwork.

#### PROJECTS/INITIATIVES

##### 1. Bird monitoring - Judy Pollock

Per Judy: We had a great year; many new monitors. Volunteers are working through a data entry backlog. We held some workshops this year, which helped establish active partnerships with all of the FPs except McHenry. Maps from the last two years are on the Habitat Project ([www.habitatproject.org](http://www.habitatproject.org)) website.

To honor the top monitors, we are thinking about a Birding and Breakfast event in September.

##### 2. Wind Energy, ABC Policy Statement - Bob Fisher

Bob explained the request from the City of Chicago for assistance with the location of a demonstration wind turbine project.

Bob moved; Judy Pollock seconded that we endorse the ABC policy. The following discussion covered a variety of topics. Based on the discussion, the group voice-voted to table the motion so that there will be an opportunity for the individual clubs to discuss the policy.

Donnie Dann discussed the request from the City of Chicago for volunteer birders to be involved in the demonstration project. It was agreed that Donnie would tell the Chicago Department of the Environment that BCN is interested in cooperating with their project.

### **3. Chicagoland birding trail guide- Randi Doeker**

The map is completed and available through the Chicago Department of the Environment.

### **4. 130th Street sewage pond access - Donnie Dann**

Donnie presented the access problems at the 130<sup>th</sup> Street MWRD sewage pond and compared it to the access available to DOD sites. The group discussed the fact that no problems had ever happened in the 30 years that the ponds were open.

Donnie asked that everyone email their ideas for access.

### **5. A scientific analysis of the monitoring data - Glenn Gabanski**

Glenn: There are over 90,000 records in the E-bird database; it needs to be formally analyzed. No grants could be found for the project so it has been agreed by Excom that BCN and Audubon partner to pay Eric Secker to do the basic analysis.

The target date for completion is early September.

### **6. Mayor Daley's Nature and Wildlife Committee; a great opportunity - Judy Pollock**

The committee is in the process of going from a review group to a proactive organization. A formal plan has been developed and they are looking for groups and individuals to take the lead on the individual actions.

It was agreed that Judy would send the committee documents to everyone so that individuals and clubs can consider taking on some tasks.

### **7. Migrant Bird Habitat Study results - Judy Pollock**

This is the project in which bird and tree experts went out together to study which trees birds use. The results are on the Project Habitat website.

The study could only cover the tree species that are available in the area. The results demonstrated that maples are the least used trees, thus highlighting the problem caused by the expansion of maple forests.

It was agreed to put the study document on the BCN website.

## **CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES**

### **1. Lake Calumet activities - Walter Marcisz**

The Chicago City Council extended the moratorium on landfills in the City for another 20 years, thus eliminating the threat to the Lake Calumet area.

Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr. has called upon Waste Management to still create the Gateway Park; he will help with federal funds.

Walter also reported that the drought is having a serious, negative impact on the nesting birds.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

##### **1. IDNR and the outcome in the last legislative session - Springfield - Donnie Dann**

Donnie described the efforts of Partners for Parks and Wildlife to prevent the state administration from using conservation funds for other projects.

##### **2. Forest Preserve issues - Randi Doeker and Bob Fisher**

Randi described the proposed swap of Cook County FP land for ISG steel mill land. The swap proposal has been dropped by ISG but the local city officials and the FP commissioner involved are complaining loudly.

Because of the proposal, discussions are starting to consider dividing the FP from the County proper.

Bob talked about the efforts of a DuPage County school district to swap distant land for DuPage FP land that adjoins the school; the FP commission has clearly rejected the request.

##### **3. BCN membership in the Illinois Environmental Council - Donnie Dann**

Donnie described the work of the IEC and recommended that we join as an Associate member at \$300. per year. Ann Haverstock moved; Libby Hill seconded that we join; it passed unanimously.

##### **4. By-Laws Updating - Glenn Gabanski**

Proposed revisions to the By-Laws were distributed. It was moved by Bob Fisher; seconded by Christine Lee that the process be formally initiated to consider the revisions.

The membership will formally consider the revisions at the Fall meeting.

##### **5. BCN tax status - Donald Dann**

Donnie presented the topic of 501-c-3 status as something that the Excom is currently discussing.

##### **6. Green Papers**

Judy Pollock is working on a green paper for shrubland birds; Bob Fisher volunteered to help with editing.

Terry will revise the lakefront green paper on habitat (along with Christine Williamson).

**Location and date for the Fall meeting:** Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at Donnie Dann's house in Highland Park.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45.

Respectfully submitted,  
Randi Doeker  
Secretary