

**BCN QUARTERLY MEETING**  
**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**Saturday, January 14, 2006**

Attendees:

Randi Doeker	Birds & Bldgs		Glenn Gabanski	DBC		Judy Pollock	NAS-CW
Don Darnell	CAS		Bob Fisher	DBC		Lee Ramsey	NAS-CW
Annette Prince	CBCM		Eric Secker	DBC		Donna Gonzalez	Save the Dunes
Mary Lou Mellon	CBCM		Suzanne Checchia	ENSBC		Donnie Dann	TNC
Joan Bruchman	CBCM		Wayne Svoboda	Ft. D.		Dick Riner	Thorn Creek
Walter Marcisz	COS		Mary Anne Harrison	IAS		Leslie Borns	
Sigrid Schmidt	COS		John Hockman	Lake-Cook		Terry Schilling	

President Donnie Dann called the meeting to order at 1:05pm. A quorum was not present, therefore, no official business was transacted. Donnie shared info about the history of the Garfield Park Field House, the meeting site. At 1:07pm additional members arrived; a quorum was established.

Guest Speaker: Radika Shah, Alliance for the Great Lakes, discussed the development of the Great Lakes Watershed Ecosystem Partnership. For full details on the program, check [www.greatlakes.org](http://www.greatlakes.org) Donnie proposed that the members discuss with their respective clubs membership; we will follow-up at the Spring meeting.

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

**1. Meeting Minutes:** Approval, by assumption, of prior minutes; already circulated on website; please see [www.bcnbirds.org](http://www.bcnbirds.org)

**2. Treasurer's Report** - Glenn Gabanski

The Treasurer distributed an updated financial report and proposed budget. Also today, members have received the BCN dues statement for the 2006 year.

The estimated budget may change based on the total dues that are ultimately collected and the TBD tax charges. Judy Pollock confirmed that Audubon Chicago will be able to split the cost of the Bird Population Trend Analysis program for at least 2 years.

The Treasurer's report and budget estimate were accepted formally by voice vote.

**3. Election of 2006 Officers** - Joan Bruchman, Chair, Nominating Committee

Nominated:

President – Donnie Dann

VP – Dick Riner

Treasurer – Glenn Gabanski

Secretary – Randi Doeker

There were no additional nominations. The slate was approved by voice vote.

**4. President's Message** – Donnie Dann

President Dann gave his annual message summarizing BCN's growth and accomplishments over the most recent and from prior years, and urged all birders to pitch in to do more for bird conservation. He made a special note of asking the members to step up to a leadership position with BCN.

## **PROJECTS/INITIATIVES**

### **1. Chicago Region Bird Population Trends program – Bob Fisher**

It is Excom's goal to have a BCN speaker present the Trends PowerPoint presentation to each member organization. This will help introduce the monitoring program and the new website. Bob has already met new monitors who were influenced by the program's website info. The program/website clearly demonstrates the value of monitoring.

An equally important target audience is the land managers. Bob will be giving the presentation to the DuPage FP staff later this month.

### **2. Update on Wind Energy in Chicago – Donnie Dann**

Donnie described his discussions with the City of Chicago's Dept of Environment regarding the bird-safety of the turbines going on the top of Daley Center. He also discussed the supporting information he has received from the ABC wind expert.

Randi Doeker advised that five turbines are now planned for Lincoln Park by the South Pond, in addition to the previously announced turbines on the Museum of Contemporary Art.

### **3. Rehab Center at Northerly Island – Annette Prince**

The negotiations for the new center appear to be nearly finalized. A spring opening is expected. The details of what the center will be able to handle is TBA. When BCN's uncertain tax situation is resolved, Excom will consider recommendations for funding support.

### **4. Monitoring Plans for 2006 - Judy Pollock**

It appears that the full loop for monitoring, data entry, analysis and info dissemination is finally complete. Everyone is encouraged to enter their own birding checklists, especially this June. Also, the Trend PowerPoint presentation is very easy to use.

Judy is sending to all of the land owners the monitoring database this coming week. Please let her know if others should be on the distribution list.

To get Chicago Wilderness grant money for future analysis work, BCN needs to be more visible within the Chicago Wilderness activities; several opportunities were discussed. ChiWild is the best source of funds but there is a great competition for those dollars.

### **5. City of Chicago Bird Agenda - Randi Doeker**

Like the existing Water, River, and Green Building agendas, the Bird Agenda will lay out measurable goals and milestones, partner roles and other items for making the city even more habitable for birds. It is expected that the Bird Agenda work will continue through the spring.

### **6. Swainson's Hawk Efforts – Judy Pollock**

Bob and Anita Morgan have been doing regular monitoring for Swainson's Hawks in Kane and McHenry Counties. Last year they found only three breeding pairs, all in areas that appear to be destined for rapid development.

More monitors are needed to search for the hawks with the goal of protecting the new breeding areas. An expert at INHS has identified the likely habitat areas in Kane and McHenry Counties. The requested commitment is two ½ day field trips to search for the birds. More info: The Morgans at 708-209-1938 and Vic Berardi at 847-680-5281.

### **7. Important Bird Areas – Judy Pollock and Eric Secker**

We are renewing our efforts to find new areas. Clubs need to adopt a specific IBA; details are being sent separately. The IBA team is also working on the definition of the migrate sites.

Dick Riner described the IBA efforts by Thorn Creek Audubon at Bartel Grasslands. This area/project is featured in the current Audubon magazine.

### **8. Shrubland Bird Blitz – Judy Pollock**

The grassland bird blitz has been completed. Shrubland birds are next. The goal is to make the breeding bird surveys be as institutionalized as the Christmas and Spring Counts.

### **9. McHenry County Trap-Neuter-Release Program for Feral Cats - Donnie Dann**

The McHenry County board votes this coming Tuesday on TNR. There are strong local voices on all sides. There are an estimated 150 feeding sites for feral cats in the County.

### **CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES**

#### **Lake Calumet activities – Walter Marcisz**

The City of Chicago is formally purchasing the 26 acres around the Bald Eagle site. It is extremely difficult to get to the nesting site by foot.

Walter described his attendance at the Calumet Research Summit held at Purdue University on January 10<sup>th</sup> and the interesting presentations offered.

There was a discussion about the two main challenges at Lake Calumet: varying water levels and very successful beavers.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **1. Updating of website – Lee Ramsey**

The BCN website has been updated: out-of-date material was removed and newer reports were posted. Thanks to Eric Secker for his support of the website. Lee volunteered to be the on-going chair of the website committee (of one).

#### **2. Illinois Environmental Council update - Donnie Dann**

Donnie summarized the change in Illinois law that previously protected private land owners when they allowed birders and other recreationers on their land. BCN is working with PPW (Partners for Parks and Wildlife) on the lobbying work in Springfield. Everyone is urged to contact their Springfield reps.

This legal change impacts all land owners including organizations like The Nature Conservancy and Fermilab.

#### **3. Chicago Wilderness Grassroots Team – Bob Fisher**

Steve Packard has suggested that BCN become active in the new Grassroots Team within the ChiWild organization. It is believed that our participation would help gain respect and influence with the professionals who generally make up ChiWild. Dick Riner is already actively involved.

Judy supported this idea very strongly because of the aforementioned mentioned need to get more influence within ChiWild.

#### **4. Wild Things Conference – Judy Pollock**

The date will be February 2007; location TBD. More birders are needed for the program committee.

To keep the Wild Things name visible this year, the group has four workshops scheduled for this winter.

#### **5. Voting for Conservation – Donnie Dann (for Christine Williamson)**

Information was disseminated for one local candidate. Donnie urged everyone to get involved in local elections for their conservation candidate.

The next meeting will be Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, at the [South Shore Cultural Center](#) (7059 South Shore Drive)..

The meeting adjourned at 3:45.

Submitted by  
Randi Doeker  
Secretary