

**BCN Quarterly Meeting—Minutes
Camp Sagawau
July 21, 2007**

Attendees:

Terry Schilling, **at large**; Bobbi Asher, **CAS**; Annette Prince, **CBCM**; Teri Radke, **CBCM** ; Sigrid Schmidt, **COS**; Glenn Gabanski, **DBC**; Bob Fisher, **DBC**; Suzanne Checchia, **ENSBC**; Wayne Svoboda, **Ft. Dearborn**; Joan Bruchman, **IOS**; Gail Taxy, **Lake-Cook Audubon**; Al Weissnbach, **Lake-Cook Audubon**; Jean Sodemann, **Lake-Cook Audubon**; Diane Rosenberg, **Lake County Audubon**; Kim Ramierz, **Midewin Alliance**; Judy Pollock, **NAS-CW**; Lee Ramsey, **NAS-CW**; Dick Riner, **Thorn Creek Audubon**; Donnie Dann, **TNC**

President Dick Riner called the meeting to order at 1:05pm.

A quorum was established, with 18 representatives from 13 member groups present.

Administrative

1. Meeting minutes: The April 7, 2007, minutes were approved by voice vote and are posted on the BCN website at www.bcnbirds.org

2. Treasurer's Report: Glenn Gabanski
Dues have been paid by all clubs except Will County and Prairie Woods Audubon, both of which have dropped their membership.

The financial report of 7/19/07 was distributed.

Glenn reported that at present BCN has \$4515.16 with \$403.31 in taxable income. The CD purchased in 2006 will add \$140 to 2007 income.

3. New Membership: Flint Creek

Dick Riner introduced Dawn Keller who was applying for BCN membership for Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation.

Dawn gave an overview of the organization's operations in both Barrington & Northerly Island.

Donnie Dann moved to accept FC. Lee Ramsey seconded. Membership was approved by majority voice vote.

Field Museum Web Site – Terry Schilling suggest BCN drop its web site at the Field Museum. Dick Riner will look into web site & make a recommendation. Judy Pollock & Lee Ramsey will check with Eric Secker to see if web site is still needed.

Projects/Initiatives

1. Chicago Wilderness Grant--Glenn Gabanski

The work to be done by our independent contractors has started. Mike Ward of the Illinois Natural History Survey will be doing GIS work to match up and measure the types of habitat associated with each data point. He will also investigate observer bias and to what extent current BCN monitored sites are representative of overall habitat types. Eric Secker of BCN is acquiring and integrating other databases (Midewin, Lake County, DuPage County) to allow John Yunger of Governors State University to begin the population trend analysis in August. The CW Trust Grant Oversight Committee is very pleased with the team of consultants we have hired and believe they will produce an excellent report.

2. City of Chicago DOE Gull Project--Joyce Coffee & Scott Beckerman USDA Jamie Raider, Field Data Collector.

Joyce: This program was developed at the request of Mayor Daley to help to eliminate summer beach closings due to avian e-coli.

The increase in population of ring-billed gulls, up 31% from 1980 to 2004, has created a conflict between gulls & lakefront entertainment venues. Measures such as egg oiling & dog harassment have been used to reduce the gull population.

After tagging gulls & oiling eggs, studies done at Dime Pier & Lake Calumet have shown a 100% control on marked nests. By oiling eggs it is estimated that 18,000 juveniles were kept from being born.

Better waste-management control was recommended to reduce the gull food supply
Go to <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d07591.pdf> for complete info on the project.

A full report will be available in September 2007.

Joyce passed out the booklet A Habitat Guide for Chicago Land Owners: Enhancing Your Property for Birds. This was prepared by the DOE in association with Audubon/Chicago Region. For further info go to birds@cityofchicago.org

3. IOS/BCN Birding Calendar--Jenny Vogt

Jenny presented her vision of the Illinois Birding calendar and passed around four or five copies of a first draft. It is still a work in progress but is looking very good.

Terry Schilling offered to help with the web site.

Judy Pollock asked that the reps go back to their respective groups and have their trips and meeting plans sent to Jenny at illinoisbirdcalendar@yahoo.com

4. Bird monitoring-- Lee Ramsey and Judy Pollock

Mary Busch has been appointed coordinator of a group of Audubon people who will work to increase better communication between monitors and land stewards. The program will begin with the North Branch Restoration site.

Judy asked for assistance in finding coordinators for all the sites. Send suggestions to Judy.

The home page on BCN.Ebird now maintains news items and photos to encourage more people to visit the site. Go to www.EBird.org/BCN to take a look. To contribute to the site, send photos and news items to Lee.

In order to coordinate data reporting, the “on demand” work shop program will change to “scheduled” work shops in spring 2008. The focus of these workshops will be data collecting and reporting. All existing and new monitors will be asked to attend.

A list of all monitors will be posted on the web site.

Terry Schilling volunteered to head up a working group to look over the present web site and make suggestions on how to proceed.

5. Olympics: Lake County Equestrian Venue in Lakewood FP--Dick Riner and Donnie Dann

Although the location for this equestrian center seems to be a done deal, all are encouraged to visit the web sites below or call the reps to see what can be done to object to this decision. Those living in Lake County should call their commissioner.

www.votersforpreservation.org Roy Davis 847-949-5250

www.preservelakewood.org Shelia Watson 847-438-0960

Tempel Farms, a privately owned property in northern Lake County, has offered its site but have been turned down by the Olympic planning committee.

On behalf of BCN, Dick Riner will send a letter of objection to Bonnie Carter, president of the Cook County Board, who represents Wauconda, which is the area where the facility is expected to be built.

6. Cook County Board Separation--Glenn Gabanski

Glenn reported on the efforts of a partnership between the Friends of the Forest Preserves (FOTFP) and the Civic Federation of Chicago to introduce legislation to create a separate board of commissioners for the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. He also passed out a document that summarizes their reasons for proposing the split.

BCN has been asked by the FOTFP and the Civic Federation to support the concept of the split. This was discussed and tabled until the fall meeting so that member

organizations can discuss the issue. Glenn was asked to email the summary document to all the BCN reps

7. Chicago Bird Collision Monitors--Annette Prince, Director

Annette reported the results of spring 2007 bird-collision monitoring in Chicago. 1475 migratory birds from more than 100 species were documented – three-quarters more than the 847 collected in spring 2006. More than 70 percent of the injured birds were recovered, rehabbed and released to continue their migration.

CBCM continued with education, awareness and advocacy efforts for public understanding and promoting the need for collision prevention.

CBCM members along with the Chicago Conservation Corps coordinated a “paint windows” project at downtown buildings & Notebaert Museum. Local artist and school children participated in this project to promote public awareness of the need for prevention of bird collisions.

CBCM continues to work with downtown buildings to implement hazard-reduction strategies.

Annette expressed appreciation for the continued support from the bird organizations of Chicago. In particular she thanked: CAS and COS, which continue to be strong advocates of the work of CBCM

Bob Fisher recommended that BCN adopt a resolution to show appreciation to CBCM. Donnie Dann seconded the motion. The resolution was approved by unanimous voice vote.

8. Deer Impact on bird population – Judy Pollock

Mary Lou Mellon to search past meeting minutes for a previous resolution on deer culling.

Judy Pollock will send a suggested letter to all BCN reps who will then discuss this with their group’s members. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

State of Birds: Judy distributed 2 data reports: Audubon Common Birds in Decline and Audubon State of the Birds 2004. Both described a disturbing declining trend of some common birds.

Cook County Grasslands Plan - Judy also distributed Reports to the Forest Preserve District of Sites Recommended for Brush Control. So far not much of recommendations have been done. Recommendations should be started again in August 2007.

9. BP, Whiting, IN--Dick Riner

Dick and Carolyn Marsh attended a news conference on July 18, 2007, at which it was stated by BP that no laws were being broken by their sludge dumping in Lake Michigan. It was stated that everything will be treated before going into the lake.

Save the Lake petitions, against the dumping, were passed for all present to sign and to take copies back to their groups to have signed.

Donnie Dann moved to pass a resolution against the dumping. Dick seconded the resolution and it was unanimously passed by voice vote.

10. Cats Indoors--Donnie Dann and Dick Riner

Cook County Board Commissioner Murphy wants to introduce a proposal to allow Trap, Neuter & Release of feral cats in the Cook County Forest Preserves.

Donnie and Dick are to meet with Commissioners Murphy and Quigley sometime the week of 7/23 to discuss.

11. Legislative action affecting birds--Donnie Dann

Donnie discussed the iSpace program, Illinois Special Places Conservation, Acquisition, & Enhancement, which has \$100 million year to buy open lands. Illinois ranks lowest among Midwest states in acquiring open lands.

Donnie will email links to the iSpace web site to all reps for their information.

12. Monitors luncheon--Dick Riner

The 6/30/07 monitors lunch was a great success and came in \$5.00 under budget.

13. New Business--Dick Riner

Dick handed out personal reusable water bottles to everyone present to encourage all to discontinue the use of non-refillable retail water bottles.

14. The next general meeting is scheduled for 1 to 4 pm, Saturday, November 3, 2007, at Donnie Dann's home in Highland Park. Come early to observe the migrating waterfowl from the bluff overlooking Lake Michigan in Donnie's backyard.

Directions will be posted closer to the meeting date.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55pm.

Submitted by

Joan Bruchman
Vice President

