



BCN Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Saturday, November 3, 2012, 12:30-4 pm

Donnie Dann's Home, Highland Park

Attendees: Bobbi Asher, Chris Van Wassenhove, CAS; Mary Lou Mellon, Annette Prince, Teri Radke, CBCM; Christine Williamson, COS; Glenn Gabanski, Linda Padera, DBC; Suzanne Checchia, Lloyd Davidson, ENSBC; Joan Bruchman, IOS; Eric Secker, Kane County Audubon; Diane Rosenberg, Lake County Audubon; Valerie Lewis, Jean Sodemann, Lake-Cook Audubon; Judy Pollock, Lee Ramsey, NAS-Chicago Region; Bob Harrison, Thorn Creek Audubon; Donnie Dann, TNC; and guests Gary and Roberta Morris, Gus and Ruth Spero, Mary Bernat, Susan Schuler and Barbara Thompson.

Following introductions, beginning at 12:30 pm, Mike Parr, Vice President of the American Bird Conservancy, gave a presentation on ABC, including specific conservation projects.

- Following a question from Chris Williamson regarding Senate Bill 3525, titled Sportsmen's Heritage Act of 2012, all those present were encouraged to call Senator Dick Durbin's office to voice opposition to the bill, which would continue to allow lead shot to be used by hunters.

Following Mike's presentation, Kindy Kruller, Senior Planner of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, gave a presentation focusing primarily on the separate master plans for camping and recreation.

- Kindy has been at the FPDCC for six months and her role there is new.
- Kindy's presentation focused on ways to develop areas to attract new users and get more people active outdoors. Opportunity Sites for this development included new acquisitions and highly disturbed areas in need of restoration.
- Trails are a top amenity and they are looking to develop more trailheads. Their user survey reflected people wanted more winter recreation, including toboggan slides, but these are costly to build and chill (\$1.5 million). Other development ideas included off-leash dog parks, climbing walls, improvements to existing biking trails, sledding hills, flying fields and volleyball, Frisbee golf and horseshoe areas.
- Several reps voiced concerns that conservation did not appear to be an important enough element of the plans. Lee Ramsey asked if areas that have already been restored would be protected from mountain biking and other uses that could destroy the restoration work.
- Kindy represented that the recent \$110 million bond issue (which will finance the development discussed above) could not be used for restoration because the bonds needed to finance items with a "useful life" and land cannot be assigned a useful life.
- Kindy said the 12 identified Opportunity Sites have all been reviewed by their ecological staff. Chip O'Leary is the new Chief Ecologist.
- Kindy said she would share the presentation materials with the reps via Drop Box so that comments on the plans could be made.
- The Master Camping Plan draft is due in mid-November and the final plan is due in December 2012.
- The Master Recreation Plan draft is due in January 2013 and the final plan is due in March 2013.
- The Master Acquisition Plan has just been completed. The FPDCC will also be working on separate master plans for Picnicking, Paddling and Trails.

Following the completion of Kindy's presentation at 2:35 pm, the regular meeting was called to order by President Joan Bruchman. A quorum was established with 19 representatives from 12 member organizations.

The minutes for the July 21, 2012 Quarterly Meeting were approved as presented.

Administration

1. Treasurer's report--Glenn Gabanski

- Copies of the financial spreadsheet and the membership report were distributed.
- As of the November 3, 2012 meeting, BCN has received income of \$3,935.85 and paid \$650.19 in expenses. \$1,935.85 of the income is Redstart Connection donations (discussed below). Current checkbook balance is \$6,899.09. After subtracting accounts payable BCN has a funds balance of \$5,603.76.
- The report was accepted as presented.

2. Conflict of Interest Statement--Bobbi Asher

- Attached below as Appendix A is the Conflict of Interest Policy for BCN.
- A vote will be taken at the January meeting to approve this policy.
- Nancy Tikalsky will be asked whether this should be included as a new article to the existing BCN bylaws or attached as an appendix.

3. Statement of Policy for BCN Roster Use--Joan Bruchman

- The following statement was approved for inclusion in the header of the roster of BCN representatives and their contact information: "**Bird Conservation Network – Member Representatives Directory** This directory is intended for the exclusive use of the members of BCN and for BCN approved business only and may not be used for any other purpose or reproduced in whole or in part without written permission from the BCN Executive Committee."

4. Nominating Committee--Judy Pollock

- The nominating committee consists of Judy Pollock, Bob Fisher and Donnie Dann.
- They are working on BCN nominations to be voted on at the January meeting.

Advocacy

1. Advocacy Update--Donnie Dann

- The Sportsmen's Heritage Act currently before the Senate would prevent the EPA from being able to regulate lead bullets. The EPA currently regulates lead, but the law is ambiguous on the EPA's ability to regulate lead bullets. Chris Williamson offered to provide a form letter for BCN reps to send to Senator Durbin to oppose this issue.
- Donnie wrote a letter on BCN's behalf to oppose the proposed Illiana Expressway, which would connect interstates 55 and 65.
- Donnie wrote a BCN letter in support of funding the State & Tribal Wildlife Grant. Illinois received \$2 million in 2011. Federal funding must be approved annually.
- Donnie signed BCN onto Oregon Wild's initiative to restore balance to the Klamath Basin.
- Donnie added BCN's support to the National Audubon Society's efforts to ensure further Arctic development will not interfere with wildlife via Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar's announced preferred alternative for management of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska.

- Donnie attended the 10/24/12 Bird Conservation Alliance Roundtable on Migratory Bird Conservation in D.C. There are 208 BCA members, including BCN. Donnie added BCN's support to initiatives to protect birds throughout their lifespan.
- Donnie sent several letters in support of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
- Donnie reported that the Illinois DNR's budget and staff have been halved (from 2,200 individuals to 1,100). Chris Williamson stated she would email the BCN ExCom if the funding bill can be revived.

2. Rally for Starved Rock—Mary Lou Mellon

- The Sierra Club held a rally on October 28th opposing the proposed frac sand mine adjacent to the east entrance to Starved Rock State Park. Mary Lou and Joan Bruchman joined Chris and Geoff Williamson for a Sierra Club walk through two of the 18 canyons (Owl and LaSalle) in Starved Rock. Sierra Club held an informational talk outside the park after the walk. The rally was well attended.
- Similar sand can be found throughout the county, so this location is not necessary. The sand mine would potentially destroy the only salt marsh in Illinois. Mary Lou stated it was dismaying to learn that this much disliked invasion of the area around the park seems to be proceeding without difficulty.
- Chris Williamson said there is no foreseeable way to stop the mine short of litigation by a coalition including the Sierra Club against the owners of the planned sand mine. The IDNR Mining Division needs to be separated from the DNR. Chris will keep BCN updated on this issue.

3. CBCM/Angels Seeking Wings Article and Video—Annette Prince

- There was a very nice October 16th report and video by Medill Reports - Chicago, Northwestern University on CBCM.

4. CBCM 2012 Monitoring Season—Annette Prince

- This is the 10th anniversary season for CBCM.
- The final fall 2012 numbers are not yet in, but CBCM has been receiving thousands of calls from the public.
- CBCM has a new web page, with even more enhancements to be made by year-end.
- CBCM has been working with Loyola University regarding bird strikes and light reduction; and Northwestern University on bird safety.
- CBCM was included in the film *The City Dark*.
- Dead birds continue to be sent to the Field Museum to be used for research purposes.

Fundraising

1. Redstart Connection Fundraising Campaign—Glenn Gabanski

- By August 30th the campaign had received \$2,500 in pledges from 18 reps and other interested people. In October the campaign went public with announcements sent to the reps to distribute to their various organizations and to promote at meetings. The campaign was also publicized on Illinois Birders' Forum, BCNnet, and IBET.
- Our goal is to raise \$5,000 in donations that will grow to \$7,500 with the pledges. As of November 2nd we have received \$1,935.85 in donations from 21 donors. When the pledges are figured in this figure grows to over \$3,300. We have made a good start but still have a way to go to reach our goal.
- Since BCN is a 501(c)(3) qualified not-for-profit organization, for I.R.S. purposes, donations are fully tax-deductible for the year they are made. All donors will be sent a letter to serve as a record of receipt of their tax-deductible donation to BCN.
- The campaign officially ends on November 30th at which time the treasurer will contact the pledgers to ask them to send in their pledges. Once the pledge amounts are received the treasurer will send half of the money to the Community Cloud Forest Conservation (CCFC). It should be noted that until the

year of the campaign ends on April 20, 2013, BCN would still donate half of any donations received to CCFC.

2. 2012 Trends Analysis Committee—Glenn Gabanski

- Since the last BCN meeting Rich Decoster was added to the committee.
- The committee met on 9/14/2012 to acquaint members with past analysis efforts and to plan for the 2012 analysis. Much of our discussion focused on ways to accomplish the analysis and ranged from making use of existing organizations like Cornell Lab or the Midwest Avian Data Center to hiring a single person, probably a grad student.
- A draft of an RFP was developed and plans were made to contact some individuals informally to find out what this might cost. Later when we heard that it might cost at least \$10,000 to hire an individual we tabled plans until we could see how successful the Redstart Campaign will be in raising funds.

3. BCN Trends Analysis / Redstart Connection Donation Letters Sent to Contacts—Joan Bruchman

- Judy Pollock stated that we need to engage the people in our clubs in order to meet our goal. Kane County Audubon made a donation, so we should also pursue clubs donating as well as individuals. This is the time of year that people tend to make donations, so we need to act quickly.
- Joan Bruchman sent a notice to IOS; and will post notices on Beebuzz and IBET after the election. COS sent a notice to its members. Lake County has it on their November board meeting agenda. Evanston North Shore is still debating what action it will take.

4. Sound Approach Grant—Mary Lou Mellon

- There are still no funds available per the Sound Approach website, which states “All funds have now been allocated, stay tuned for more news.”
- Mary Lou continues to check it every two weeks.

Projects and Initiatives

1. Wild Things Conference—Judy Pollock and Mary Lou Mellon

- The conference will be held on February 2nd at UIC.
- Registration will be available within two weeks. The pre-registration cost will be \$28; it will cost \$40 after December 25th. Judy will send registration information to the reps in order to get the word out.
- Mary Lou is co-chair with Jane Balaban for the event. They are hoping to attract 1200 people.
- Judy mentioned a few of the exciting speakers for the bird track at the event, including:
 - T.J. Benson on predation
 - Josh Engel on the snowy owl invasion
 - Louise Clemency of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on whooping cranes
 - and Jim Herkert, Doug Stotz, the new Hackmatack Wildlife Refuge and more
- There will be revised evaluation forms this year, both hard copy and online (using Survey Monkey).

2. BCN 2012 Monitoring Season—Judy Pollock and Lee Ramsey

- Judy and Lee went to Kendall County to give a talk on monitoring and BCN will be expanding there with the Kendall County Forest Preserve District.
- All 2012 data will be available soon. Eric Secker is working on the data with Judy.

3. Lake-Cook Audubon Barn Owl Project Update—Jean Sodemann

- As of October 2012, the Lake/Cook Chapter Barn Owl project is moving again. There is a new coordinator as well as a chapter member who works for a contracting firm and is handling the installation of the boxes.
- The chapter has permission from Brad Semel at IDNR to place two boxes at specific locations at Illinois Beach State Park, one in the South Unit and one in the North Unit. There is also a third tentative location through Conserve Lake County. The chapter is hopeful that at least the two IBSP boxes will be installed before the end of the year.

4. BCN Monitors' Bird Walk and Brunch—Joan Bruchman and Lee Ramsey

- The annual bird monitors' walk and picnic brunch will be held on Saturday, May 11, 2013, in eastern Kane County, near the town of St Charles. The walk will begin in the morning at one or more forest preserves or parks, followed by a picnic at Hickory Knolls Natural Area (formerly Campton Hills Park). This event, sponsored by the Bird Conservation Network, is free and open to all bird monitors in the Chicago Wilderness area.
- Full details about the event will be published next March or April, but we hope you'll save the date. Information will be sent to all BCN monitors, but if you want to make sure you don't miss it, send your name and email address to Joan Bruchman, pjbruchman@comcast.net.

5. Cook County FPD Camping and Recreation Plans—Judy Pollock

- There has been a lot of movement on these plans. The number of campsites has been reduced.
- Benjamin Cox, Executive Director of the Friends of the Forest Preserves, sent a letter to Superintendent Arnold Randall encouraging that the plans preserve more natural areas as opposed to land being used for buildings. The letter included a draft policy document regarding sustainability and public value of recreational activities in the preserves.
- Judy believes BCN should send a letter to Mr. Randall as well, utilizing the Friends' data.
- Chris Williamson and Mary Bernat volunteered to draft a BCN letter.
- Chris Williamson believes that reps should meet with Toni Preckwinkle to push birding as important under the plans. Lee Ramsey stated he would like to participate.
- Judy said BCN should follow up with Kindy Kruller, as she suggested, to promote bird hikes, bird canoeing, producing materials for the public, and getting new birding trail guides printed. BCN could coordinate land stewards, bird monitors and field trip guides in this effort.
- BCN supports getting more people involved, and we want to be collaborative, but BCN should promote our views on trails and reducing negative recreational impacts in conservation areas.

Other

1. Illinois Environmental Council (IEC) Annual Meeting—Glenn Gabanski

- BCN is a member of IEC and received the following invitation:
 - Members of the Illinois Environmental Council are invited to attend our 2012 annual meeting for the purposes of adopting a budget and policy platform for 2013 and the election of the Board of Directors.
 - The Annual Meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, December 7, 2012 and is expected to last two hours. The Environmental Law and Policy Center will host the Annual Meeting at its headquarters at 35 E. Wacker Suite 1600, Chicago, Illinois.

2. GreenTown Highland Park—Donnie Dann

- Donnie mentioned this initiative to promote the green aspects of the community, including composting commercial food scraps.

3. Promoting Bird Friendly Buildings—Donnie Dann

- Donnie met with the mayors of Oak Park and Lake Forest and gave them the American Bird Conservancy's bird friendly building guide. Donnie offered to give talks on the topic.

4. Next BCN Meeting—Joan Bruchman

- The next BCN Quarterly meeting will be Saturday, January 19th, at North Park Village Nature Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Van Wassenhove
Secretary

APPENDIX A

Conflict of Interest Policy

Officers, Executive Committee members, Representatives from Organizational Affiliates, BCN committee members, individual members, contractors, employees

Preamble

As a not-for-profit charitable corporation, the Bird Conservation Network (hereinafter known as “BCN”) is expected to act in the public good. Decisions of BCN are to be made solely on the basis of a desire to promote the best interests of the organization and its mission. The Conflict of Interest Policy described below is intended to ensure that the personal interest of anyone associated with BCN does not inappropriately affect the decisions and actions of BCN concerning transactions, investments or other matters involving BCN.

Scope

The following statement of policy applies to Officers, Executive Committee members, Representatives from Organizational Affiliates, BCN committee members, individual members, contractors, and employees (hereinafter known as “Interested Parties”).

Policy

1. It is the policy of BCN that no Interested Parties or their Family Members, as defined herein at paragraph C., should derive any personal economic benefit, directly or indirectly, by reason of such person's participation as a representative to BCN, services to BCN or a BCN Committee, or because of employment by BCN (except in the case of employees for reasonable compensation). Interested Parties shall disclose to the BCN President or Committee Chair any personal interest that he or she or any Family Members may have in any matter pending or expected to come before BCN. Each employee shall disclose to the President any personal interest that he or she or any Family Member may have in any matter or transaction involving BCN.
2. Interested Parties shall disclose to the President or Committee Chair all organizations that will, or may be reasonably expected to, engage in business transactions (other than payment of dues) with BCN, or receive grants from BCN, in which such Interested Parties or a Family Members have a Material Financial Interest, or acts as a director, consultant, partner, trustee, officer, member of the Executive Committee or employee. Interested Parties or Family Members have a Material Financial Interest in

an organization if the Interested Parties or Family Members: (i) own, directly or indirectly, more than 5% of the organization's equity interest, (ii) is owed money by the organization in excess of 5% of the organization's overall indebtedness or in excess of 2% of the Interested Parties' or Family Members' net worth, or (iii) receives compensation from the Entity in excess of 2% of the income of the Interested Parties or Family Members.

3. "Family Members" of Interested Parties are a spouse, parents, children, or grandchildren and any other individual residing in the home not otherwise described herein for which the Interested Parties have actual knowledge of the interest or affiliation of such Family Members.

Restraint on Participation

Interested Parties who have a conflict of interest in any proposed transaction or other matter shall refrain from participating in consideration of the proposed transaction or other matter, except such individual shall provide information and interpretation as requested by the Executive Committee. In the case of an Affiliate Representative or member of a BCN committee, he or she shall not vote on the matter in question and, if so requested by the President or any Interested Parties, shall not be present at the time of the final discussion and/or vote.

Records of Proceedings

The minutes shall reflect that the Interested Parties recused him or her selves from or were not present at the final discussion and abstained from any votes or were not present for any voting regarding the matter in question.

Advance Determinations

Interested Parties who are uncertain about possible conflict of interest in any matter may request the Executive Committee to determine whether a possible conflict exists; the Executive Committee shall resolve the question by majority vote. If the Executive Committee or President deems it appropriate, the question of potential conflict may be referred to counsel for an opinion prior to the Executive Committee vote.