

*BIRD
CONSERVATION
NETWORK*

March 22, 2006 Excom Meeting

Attendees:

Donnie Dann
Dick Riner
Bob Fisher
Glenn Gabanski
Randi Doeker

1. Treasurer's report – Glenn Gabanski
The back-tax situation has been almost resolved.
2. Membership – Glenn Gabanski
The status of club memberships was reviewed.
3. 501-C-3—yes or no ?
The pros and cons were discussed; it was agreed that there were no benefits in changing our tax status. It was agreed we should manage the treasury to ensure we do not have excess revenue at the end of each year.
4. Lake Michigan Ecosystem Partnership
Yes; it was agreed that BCN would only benefit by signing-on.
5. Wolf Lake Initiative membership
Glenn read their letter that highlights of their work. It was agreed to pay the \$25 dues for 2006.
6. Vote by Club vs Individual
The options for changing the voting process were discussed. In particular, Bob pointed out that voting by individuals may encourage participation. Donnie commented that the positions BCN takes should be by strong consensus so as to not discourage clubs with less than 3 members from attending the quarterly meetings.
7. Support for Northerly Island rehabilitation facility.
The Park District has announced that the Flint Creek facility will open in April. It was agreed that we would donate \$200 at this time subject to Glenn's review of the group's work.
8. City of Chicago's Bird Agenda
The overall program was discussed. BCN's main responsibility in the Agenda project is the creation and implementation of a Cats Indoors program, including sourcing of funds to hire a Cats Indoors coordinator. Donnie agreed that he will organize this effort. Anyone with information on grant availability for this project, or for coupling this with other projects to make it more desirable for a potential grantor, should contact him.
9. Grassroots initiative at Chicago Wilderness – Bob Fisher
Bob is assembling a list of email/list serv addresses for faster communication to region-wide action. Their plan is to formally organize for the purpose of raising public policy awareness.
10. TNC Wisconsin Bird meeting
It was agreed that BCN should be represented. Hopefully Bob can attend. If not, a replacement should be identified.

11. IL Environmental Council

Agreed to join at the \$100 level "grassroots" level

12. ChiWild voluntary dues request

It was agreed to send a \$50 membership donation and to encourage member organizations to donate also.

13. Conservation Forum – Donnie Dann

This event appears to be a repeat of the hunter- and fisher-oriented Conservation Congress that was held several years ago. Dick agreed to check it out.

14. Legalizing TNR and feral cat colonies in DuPage County – Bob Fisher

Bob attended a meeting about this at the DuPage Animal Control Advisory Committee. The situation does not seem as advanced as in McHenry County and DuPage officials seem more concerned about TNR and feral cat colonies and their impact on birds, other wildlife and human health issues.

15. Horicon sign-on letter – signed by Donnie Dann.

16. Shrubland bird blitz will be on the April meeting agenda.

Submitted by
Randi Doeker
Secretary