

*BIRD  
CONSERVATION  
NETWORK*

BCN ExCom Meeting  
Minutes  
March 5, 2007

Attendees:   Joan Bruchman       Donnie Dann       Glenn Gabanski  
                  Mary Lou Mellon       Dick Riner

1. Cats Indoors—Donnie. We are waiting for a response from the head of Lake County FP. Also waiting on grant money to fund a part-time coordinator for the Cats Indoors campaign. One grant application has been rejected.
2. Bob Fisher's motion on BCN Policy re how BCN represents the coalition. As no club has objected to Bob's motion, the ExCom formally adopted his policy, which is found in totality in the minutes of the January 27, 2007, BCN Quarterly Meeting. It was suggested that this policy be added to the web site, possibly with the Bylaws in a category to be called "Minutes and Procedures."
3. BCN agenda item—Dick. Anyone who has an item for the agenda of a BCN Quarterly Meeting will provide the Club Secretary (presently Mary Lou Mellon) with a brief summary of his or her subject either prior to or at the meeting.
4. Bylina meeting--Dick. Basically our hands are tied. BCN does not think a lawsuit is viable and protest is nearly impossible, as outsiders are not allowed to speak at Cook County board meetings. We would like to establish a policy statement along the line of "BCN would support separation of the board of the Forest Preserve of Cook County from the Cook County Board into two separate boards with independent directors." For that to become a reality would require approval of the state legislature.
5. An ExCom member was assigned to each club for contact purposes.
6. Chicago Wilderness Grant—Glenn and Dick. A \$10,000 grant has been received from Chicago Wilderness to improve the statistical validity of the trends analysis for the BCN data. An oversight committee comprised of Judy Pollock, Dick Riner, Lee Ramsey, Sigrid Schmidt and chaired by Glenn Gabanski will administer the grant. The two main goals of the grant are (1) increasing the size of the data base, and (2) addressing monitor bias and lack of random sampling in selecting sites. Input from science advisors will be used and three people will be hired to handle statistical work, GIS evaluation of habitats, and web site posting. Audubon Chicago region is the fiscal agent for the program.

7. Towers sign-on letter—Donnie. This was agreed upon by email polling of the ExCom and BCN is signed on.
8. Midewin membership—Dick and Glenn. Dick will determine if there is any possibility of “reciprocal” membership with Midewin (i.e., is reciprocity possible?). If so, possibly Kim Ramirez could represent Midewin to BCN, as their other reps are no longer interested.
9. FOTFP and Open Lands Action Committee—Dick. Covered under the Bylina meeting.
10. CPA fee—Glenn. The \$220 fee was approved by ExCom via email polling and it has been paid. In future years, Glenn expects to be able to handle the tax filing. Membership dues are slow in coming in, though clubs have till end of March to pay. Glenn will contact laggards except for TNC, which will be handled by Donnie.
11. Monitors lunch. \$200 was allocated for a thank-you luncheon for approximately 18 monitors. Monitors will be treated to a walk at Bartel Grasslands and the luncheon, sponsored by BCN and unofficially by Audubon Chicago Region.
12. Update web site—Eric has been sent all corrections and updates for the website, but he is extremely busy. Glenn will follow up with him.
13. Phone—Glenn. It’s recommended that when one finishes one’s assigned period he/she contacts the next person on the phone list to remind them to check in.
14. Birding Calendar—Donnie. Randi Doeker, former BCN Secretary, has put together this valuable resource for a number of years. IOS was supposed to take this over, but has not done so. Dick will check with Michael Hogg to see where IOS stands. If they are not going to do it, Mary Lou will find out how to proceed to reestablish it.
15. The next BCN Quarterly Meeting is Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at Northerly Island. It’s suggested that those who wish can come at noon and bird the area before the meeting. Bring a sack lunch.