

*Bird
Conservation
Network*

BCN ExCom Meeting
Minutes
June 13, 2007

Attendees: Dick Riner, Glenn Gabanski, Donnie Dann, Mary Lou Mellon

Absent due out of town: Joan Bruchman

1. Financial Status—Glenn. We have some individual members and two clubs who have not yet renewed their membership. There is doubt that the individuals will renew. The remaining clubs will be contacted. On June 13 BCN has cash assets of \$4,700.29, which includes a CD for \$2,500 that matures in October. Based on anticipated income and expenses for the rest of 2007 we have a net balance of about \$160 to spend to achieve our goal of zeroing out our income tax for the year.

2. Chicago Wilderness Trust Grant—Glenn Gabanski, Chair of BCN's CW Trust Grant Oversight Committee. Contracts have been made with Mike Ward (Illinois Natural History Survey) to complete the GIS analysis and investigate detectability issues in monitoring, and John Yunger (Governors State University) to complete the analysis and, in conjunction with Eric Secker, complete the web site work and assemble a list of CW birds of conservation concern. Work is expected to begin shortly and a conference call involving the Oversight Committee, the independent contractors, and some of our science advisors is planned for late June. Work is expected to be completed through the summer. BCN has authorized National Audubon-Chicago Region to be its fiscal agent for the grant. They will handle all financial arrangements. Due to our receiving the grant earlier this year rather than last fall when it was first submitted it was too late to develop and implement new monitoring protocols for this spring and summer. They will be delayed until next year. Last May the Oversight Committee filed on-time the first of the Quarterly Reports required of grant recipients.

3. Virginia Meeting of Bird Conservation Alliance—Donnie Dann. Two members of the ExCom (Dick Riner and Mary Lou Mellon) are considering going to this meeting in Washington DC in October 2007. Donnie is secretary of the BCA but cannot attend as the meeting conflicts with an ABA board meeting. Alicia Craig of BCA has put BCN in the "pot" for financial assistance to attend.

4. Flying Wild—Dick and Donnie. At a meeting of Tom Clay, Judy Pollock, Steven Packard. Dick and Donnie, BCN was asked to provide support for this educational program, which targets middle-school children, to "get kids into the woods." We were

also asked to help recruit for the program. We agreed to support this program and to promote Flying Wild to our member clubs as the program develops.

5. Bird Calendar—Joan Bruchman, vice president of BCN, and Jenny Vogt of IOS are working together to pull this resource together. The completed calendar of all Illinois bird-related trips and meetings will be posted on the IOS website and on the BCN website, as well, hopefully.

6. Gull Project—Scott Beckerman, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Division of Wildlife Services, and Joyce Coffee have accepted an invitation to come to BCN's quarterly meeting on July 21st at Camp Sagawau to explain this program to our members. Dick also pointed out that to help draw more attendees to this (often not-well-attended) meeting, he has arranged for Mike Konrath, head of Camp Sagawau, to give a tour of the canyon and its birds, ferns and rock formations, prior to the meeting. Those wanting to tour should come at 11 and bring a sack lunch to enjoy before the meeting.

7. Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation would like to be join BCN. It was noted that Flint Creek is a not-for-profit corporation comprised of licensed rehabber Dawn Keller and a corps of volunteers. According to Flint Creek's website, it is "dedicated to the rehabilitation of injured and orphaned wildlife with the goal of returning fully rehabilitated wildlife to its natural habitat. Flint Creek promotes respect for wildlife and wildlife habitats through public education programs. Flint Creek also supports efforts to repopulate endangered and threatened wildlife species." Since this organization's goals clearly encompass assisting migratory birds, it seems appropriate to include it in BCN. Flint Creek will attend the next meeting on July 21st, 2007 and will be proposed for membership at that time.

8. Status of Recreational Liability Legislation and other bills that directly or indirectly affect birds—Donnie. The Recreational Liability Bill failed at the recent session. It will be re-proposed again this fall. BCN supports this legislation. Also in progress is a program for appropriation of \$100 million for Illinois land acquisition (Urges the Governor to present a capital budget that includes \$100,000,000, on an annual basis, for the Illinois Special Places Acquisition, Conservation and Enhancement (iSPACE) Program, which includes the following: (i) a new statewide land acquisition program to protect the State's most precious natural resources and provide recreational opportunities, including matching grants to local governments; (ii) implementation of the Partners for Conservation Program (formerly Conservation 2000) through land acquisition and management grants; and (iii) implementation of the Hunting Heritage Protection Act by increasing the amount of land acreage available for hunting opportunities in Illinois.). Another bill is a proposal by a developer to "trade" some land it owns for acreage in the middle of Pyramid State Park for private development of a Branson, MO-type community. BCN would oppose the fragmentation of a preserve for private enterprise. Donnie quoted Fran Harty, formerly of DNR, as stating that taking public land out of at State Park for private development would be "bad government."

9. Lakefront IBA. On May 13,,2007, International Migratory Bird Day, the Chicago Lakefront was identified as an Important Bird Area by National Audubon Society. Mayor Daley attended the festivities.

10. Cats Indoors—Donnie. Nothing new to report.
11. Miscellaneous—Donnie attended a meeting of the City of Chicago Task Force on Global Climate Change, an organization focused of finding every conceivable way of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Mary Lou Mellon
Secretary