



*Bird
Conservation
Network*

Bird Conservation Network Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes
Conference Call 7:30pm –8:38pm
June 24, 2008

Present: Bob Fisher (president), Joan Bruchman (vice-president), Glenn Gabanski (treasurer), Donnie Dann, Chris Van Wassenhove, Sigrid Schmidt, Mary Lou Mellon (secretary)

Absent: Dick Riner (past president)

1. Treasurer's Report—Glenn Gabanski. The 8-month \$3000 CD has matured, yielding \$94.72. The interest has been paid into the BCN checking account and the CD will be rolled over to a 7-month CD earning 3%. We would need to invest at least \$50,000 to earn a higher rate.

2. Trends Analysis—Glenn. Every effort is being made to complete this project by the end of June.

3. Restructuring of Executive Committee—Bob Fisher. Recommends creation of operating committees with specific functions, each one to be chaired by a member of ExCom. Members of committees to be selected by the chair from member organizations (not to be limited to the member reps). Goal is to evolve away from a committee of the whole, which is what BCN ExCom has been since 2001, in an effort to get more people from the member organizations involved and active.

Suggested committees: finance, advocacy, membership, meetings and events, publicity, editorial and census analysis/monitoring (already exists with Eric Secker, Lee Ramsey, Glenn, Judy Pollock as members).

Need a statement of purpose and responsibilities for each committee.

Need suggestions for head of each committee. Donnie was proposed for advocacy; Glenn for finance; Mary Lou for memberships.

Need ideas on how to recruit for committees.

Each member of ExCom was asked to submit a sentence or two on the committees to Bob by July 1st.

Glenn pointed out that restructuring is within the existing bylaws.

4. Advocacy issues—Donnie Dann. Is going to the American Birding Association meeting in Snowbird, Utah, to present the ABA Chandler Robbins Education and Conservation award to Mayor Daley. Suzanne Malec's first deputy, Karen Hobbs, will accept the award for the mayor.

A local event is proposed to announce the mayor's award. Donnie is still awaiting a response from Sadhu Johnston, assistant to the mayor for green initiatives, on this subject.

The Supreme Court refused to hear arguments against the Rio Grand Valley wall.

A local issue of importance was brought up by Joan Bruchman. A plan to widen Quentin Road through Deer Grove Forest Preserve in Palatine, the oldest forest preserve in Cook County, could require culling up to 12 acres and cutting down nearly 900 trees. Cook County Commissioner Gregg Goslin chairs a committee that gave preliminary approval this month for the \$7.5 million project by the county Highway Department. The 1.1 mile stretch of road winds through a 1,800-acre expanse of woods, wetlands, nature trails and picnic groves.

This is a highly controversial issue that even Goslin doesn't appear 100% behind. He is reported to be skeptical that a four-lane highway will pass, but he hopes that a compromise will emerge, such as left-turn lanes at forest preserve and subdivision intersections. Public hearings will be scheduled. The Friends of the Forest Preserve is taking the lead on this issue. Donnie has contacted Ben Cox of FOTFP to determine if BCN can contribute to their efforts.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38pm.

Mary Lou Mellon
Secretary