



*Bird
Conservation
Network*

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Conference Call 7:00pm--8:12pm
October 14, 2008

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

Absent: Joan Bruchman (vice president), Dick Riner (past president)

Treasurer's Report: Glenn There is \$1452 in the BCN checking account. The interest on the \$3000 CD is now paid monthly and it will yield approximately \$5.60 a month. After adding the interest already earned and that expected for the rest of the year to the amount of income not already designated for expenses, we have \$110 that BCN must spend before the end of the year to avoid being in a taxable position.

Membership Report: Mary Lou. No report.

Donnie is presenting the new Trends Analysis results to Prairie Woods Audubon in November. He hopes to convince this group to rejoin BCN.

Meetings & Events: Joan (report read by Mary Lou). The Give Back to the Birds Lost Mound Workday/Field Trip, Nov. 15, 2008, announcement has just gone out. There have been no responses as yet.

The bid to use 11 acres of Forest Preserve property in Wheeling for a hotel parking lot retention pond has been defeated. Now the village wants to clean the area up, add trails, native plants, parking and use the land to connect to trails along the Des Plaines River.

Bob: A bird monitors meeting in early 2009 is to be co-hosted by BCN and National Audubon with the purpose of determining how to go forward after the first ten years of bird censusing.

A workday at Elsen's Hill, which had been formerly under consideration for this fall, is a possibility for spring 2009.

A location for the January 17, 2009, Quarterly Meeting is needed. It was decided to ask Joan to check with Morton Arboretum and the Cantigny Museum. Sigrid will also check with Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, in Lincoln Park, and report to Joan.

Advocacy: Donnie has selected three good bird conservationists for the Advocacy Committee: Chris Williamson (COS), Randi Doecker (Birds and Buildings) and Olive Oh-Lim (Lake-Cook Audubon). The committee will focus on advocacy for local region bird-oriented issues and will handle signing BCN on for relevant national campaigns. Immediate issues are damage control on the proposed widening of Quentin Road and the national campaign for re-authorization of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act.

Re Quentin Road, Donnie has conferred with Ben Cox, executive director of Friends of the Forest Preserve. It appears that the widening is highly likely and Friends is working to limit it to three lanes.

Bob: Whalon Lake, in Will County FPD, has been opened for fishing. After hearing comments in defense of the area's numerous wintering water fowl, the FPD has agreed to close it for fishing from November 1st to April 1st.

Publicity: We are still seeking someone to head this committee, the purpose of which is to raise the profile of BCN.

Editorial: Bob. Current project is to create a policy for bridge cleaning and painting, due in draft form at the January 2009 meeting, so that the policy will be in place prior to the 2009 nesting season. Bob is being assisted by Annette Prince and Teri Radke, of Chicago Bird Collision Monitors, and Shawn Cirton from U.S Fish & Wildlife.

Monitoring & Research: Glenn. The final report on the Trends Analysis and the new PowerPoint presentation are moving along but are not yet complete. Donnie needs the PowerPoint presentation for his talk to Prairie Woods Audubon on Nov. 20th.

Miscellaneous: Bob. The initial reaction to a letter sent by BCN regarding the strained relations between the Chicago Park District and its monitors, stewards and volunteers has been positive. According to Sigrid, the letter got attention and was useful. Some thought has been given to BCN and/or Audubon acting as the host for future meetings between the stewards and the CPD.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lou Mellon
Secretary

