



***Bird
Conservation
Network***

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Highland Park, IL
Dec. 5, 2008

Present: Bob Fisher (president), Joan Bruchman (vice president), Glenn Gabanski (treasurer), Donnie Dann (advocacy), Sigrid Schmidt, Chris Van Wassenhove (via phone), Eric Secker (data analyst, webmaster), Judy Pollock (Audubon Chicago Region), Mary Lou Mellon (secretary)

Absent: Dick Riner (past president)

The meeting was brought to order by Bob Fisher at 1:07pm.

Treasurer's Report: Glenn. BCN received an unsolicited \$150 speaker's fee for Donnie's presentation at Prairie Woods Audubon in November. After having disbursed \$91 to Audubon Chicago Region for mailings and other expenses, BCN now has \$151.89 to spend to avoid having to pay taxes in 2008. It was decided to prepay BCN's 2009 memberships in Illinois Environmental Council (\$100) and Chicago Wilderness (\$50). Glenn will buy postage with the balance. New checks for BCN will be ordered for the amount of \$31 with the new Evanston address in 2009.

Nominating Committee Report: Judy. The nominating committee was comprised of Lee Ramsey, Donnie and Judy. The following slate will be presented by Lee at the January Quarterly meeting: Judy Pollock, president, for a term of one year; Joan Bruchman, vice president, to succeed as president in 2010; Glenn Gabanski, treasurer; Mary Lou Mellon, secretary, final year; Bob Fisher, past president; Donnie Dann, advocacy; and Sigrid Schmidt and Chris Van Wassenhove, continuing at large.

Membership: Donnie. Prairie Woods will rejoin after Donnie's successful presentation of the Trends Analysis at their November meeting. Donnie will get email addresses for Prairie Woods members Bridgette Schmidt, Pat Pritchard and Jenny Vogt to Glenn, so he can send them the rejoining information.

Craig D. Thompson, Regional Land Program Supervisor, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, has expressed interest in coordinating the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative conservation efforts with BCN's.

The Nature Conservancy's new trustee is Pete Fenner, president of Peoria Audubon. Pete has expressed interest in having Peoria Audubon join BCN. There are issues to consider re taking a member organization that is not in our region, though BCN's bylaws don't prohibit this.

Meeting and Events: Joan. Cantigny was contacted for hosting the next meeting but was booked for Jan. 17. Cantigny did not get back to Joan with alternate January dates. Morton Arboretum was open on the 17th but would charge a fee of \$275 to book a room. Bob feels this fee could be gotten around for a future meeting. Sigrid has booked Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, as noted in minutes of Nov. 1 meeting.

The Give Back to the Birds Workday/Field Trip at Lost Mound on November 15th was canceled primarily due to inclement weather. Judy is still waiting for a date from Elsen's Hill for the spring workday.

Bob reported that the Wild Things Conference bird track is completed and should be good.

Judy has some possible dates lined up for a monitoring vision meeting in early 2009.

A BCN table was considered and discarded for the Gull Frolic, Feb. 21, 2009. Eric and Mary Lou will work on having a new BCN brochure created to distribute on that date and/or for Wild Things. It was suggested that the President's end-of-the year accomplishments letter be on the back of the brochure, though it would have to change yearly.

Advocacy: Donnie. Advocacy isn't functioning as a committee. Donnie will continue alone as Advocacy Coordinator and he will bring in consultants on regional problems.

There is a Northbrook land swap that is under consideration that threatens the forest preserve south of Whitefield and Midway roads. Donnie has contacted Benjamin Cox of Friends of the Forest Preserve (FOTFP) to see if BCN can be of assistance in defeating this plan.

There are proposed wind farms for off Evanston (in Lake Michigan) and in Wolf Lake. Re the Evanston plan, Judy and Libby Hill, both Evanston residents, have written to the *Evanston Review* in an effort to educate the public and build a group of Evanston activists re this issue. Judy reports that an environmental impact study must be done and that in all likelihood a wind farm in the lake is a long way off. Mary Lou has forwarded an email letter on this subject written by Caleb Gordon (via Libby) to all members of ExCom. As for Wolf Lake, wind farms are prohibited near the river corridors.

Re snowmobiling at Rollins Savanna, Jim Anderson, LCFPD, sent an email specifying what areas are allowed snowmobile traffic directed by fencing and habitat signs. The local clubs have agreed to police their members about staying on the trails. Phone

numbers have been provided to report any issues: Sheriff's dispatch 847 549-5200 and Forest Preserve Operations Department 847 968-3411. Jim requests that if there are problems re snowmobiles and overwintering birds, he also be contacted (847) 968-3282.

Publicity: Joan. National Audubon is looking for local clubs to write advocacy letters for various issues. Joan will head up this effort and Donnie and Mary Lou have offered to help write the letters.

Editorial Committee: Bob. The best practice bridge-maintenance paper is still in the works. The grasslands green paper has not yet been updated. Bob raised the question of whether we want to put conservation information on our website or simply list a link to the information. Eric (webmaster) said this should be handled on an individual basis.

Monitoring and Research: Glenn. Glenn deferred to Judy and Eric, who are still working on the methodology paper for the website's Trends Analysis data. Judy reporter that John Yunger provided some additions and corrections and that the paper will soon go out to science advisors for their input. A short version of the technical report will be published in *Chicago Wilderness*.

Miscellaneous:

1. Donnie took issue with some information distributed via email to BCN reps. It is agreed that our mailings should not include anything commercial.
2. Eric has proposed a discussion forum on the BCN website, which is easily facilitated within our website's present format for no additional charge, along the lines of Illinois Birders Forum. This would probably replace BCN Net, which is little used. The idea will be proposed at the next Quarterly Meeting to see if there is enough interest to make it worth pursuing.
3. The new BCN phone number is 847 328-3910. To pick up messages, the dialer will still have to enter the extension and password. Mary Lou will send out the new phone monitor assignment chart for 2009.
4. Bob emphasized that BCN should support Flying Wild, a project of Illinois Audubon Society, which focuses on the study of birds and bird conservation in local middle schools. Facilitators need to be trained to help educators by attending a facilitator/educator workshop. The workshops are listed in the minutes of the Nov. 1, 2008 Quarterly Meeting, Appendix B.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05pm.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Lou Mellon
Secretary

