

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
Cook County Volunteer Resource Center, Chicago, IL  
March 16, 2009

Present: Judy Pollock (President) Bob Fisher (Immediate past president), Joan Bruchman (Vice President), Glenn Gabanski (Treasurer), Donnie Dann (Advocacy), Sigrid Schmidt, Chris Van Wassenhove (via phone), Bobbie Asher, Lee Ramsey

Meeting was called to order by Judy at 1:35pm.

**Site Based Assessment Program:**

It was agreed that BCN will participate in the national bird monitoring program presented by Iain Stenhouse of the Important Bird Areas Program, National Audubon Society. Judy will work up a Power Point program to present to the Forest Preserves, land stewards and landowners. Pilot programs will be offered to DuPage, Cook, Lake & Kane County and the Chicago Park District.

**Long Term Vision Meeting:**

Judy will send ExComm & bird monitors the minutes from this January 8, 2009 progress update meeting with Forest Preserve reps and land stewards. BCN will develop a better link of communication of BCN data between land stewards and monitors. Judy will seek grant money to use our database to study impacts of management activities on birds.

**BCN Census:**

Our scientific advisors suggested changing the name of the BCN Census to BCN Survey. This will be proposed at the next BCN quarterly meeting and put to a vote.

**2016 Chicago Olympics:**

There were mixed impressions from those attending the recent Bird Agenda meeting on the 2016 Olympics. Since nothing in the City's bid can be changed between now and the Oct., 2009 date of the site selection, BCN will develop a letter of conditional support for the event such as: "We support the commitment made by the 2016 Olympic Committee to protect/enhance bird habitat in the Chicago area during the preparations before and during the 2016 event." Sending this will be discussed at the next quarterly meeting on 4/11/09.

**Scope of BCN:**

Peoria Audubon will be recommended for admission as a BCN member. But this will not change the focus of BCN which is monitoring birds/conservation in NE Illinois. BCN meeting attendance by phone will be accepted to meet a quorum.

**Advocacy:**

Donnie asked everyone to contact residents of Lake County to implore them to vote no on the upcoming election referendum to extend of Rte. 53 north through Lake County.

**Grant Requests:**

Glenn will ask for \$1200 from the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund to purchase 8 GPS units, CD's and other supplies, and fund database maintenance for the BCN census (survey) monitors. BCN will contribute a matching amount of \$500.

An estimated \$440 needs to be spent by end of year to avoid taxes. It was suggested that BCN develop a fund to contribute to habitat projects.

**BCN Grant Fund Program:**

Bob volunteered to work with the newly developed Fund Raising Committee (Teri Radke, Sigrid Schmidt, Lee Ramsey and Mary Ann Harrison) to raise funds to support the suggested BCN Grant Fund Program.

**BCN Email:**

To protect the privacy of the BCN member reps, all future email will be sent BCC (blind carbon copy).

**BCN Stationery:**

BCN stationary needs to be updated. At the next meeting, 4/11/09, we will ask for a volunteer to do this.

**Elsen's Hill - 4/4/09 Give Back to the Birds:**

Even though this workday has been published on IBET 3 times & the BCN listserv once, Joan reported that only 5 people have volunteered for this upcoming workday. Joan will send the workday flyer to ExComm again. Workday flyer should be sent to all the BCN member reps again. Bob to send the flyer out to his DuPage list serve.

Meeting ended at 3:05PM.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Joan Bruchman