



Bird Conservation Network

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 27, 2009
Corner Bakery, Woodfield, 6PM

Present: Judy Pollock (president), Bob Fisher (past president), Joan Bruchman (vice president), Glenn Gabanski (treasurer), Donnie Dann (advocacy), Chris Van Wassenhove (CAS), Jenny Vogt (NAS-CW), Mary Lou Mellon (secretary)

The meeting was called to order by Judy at 6:30pm.

Advocacy

1. Olympics 2016—Bob. The cover letter to Pat Ryan, chairman and CEO of Olympics 2016, transmitting BCN's position on the 2016 Olympics is being worked on and should be ready by the end of June. The goal is to support the bird friendly aspects of the Olympics plan but to make a clear statement against certain aspects of this plan, especially the proposed tennis venue location near the Jarvis Sanctuary.
2. Bill S-690—Donnie. Donnie was instrumental in getting U.S. Senator Dick Durbin to co-sponsor Bill S-690, which reauthorizes the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act at significantly higher funding levels than before.
3. Wind Turbines—Bob. The statement written by the Evanston advocacy group is being revised as a position paper for BCN re wind turbines on Lake Michigan. It was suggested that the Army Corps of Engineers be contacted and advised of our concerns re the placement of turbines.
4. Forest Preserves Trails Committee—Judy/Jenny. The stated goals of this task force are admirable, but its influence on the Forest Preserve District is unknown. There is pressure from a mountain biking club for off-road trails for biking, which has potential for conflicts with the hoped-for serenity for people and wildlife. Jenny asked for more people to join her to help represent bird conservation views at meetings; she would like one rep from each member club. This will be brought up at the next Quarterly Meeting.
5. Creating FP habitat for Red-headed Woodpeckers—Judy. More habitat is needed for this declining species, though creating dead trees by girdling is not FP policy. Donnie suggested that BCN contact John Fitzgerald, director of Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and ask him to write a letter to Steve Bylina, FPDCC general superintendent, on the subject. Bob noted that the BCN website already contains a position paper on managing habitat for this species. Judy will follow up.

Fund Raising

1. Teri Radke will chair the new BCN fund-raising committee. She is contacting those who indicated willingness to serve.
2. BCN Monitoring Grants—Judy. Judy has applied for grants through National Audubon, listing BCN as a partner.

Meetings and Events

1. Blitz Updates—Judy/Jenny. Jenny is very organized for the Poplar Creek Blitz on June 20th. She's hoping for 30 participants to cover the huge territory, which Lee has broken down into habitats. Ten teams are hoped for. Other Blitzes may need assistance getting set up.
2. Monitors Brunch—Judy. This will probably be dropped in 2009, though it was suggested that it be held in fall or winter, so it won't conflict with monitoring. A volunteer is needed to organize it.
3. Give Back to the Birds Day—Joan. Tom Vanderpoel, restorationist at Citizens for Conservation, has requested help for seed collection at either Baker's Lake savanna or Flint Creek savanna for this fall's GBBD in September or October. Suggestions for the spring GBBD were either Spring Creek Valley or Bartel.
4. Summer Quarterly Meeting—Joan. Joan managed to get a free room for BCN at James "Pate" Phillips State Park, in Bartlett, for the meeting Saturday, July 18, from 1 to 4pm. There will be a bird walk at "Pate" Phillips starting at 10am for those who can come early. Those who are going on the walk are encouraged to bring a lunch for after the walk and before the meeting.

BCN Membership

1. A minor change in the bylaws is needed in order for us to accept Peoria Audubon as a member. Donnie will prepare this for the July 18th meeting.
2. Chris is looking for an individual to fill the CAS rep opening left by Jerry Garden's departure.

Publicity

Eric Secker has about 200 of the new BCN brochures left. People who need them should contact Eric. It was agreed that we will need to print more brochures. Donnie suggested passing them out on bird walks to attempt to recruit more monitors.

Other

BCN stationery update: The stationery requires a little tweaking so all the names of folks on the BCN board appear on the letterhead—not a full redesign. Chris will pass this information along to Skip Wolters at the CAS office, who should be able to handle this.

Chris raised the question of South Pond, where the zoo has drained the pond to get rid of all fish prior to renovation. Complaints have been made that several Wood Ducks and other duck species with babies are trapped inside. Donnie provided the names and phone numbers of John Rogner and Shawn Cirton at USF&W and Megan Reinertsen Ross, General Curator at Lincoln Park Zoo, and Judy mentioned Eric Lonsdorf, Director of the Urban Wildlife Institute, as individuals who may be able to help. Subsequent to the May 27 ExCom meeting, assurances were received from responsible people at Lincoln Park Zoo, stating the renovation of South Pond is being conducted with full oversight by various wildlife agencies, and there is no evidence that the Black-crowned Night Heron rookery has been disrupted or that waterfowl are in danger. A meeting and a site visit by BCN ExCom members and zoo personnel are now being scheduled.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lou Mellon
Secretary