



***Bird
Conservation
Network***

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 14, 2009, noon
105 W. Madison #2200, Chicago, IL

Present: Judy Pollock (president), Joan Bruchman (vice president), Glenn Gabanski (treasurer), Bob Fisher (past president), Donnie Dann (advocacy), Chris Van Wassenhove (at large), Mary Lou Mellon (secretary)

The meeting was called to order by Judy at 12:05pm.

Fund Raising

The future of the fund-raising committee will be discussed with Teri Radke, committee head. Judy will talk to her. There is not a current need to obtain grants for BCN Survey. However, donations to support bird conservation projects can always be put to good use.

The website is to be changed to indicate that BCN is interested in receiving donations but that because BCN isn't a 501(c)(3) organization donations will not be tax deductible to the donor. The new brochure is to be revised to include a request for donations, but it must be stated that they aren't deductible. The monitors newsletter will also include a request for donations to help defray the cost of the BCN Survey (once again, not deductible).

Glenn mentioned that BCN needs to spend \$774.60 before the end of 2009 in order to avoid being in a taxable position. We will spend this money on a project or projects that support birds and habitat. Several suggestions were discussed (see Advocacy items #3 and 4). Other suggestions are welcome.

BCN Executive Committee and Nominating Committee

Donnie resigned from the ExCom, citing his many years of service and time to move on. He will continue as advocacy chairman.

Bob, Suzanne Checchia and Lee Ramsey have served on the nominating committee in the past. Judy will see if they will continue in this role to slate new officers for 2010 and beyond.

BCN archives

File Transfer Protocol (FTP) would allow us to store copies of letters and emails of support and other BCN data online. The storage would be password protected and the password could be changed periodically to be sure that the storage is secure. Glenn could scan in bank documents so that the treasurer doesn't have to store hard copies of bank statements and cancelled checks.

BCN's geographical description: Predominantly northeastern Illinois.

Give Back to the Birds Day and event scheduling

Joan and Judy reported on the Sept. 12th Baker's Lake/Ron Beese Park Give Back to the Birds Day: 24 people signed up, 22 arrived. Due to the number of birders participating, we divided into two groups for the early bird walk at Ron Beese Park. Joan Bruchman's group recorded 33 species with a female scarlet tanager and a brown thrasher being the highlights. After the walk and snack, with direction from land manager Tom Vanderpohl, 20 participants began the seed collection in the oak savanna. Seeds collected were Joe Pye Weed, Penstemon, and Woodland Sunflower. They will be processed and used at this site and 4 other locations. Tom also gave the group the very interesting history of the site and a quick education on many of the wild flowers present. Despite what some of the ExCom felt was a date conflict, it ended up being a very successful outing.

Give Back to the Birds Days need to be scheduled farther in advance to avoid conflicts with other bird-related events. We will try to set the dates for 2010 by November so that member groups can get the dates published in their respective calendars. The spring 2010 GBTTBD will be at Bartel Grassland in south suburban Cook County, where we will plant plugs. Date is to be advised.

IDNR Grant from Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund (IWPF)

Glenn has purchased the 8 GPS units paid for by this grant, toward which BCN contributed \$500. The goal is to coordinate habitat information with points used by monitors. The information will be requested from monitors. An envelope-stuffing day may be held to collate the material for monitors.

Advocacy Updates

1. Donnie is eager to attend the fall BCA meeting in Washington, D.C., which has as its goal an increase in the funding for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Treaty. This conflicts with an earlier commitment to present population trends to Peoria Audubon. Lee Ramsey has generously agreed to handle the Peoria presentation.

2. Judy will be talking to Mayor Daley about bird houses and bird habitat and hopes to educate him on how to discourage nuisance species. Mary Lou suggested that Judy emphasize the success of Lights Out, Chicago! and request the Mayor's support for

other bird friendly building practices, such as lowering building lobby lights and moving trees and other greenery away from lobby windows during fall and spring migration.

3. Donnie indicated that The Nature Conservancy will intercede with the Ingram Barge Company in an effort to obtain a barge for the Common Tern colony up at Great Lakes Navel Training Center marina. Problems to be resolved involve cost of transportation of the barge to Great Lakes, which Ingram will not cover; permission from harbor master to put a barge in the harbor; and PCBs already in harbor contributing to COTE reproductive failures.

4. Diane Rosenberg, BCN rep from Lake County Audubon requested funds from BCN to help cover the cost of plugs for planting at Almond Marsh. Bob commented that this would not be a bird specific donation, though others disagreed with him. More details about this request are being developed by Lake County Audubon.

5. Joan reported that the Kane County Forest Preserve Board of Commissioners, by a vote of 9 to 1, approved the use of the maintenance road through Raceway Woods for transporting antique vehicles for a car show related to the former Meadowland Raceway, because of the historical significance of this occasion.

6. Joan also raised the issue of the Cook County Board of Commissioners voting (against their staff's recommendation) to negotiate leasing to the Village of Hinsdale 26 acres of Cook County Forest Preserve land to be used as a park. Donnie will contact Benjamin Cox of FOTFP and see if BCN can be of assistance in fighting this new effort to grab land from the forest preserves.

Retired Senior Volunteer People / IBA Assessment Judy has drawn up a list of volunteer projects for SeniorCorps and obtained some additional ideas of things that could be done by volunteers.

BCN rules and procedures

It was emphasized that each club is entitled to exactly 3 representatives. The club that wanted to have 2 reps for 1 position will be advised that that will have to be a private agreement between their reps.

Substitutes may vote at meetings provided they have followed the bylaw stipulation that they have made themselves known to the president. Proxies are not allowed for votes per the bylaws.

A sergeant at arms to assist in following *Robert's Rules of Order* at BCN meetings is not desired at this time.

Stationery Update The bobolink logo needs to be shaped up for use on the stationery. We need to get the best version of the bird from Eric or Terry. Judy will handle. The tag line on the stationery was approved for the second page of the stationery.

Brochure reprint and Eric's suggestions Eric was unable to attend the meeting. He has promised to have the brochure changes finished soon so we can order the desired reprints. Bob agreed to discuss his suggestions with him outside of meetings.

New BCN Editorial Committee is Lee Ramsey, Suzanne Checchia, Bob Fisher, Judy Pollock and Mary Lou Mellon.

2016 Olympic Update Both Joan and Judy have been named to the Nature and Green Space Committee, the goal of which is to make a baseline assessment of the sites in question before the Olympics in order to document how sites have been impacted after the Olympics.

Bob's suggestion of a BCN newsletter and the Hay farming initiative were deferred to the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05pm

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lou Mellon
Secretary