

Minutes

3/11/10 BCN Executive Committee Meeting

Attending: Joan Bruchman, Mary Lou Mellon, Glenn Gabanski, Judy Pollock, Chris Van Wassenhove, Diane Rosenberg and Bob Fisher by phone.

President Joan Bruchman called the meeting to order.

Secretary position is still open. The executive committee members will reach out to potential candidates.

Chris reported that **Birding America** was very successful, attracting between 125-150 people. They offered a student rate which brought more young people.

Wind Turbine Guidelines Advisory Committee's Recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior – We will rely on Donnie to advise us as to whether some action is needed. Judy reported that a group in Wisconsin has formed to study the issue of waterfowl use of Lake Michigan – Bill Mueller is coordinating.

There was a discussion about Donnie's role as advocacy chair now that he is no longer part of the Executive Committee. It was decided that he should continue to send letters of support on BCN's behalf for national advocacy issues, and that he should coordinate with Joan on local issues, but that in general Joan will want to sign letters about local issues. All letters should include a BCC to the executive committee. Joan is keeping a file of all letters sent.

Gull Damage Management Report/ Scott Beckerman Scott of USDA Wildlife Control would be willing to come to a meeting to give a report on last year's gull control work at Chicago beaches. No one in the room was aware of recent complaints. Joan will find out what is planned for this year, and if it seems like people might have concerns, she will invite him to the meeting.

Heron Platforms at Almond Diane Rosenberg reported that the installation of 11 heron platforms at Almond Marsh was a great success, bringing out enthusiastic volunteers and generating significant press coverage, including WTTW. WTTW subsequently has contacted Lake County Audubon and intends to produce a follow-up piece on the marsh. Wood duck boxes were also installed. Bob suggested a link on our web site to the how-to's of the project on the Lake County Audubon website, for other groups to use as a resource. He will develop a few paragraphs that we can put on our website to link to the Lake County site. Diane will talk to Lake County Audubon board members to see if anyone is interested in making their pages as instructive as they can be.

Kane County FPD Gravel Mining/ Brunner Family FP Bob chatted with both Brook MacDonald of the Conservation Foundation and Jon Duerr, formerly of Kane County FPD. There is a proposal to mine gravel from a portion of this newly acquired preserve. There are many hurdles this project would have to go through. A big one, likely a deal-

breaker, is that water from the site would end up in the Fox River, and there are pollution issues and many regulations associated with that. This proposal generated a lot of local controversy and outcry, and it seems stalled right now.

Funding for next BCN Census trends analysis Judy reported that Audubon, the BCN and the Illinois Natural History Survey/CTAP have submitted a few grants, including one to the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, to support monitoring and analysis – but haven't heard back yet. Also, we may be partnering with Point Reyes Bird Observatory on a web-based output tool for the use of entities in the Midwest that have data. Glenn will contact other potential partners in local universities to let them know that we have a large database and are willing to partner on projects. A National Geographic Conservation Trust Grant might be something a partner might want to pursue with us. Diane knows of a web site where retired people offer their services; perhaps we might find a volunteer to do the data analysis.

Contacts List We reviewed the contacts list on the website and suggested updates. Mary Lou will work with Eric to get the updates made.

Montrose/4th of July Fireworks Judy reported that the Mayor's Nature and Wildlife committee has taken a real interest in this issue. The group sent a letter expressing concerns that the location is inappropriate. Aaron Durnbaugh of the Department of the Environment is following up with the Office of Special Events to ensure that the committee can see the plans well in advance of the event. Leslie Borns and Terry Schilling have been working with the local alderman to get the venue moved. Friends of the Parks is also working on the issue. No confirmation of a new location yet. At the April 10 meeting, we will encourage clubs to write letters – Bob is drafting a sample.

Give Back to Birds Day April 24th – At the Quarterly Meeting we will ask reps to help us spread the word about this event.

BCN Monitors Lunch Recap and Future Dates - This was a very enjoyable event, organized by Joan. In the future, we might hold the event in spring. We could feature an individual monitor's site. Other ideas were Max McGraw or a visit to a wood-carver's studio.

BCN Birds of Concern Brochure compensation We will offer Eric compensation for his work on the Birds of Concern brochure, which is very, very attractive. Great work, Eric!

Bird Blitz 2010 – Judy and Karen will develop some information to get to people.

Birders' Forum BCN ad – Lee and Judy worked with Greg Neise to get an ad about BCN's activities on the Birders' Forum site. It will be there for a year. Mary Lou and Joan ask that we try to get information from people who sign up for the various activities about how they heard about it in order to gauge its effectiveness.

Legislation to Reduce Outdoor Lighting in Illinois – Mary Lou will pursue this; Diane will also bring it up with the Lake County board.

Submitted by Judy Pollock