

6/10/2010 BCN ExComm Meeting Minutes

Via Conference Call

*In attendance: Joan Bruchman, Chris Van Wassenhove, Bob Fisher, Mary Lou Mellon
Dianne Rosenberg, Glenn Gabanski, Donnie Dann and Judy Pollock*

President, Joan Bruchman, called the meeting to order at 7:02PM.

Fireworks Letter

Donnie informed the committee that a letter had been sent on 6/9, by him, as Past President of BCN, to Mayor Daley, requesting proper security measures to protect the restoration work at both Montrose and 63rd Street Beach. Mary Lou will send the letter to the BCN reps and suggest if their organizations also want to send letters that they use this letter as a guide and address their letters to Megan McDonald, at the Chicago Office of Special Events, also requesting strong security measures at the 4th of July events. Judy will supply Mary Lou with Megan's email address.

Treasurers Report – Glenn

Current checkbook balance is: \$857.52. Current CD, \$3000, is earning a small amount of interest. The CD matures on 9/8/10 when it will be cashed in to make funds easily available.

\$800 is Glenn's estimate to be spent before the end of this year to avoid paying Corporate Income Tax. (Later in the meeting it was decided to donate \$500 of this surplus to the Pullman Historical Society as matching funds for their shrub purchases.)

Save The Dunes. The only member organization not yet renewed for 2010. Glenn sent an email to current president, Deborah Chubb. If no response to the letter, Glenn will call Deborah

The Final Report and Financial Statement for the IWPF Grant was sent in on 6/10/10. A total of \$2,087 was spent. BCN spent \$685.86 of its own money with an additional \$1,200 spent that will be reimbursed by the grant, and NAS-CR contributed \$201.60 as in-kind personnel support.

Bird Conservation Alliance, Washington DC Meeting – Mary Lou

This was a fact filled meeting attended by people representing many national organizations.

The gulf oil spill was covered by Dr. Michael Fry who stated the US Federal government has handled this as well as could be expected.

Cats Indoors was covered by Steve Holmer of the BCA

A campaign is being developed to make lead ammunition illegal in the US.

The American Bird Conservancy and its partners have introduced a web site that encourages birders to find and visit ecolodges that contribute to bird conservation in the Americas.

<http://conservationbirding.org/> promotes ecological tourism in Brazil, Ecuador, Columbia and Peru.

Mary Lou will report on this DC meeting in more detail at the 7/17 Quarterly Meeting.

Wind Farms – Donnie, Bob

Donnie – ABC letter to K. Salazar, Sec. US Dept. of the Interior, should be endorsed by BCN. Mary Lou will send the ABC letter to BCN reps, asking for their organization's vote before sending a BCN sign-on.

Bob – Invite IDNR wind farm expert, Keith Shank, to Oct. BCN quarterly meeting to update BCN on Illinois wind farms. Joan will send invitation to Keith through his supervisor, Karen Miller. The invite will be sent when the Oct. meeting date is set with location, when determined, to follow.

Important Bird Areas – Judy

6/10 Spring Creek Prairie IBA dedication was a great success with about 50 people in attendance. After discussion, it was agreed that BCN should support/ take part in all local IBA dedications, perhaps tying in future IBA dedication events with Give back to Bird Days.

Judy has been working with the Pullman Historical Society in developing the Johnson Birding Oasis, a wildlife/birding area near Harborside Golf Course. ExComm unanimously voted to donate \$500 towards purchasing shrubs for this project. Pullman State Historic Site (PSHS) confirmed the match of the BCN donation. The Chicago Department of environment's Greencorps Chicago-Calumet crew will do the installation. The Johnson Bird Oasis is a joint program of Bronzeville Black Chicagoan Historical Society (the community partner) and the PSHS. It is named after the couple who bought and fills the feeders!!

Victory at Indian Ridge – Joan

Walter Marcisz's thank you letter for support from BCN for the Indian Ridge Marsh Ecological Restoration Project was read and will be distributed to the ExComm members. Walter and Carolyn Marsh were successful in getting a proposed trail that would have threatened nesting Black-crowned Night-Herons removed. If Walter or Carolyn are not able to attend the BCN 7/17 Quarterly Meeting to update BCN on this project, Walter's letter, with his permission, will be forwarded to the BCN reps.

Chicago Park District Border Collie Project – Joan

Joan met with Cathy Brientbach of the CPD. Due to cost measures, the Border Collies will be used at only 2 beaches, 63rd and 57th Street, during beach season only, the Friday before Memorial Day through Labor Day. 7/3 & 4 will not be covered.

63rd Street beach will be covered from dawn to dusk. 57th Street Beach will be covered only 3 hours per day.

Cathy said the collie handlers are trained in shorebird ID and would avoid any contact with them when seen. The handlers are also told to keep the dogs out of the restoration areas.

BCN needs a history of shorebird use at these beaches to be able to assess the impact the dog patrols would have on the birds. Judy will help Joan find volunteers to monitor shorebird use at these beaches.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:02pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Joan Bruchman

