



BIRD CONSERVATION NETWORK

www.bcnbirds.org

BCN ExComm Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 20, 2011, 8:03pm-9:28 PM
Teleconference

Attendees: Joan Bruchman, Matthew Cvetas, Bob Fisher, Glenn Gabanski, Mary Lou Mellon, Judy Pollock, Diane Rosenberg, Chris VanWassenhove

President Joan Bruchman called the meeting to order at 8:03pm. A roll call was taken and a quorum was established with 7 ExComm members present. An 8th ExComm member joined midway through the meeting.

Agenda:

1. Treasurer's Report, Glenn Gabanski:

Finances:

Checkbook balance as of 6/20/11 is \$4,311.75. Known expenses remaining this year total \$327.40. No further income is expected.

Membership:

One individual member, Leslie Borns, has still not renewed. Multiple notices have been sent with no response. After June 30, her membership will lapse and Glenn will inform her by email.

Currently, membership stands at 18 organizations and 4 (probably soon to be 3) individuals.

Update on 501(c)(3) status:

On May 13, 2011, the IRS sent BCN a letter granting us 501(c)(3) status. Interestingly, the effective date of exemption is February 2, 1999, the date BCN was incorporated, and not the date of the IRS letter. This suggests we could apply for refunds of taxes paid in previous years. However, after contacting the IRS, we are told there is a three-year statute of limitations on filing amended returns. The last year BCN paid income tax was 2006. Thus, we cannot apply for a refund of any taxes.

We have received donations in the past years from individuals and organizations and these donations are now tax deductible. The treasurer will contact these individuals and organizations to alert them to the change.

On June 9, 2011, Glenn filed papers to register BCN as a not-for-profit with the Illinois Attorney General's Office. In the future, BCN will file annual reports to this office and not the Illinois Department of Revenue.

On June 15, 2011, Glenn sent a letter and required documents to the Illinois Department of Revenue requesting an Exempt (E) number so that BCN will not have to pay Illinois sales tax.

2. Updating the BCN letterhead, Glenn Gabanski:

Glenn suggested the BCN letterhead be updated to include Matthew Cvetas as BCN Secretary. Bob Fisher confirmed that the BCN letterhead was in fact up-to-date and did not need to be edited. Mary Lou Mellon also pointed out that the Web site required updates including:

- Adding Matthew Cvetas as BCN Secretary
- Removing *Save the Dunes* from BCN's membership list
- Indicating that BCN is now a 501(c)(3)

Matthew Cvetas agreed to communicate Web site updates to Eric Secker.

3. Consideration of reprinting the BCN brochure, Mary Lou Mellon:

Mary Lou pointed out that the BCN brochure also does not accurately reflect BCN's status as a 501(c)(3). She suggested that Eric Secker create a sticker that could be affixed to the current brochure to indicate this. Matthew agreed to contact Eric to see how many brochures remained in his control. At which point, it could be determined if it is cost-effective to print the sticker or reprint new brochures altogether.

4. 2011 Blitz Expenses – Joan

The expenses for the blitz came to less than \$300 - \$200 for food, \$68 for printing, plus additional expenses for repellent, office supplies, and postage. Bob suggested ExComm authorize the reimbursement. Glenn moved we make the payment. Joan will ask Lee to forward all receipts to Glenn for reimbursement and suggested that in the future an itemized estimate be submitted prior to an event such as this.

5. Great Lakes NTC IBA dedication ceremony and report on the tern colony - Joan for Donnie

On April 21, 2011, the Great Lakes Naval Center hosted a dedication ceremony where Judy Pollock, representing National Audubon Society, presented the Important Bird Area (IBA) designation and plaque to the Navy. The Navy had cooperated extensively on this multi-year project to manage the only Common Tern nesting site in Illinois, recently making several improvements to ensure the future success of the colony. Judy, Joan Bruchman, and Donnie Dann were also present for the ceremony.

6. Guatemala fundraising idea – Judy

Judy reintroduced BCN to Rob Cahill's work, Community Cloud Forest Conservation (Cloudforestconservation.org), which strives to alleviate poverty and protect cloud forests in Guatemala through education and reforestation.

Judy suggested that BCN partner with CCFC as a way to energize its own fundraising efforts, offering a birding/fundraising trip to Guatemala. Bob reiterated that Donnie Dann had emphasized at the Quarterly Meeting that supporting the American Bird Conservancy, who focuses its efforts in many countries in Central and South America, might make more sense than supporting an individual effort in one country.

Judy offered to contact those representatives who were originally on a BCN fundraising committee and try to brainstorm this and other fundraising efforts.

7. 2012 Blitz – Judy

Judy introduced BCN to Dale Crusoe, who did his PHD work on Red-headed Woodpeckers some time ago. Lee Ramsey, Dale and Judy have been talking about how we might engage in a study of Red-headed Woodpeckers. Their idea for the 2012 Bird Blitz is to study habitat and population trends of Red-headed Woodpeckers. Mary Lou expressed some concern about a blitz that focuses on a single species. Matthew suggested that the blitz could feature Red-headed Woodpeckers as a target species but have the observers also record all other birds seen during the blitz.

8. Fishing line container project report – Mary Lou

Mary Lou reported that the lids on the fishing line containers at Cook County Forest Preserves are working. So far this season, no dead birds have been found in the containers at the 13 lakes being monitored weekly or biweekly by the 7 monitors. The Forest Preserve has been both cooperative and responsive to needs and concerns of the monitors. Judy suggested that we send a letter to Superintendent Randall expressing our appreciation.

9. Camp Sagawau window collision meeting with FP Sup. Randall follow-up – Joan

Joan reported that Superintendent Randall had turned the issue of window collisions at Camp Sagawau over to the Planning and Development Department. They contacted the glass company suggested by BCN and found that it was too costly to replace the glass. In addition, they did not think glass replacement would actually change the overall reflective properties of the structure. Instead, they plan to put up netting in the next few months similar to that used by the Chicago Botanic Gardens.

10. Status of the Great Lakes Offshore Wind Project paper – Judy

Judy reported that no work had been done on this issue.

11. BCN involvement in CW Trap Neuter and Release (TNR) campaign – Judy

Judy reported that Chicago Wilderness plans to do a scientific paper on the negative aspects of TNR programs. Judy suggested that we try to put a program together to reach out to municipalities to try to influence legislation and ordinances against TNR programs. She will look

for volunteers to put such a program together. Mary Lou suggested that we explore the excellent materials on the American Bird Conservancy Web site.

12. Fall 2011 Give Back to Birds Day – Joan

The Fall 2011 Give Back to Birds Day is scheduled for October 8, 2011 at 9am preceded by a bird walk at 7am led by Geoff and Chris Williamson. Those volunteering would be provided parking passes. Mary Lou mentioned that this is Yom Kippur and all agreed to look for an alternate date.

13. Report on Spring 2011 Nachusa Give Back to Birds Day- Joan

The Spring 2011 Give Back to Birds Day was at Nachusa Grasslands in Franklin Grove, Lee County. It included a tour of a woodland area, seeding, and invasive species removal. This was followed by lunch with the volunteers. All in all it was an extremely successful event.

14. Bird Monitors Outing and Lunch, 9-Jul-2011 – Joan

The Bird Monitors Outing and Lunch is scheduled for July 9, 2011. Lee Ramsey will be leading a bird walk at Schaumburg Road Grassland beginning at 8:00am. After the bird walk, at noon monitors will gather at Spring Valley Nature Center/Sanctuary for lunch. So far, there are 27 reservations. Joan will research food options for a buffet. She estimated approximately \$6/person.

15. Other

A suggestion was made to send an email to representatives letting them know their membership dues are now tax deductible. Matthew agreed to draft and send the letter.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Cvetas
Secretary, BCN