



# BIRD CONSERVATION NETWORK

[www.bcnbirds.org](http://www.bcnbirds.org)

## **BCN Executive Meeting Minutes** Saturday, January 3, 2012, 8:04-9:13PM Teleconference

Attendees: Chris VanWassenhove, Mary Lou Mellon, Joan Bruchman, Matthew Cvetas, Judy Pollock, and Glen Gabanski

President Joan Bruchman called the meeting to order at 8:04pm.

### **Treasurer's Report - Glenn Gabanski**

BCN finished 2011 with income of \$1,574.40 and expenses of \$1,916.02, resulting in a net loss of \$341.62. Much of this loss is due to the \$440 in various un-budgeted application fees we paid to apply for 501(c)(3) status. BCN ended the year with a checkbook balance of \$3,613.43.

Membership renewal notices are being prepared and will be sent to all reps and individual members before the January 14 meeting.

A draft of the 2012 budget was distributed prior to the meeting and comments and suggestions were invited. After discussion two changes were made. It was agreed that BCN should pay Eric Secker something for being our webmaster. An honorarium of \$100 was suggested and Joan will check with Eric to see if this is appropriate. It was also decided that the Monitor Brunch is a very important part of our monitoring program and should get its own line item in the budget. For 2012 BCN will budget \$350 for the brunch.

Glenn pointed out that for several years BCN has been spending all of its dues income to support the existing activities and programs, and that additional revenue through donations and/or grants will be needed to fund any growth in our monitoring program or any future analyses of the monitoring data.

### **Bird Habitat Opportunities at Millennium Reserve – Judy Pollock**

Judy sent out a letter to targeted individuals asking for suggestions of places in the Calumet region that could use a “migratory makeover.” The makeovers will be funded by a Bird Treaty Grant, which includes \$20K that can be spent on up to 10 sites. Judy also plans to send this same letter out to all BCN representatives.

### **Office Nominations – Judy Pollock**

Judy reported that after one year, Matthew Cvetas would be stepping down as Secretary and from the Executive Committee. Chris VanWassenhove has agreed to take over as Secretary. Judy and the nominating committee, which includes Donnie Dann and Bob Fisher, have identified a few candidates for the Executive Committee. They are looking for candidates who also would be willing to take a leadership position with BCN in the future. There was some discussion whether having three at large members on the committee was too many, but all agreed it was not.

### **Starved Rock Mining Project – Mary Lou Mellon**

On December 15, 2011, the LaSalle County Zoning Board voted unanimously to recommend giving Mississippi Sand, LLC a special use permit to mine directly adjacent to Starved Rock State Park. The location of this proposed mine threatens Starved Rock State Park, contradicts the county's priorities for preserving natural areas and farmland and jeopardizes one of the County's primary economic engines.

The proposal is scheduled to be heard by the full county board on January 12, 2012 in Ottawa to make decision on project. Mary Lou suggested BCN write a letter to the LaSalle County Zoning Board, asking that they reject the application for a special case permit. In addition, Matthew Cvetas agreed to forward a pre-formatted letter from Tom Clay of IAS to all BCN members, asking that they sign it and send it to the board.

### **O'Brien Lock & Dam CPD Firing Range – Joan Bruchman**

Carolyn Marsh sent a good explanation to many interested parties to oppose the firing range. Matthew Cvetas agreed to forward the email to all BCN members, stating that the BCN endorses this call to action. Judy Pollock stated that she had sent this out to people in the Calumet area and suggested getting a hard hitting investigative reporter to make the topic public.

### **BCN Web site Contact Page Update - Joan**

Carolyn Marsh pointed out that the contact page of BCN Web site had Donnie listed as an ExCom member when he is not. Joan suggested that we take Donnie off the ExCom list and create a new section listing him as Advocacy Chair. In this same section, Lee Ramsey could be listed as BCN Survey Chair. Joan agreed to work on the changes, get approval, and send them to Eric Secker for implementation.

### **Grant for BCN Data Analysis – Mary Lou Mellon**

Mary Lou Mellon introduced the Sound Approach Bird Fund as the grant identified by Bob Fisher to potentially fund BCN's data analysis. The fund offers up to \$10K BGP to bird conservation projects around the world. In order to pursue it, BCN must send an email to the

fund and request an application. Once the application is received, a decision would be made within two months. Mary Lou asked for some assistance with drafting that email and Judy Pollock agreed to help.

### **2012 Spring Give Back to Birds Day – Judy Pollock**

Judy reported that BCN is still waiting for Lee Witkowski and Midewin to respond whether a spring work day would be possible. Judy also mentioned that a conservation property in Pembroke Township, recently purchased by Mary Ann Hahn, might be another potential site. Matthew Cvetas stated that the Illinois Young Birders may be able to assist in a fall project.

### **2012 Monitors Brunch – Joan Bruchman**

Joan reported that the Monitor's Brunch will be held on May 14, 2012. The day will begin with a bird walk at Waterfall Glen. Bob suggested going to Argon, but it was found to be too expensive. Lee and Joan will continue to scout possible locations for the brunch. Mary Lou suggested the board volunteer to offset the cost of the food by bringing homemade dishes to the brunch. All thought this was a good idea.

Judy will check to see if the information can be included in the April version of the Habitat Herald, which already goes to all monitors. This will allow us to save on postage.

### **Other**

Pipes to save birds – Judy Pollock sent out a message concerning birds going into methane pipes and dying. Mary Lou Mellon suggested we work with the Lake County Forest Preserve to get covers on their fishing line receptacles. Joan Bruchman says this is something we should look into. Mary Lou will send a note to the rest of ExCom.

Matthew Cvetas agreed to send out an announcement for the next meeting with last meeting minutes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Cvetas

Secretary, BCN