

# BCN Executive Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 2, 2013, 8:05-8:50PM

Teleconference

Attendees: Joan Bruchman, Glenn Gabanski, Mary Lou Mellon, Bobbi Asher, Suzanne Checchia, Chris Van Wassenhove

## 1. BCN Grant Application – Mary Lou Mellon

- With the help of Glenn Gabanski and Judy Pollock, Mary Lou completed and submitted a BCN application for the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund (IWPF) Grant. This grant is funded via the optional conservation check-off on Illinois tax forms.
- The funds will be used to revise the Birds of Concern brochure with our new data.
- The status of BCN's application will not be known until July 31, 2013.

## 2. Trends Analysis Update – Glenn Gabanski

- Heather Secker completed an updated analysis patterned after the work Eric Secker had completed in previous years for this project. Judy Pollock is not sure that the correct data was used for the analysis. Judy and Eric will determine if the results can be used or if the work needs to be redone.
- Glenn's committee will work with them to resolve the issue.

## 3. Fundraising Meeting with the Kaiser Group – Suzanne Checchia

- Suzanne, Mary Lou Mellon and Lee Ramsey met with Mary Kaiser, President of Kaiser Group Inc. to discuss possible strategies for fundraising. While the Kaiser Group works with larger non-profits, such as the World Wildlife Fund US, the Field Museum, Center for Neighborhood Technology and Friends of the Forest Preserves, Cook County, Mary is willing to share ideas for increasing the effectiveness of future BCN fundraising projects.
- Mary suggested we research the application process for a number of foundations known to make grants to environmental projects.
- Mary also suggested we utilize our network to develop ideas/contacts and consider ways to raise additional funds within our constituency. She lauded our effort along these lines with our successful Redstart Connection Campaign.

## 4. ExCom Quorum Bylaws Amendment – Mary Lou

- The current language states "A quorum of the Executive Committee shall consist of either of the two: President, and Vice-President, plus one other committee member." Terry Schilling, an individual member of BCN who wrote the bylaws, has suggested that this wording is unclear and Mary Lou pointed out that the number required for a quorum is too small.
- The following rewrite is suggested: "A quorum of the Executive Committee shall consist of 3 members. One of the 3 must be either the President, or the Vice-President, if the President is not available."

- This will be presented for discussion at the April 20th meeting.
5. Orland Grassland Bike Path - Mary Lou
    - With Bob Fisher's editorial and strategic assistance Mary Lou has written to both David Kircher, chief landscape architect for CCFPD, and to CCFPD Superintendent Arnold Randall to express BCN's concern over the alignment of the planned circum-grassland bike path, which would separate nesting wildlife from the wetland areas in several important parts of the 1000-acre grassland. Both men have responded courteously but noncommittally. This is a work in progress.
  6. TNR Motion – Mary Lou Mellon
    - Donnie Dann would like BCN to vote on a motion at the next meeting in April that “The Bird Conservation Network opposes Trap Neuter Return (TNR) as a method to limit the impact of free-roaming cats on native wildlife”.
    - BCN formerly approved Cats Indoors and opposition to TNR is an adjunct to that approval.
  7. Sponsor Young Birder at Field Museum Meeting – Glenn
    - The BCN ExCom voted unanimously to sponsor a young birder at the 2013 joint meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union and Cooper Ornithological Society hosted by the Field Museum at a cost of \$130. The student must be of high school age.
    - Glenn Gabanski suggested that BCN specify that the student be selected from the Chicago Wilderness area and it was suggested that the student present a report to BCN subsequent to the meeting, if possible.
    - Glenn will contact Nick Block, who is helping to organize this event, to see if BCN can specifically recommend an individual. The criteria for student selection have not yet been finalized.
    - Someone from the Illinois Young Birders Club may be a good candidate.
    - Once the criteria have been set for selection, BCN may consider hosting a second student.
  8. County TNR Meeting Update – Mary Lou
    - Donnie Dann and Judy Pollock attended a hearing to review Cook County's 2007 Managed Care of Feral Cats Ordinance on March 19, 2013. Jill Niland also attended the hearing.
    - A follow up letter was sent on behalf of BCN (cosigned by Audubon Chicago Region) to County Board President Preckwinkle and all the Commissioners, stating our opposition to the County's TNR ordinance (in effect since 2007) and in response to the Board hearing held on the TNR ordinance on March 19. This will be on the agenda for the April 20th Quarterly Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Van Wassenhove  
At Large Member - BCN ExCom