

BCN ExCom Minutes

Thursday, July 25, 7pm

Teleconference

Attendees: Joan Bruchman, Suzanne Checchia, Glenn Gabanski, Mary Lou Mellon, Nancy Tikalsky

1. Consideration of developing a protocol for protecting Montrose Magic Hedge and the dunes area during events being held at Montrose.

- a. Protection probably should include fencing of the relevant areas and guards to reinforce-- particularly during events that feature alcohol.
- b. Consult with stewards Leslie Borns and David Painter re what has worked in the past.
- c. Montrose Park Supervisor Sandy Olson should also be consulted.
- d. Birders' access to Magic Hedge and dunes area during events is an issue to be worked on.
- e. Nancy suggested that we ask for volunteers at Saturday's meeting to make up a committee to pursue these issues. City people would be a priority on this committee but it is not restricted to city reps, as birders from all over use Montrose and are affected by access issues.

2. Give Back to Birds Day at Emiquon, late September.

- a. Thought to be a good idea, but it hinges on how heavy the work will be. 3000 one-gallon plugs is fairly daunting.
- b. We will need to promote significantly to be sure to have a good turnout. Emiquon has strong appeal as a destination for GBBD. TNC will do guided walk and/or presentation on Emiquon.
- c. Hopefully we'll have more from Joe soon.

3. West Ridge Nature Preserve renovation.

- a. COS has written a position paper that we can support
- b. The Parks Advisory Council has approached CAS for support on their position re dredging the pond. Suzanne wondered if BCN might get involved.
- c. Nancy thinks that BCN can hold off getting into the fray until the direction things are going is clarified.

4. IDNR Grant for Revised Birds of Concern brochure has been awarded to BCN. We will receive \$1100. Grant agreement papers have been filled out by Mary Lou (with Glenn's valuable assistance) and returned to Springfield.

5. Watershed Management Ordinance to Protect People and Wildlife from Stormwater (Cook County). Donnie has sent a letter of support from BCN. It was recommended that Openlands' email on issue be distributed to reps prior to Saturday's meeting, recommending support for the ordinance and attendance at remaining meetings. (done immediately after meeting).

6. Open Houses for Forest Preserve Improvements at 4 key sites. Nancy attended the Miller Meadow meeting this evening. Eric and Ethan Gyllenhaal, monitors, attended on behalf of BCN. Over 46 people were registered. Plans are posted online at <http://fpdcc.com/siteplans>

for those who couldn't attend the open houses. All comments should be emailed to Kindy Kruller by July 31st at Kindy.kruller@cookcountyil.gov

7. **Adam Schwerner, director of Department of Natural Resources, CPD**, has accepted our invitation to speak at the Oct. 19th BCN meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Submitted by
Mary Lou Mellon
President and Acting Secretary