

FINAL MINUTES

Bird Conservation Network Meeting October 13, 2018 Northerly Island Visitor Center, Chicago, IL

Attendees: Bobbi Asher (CAS), Mary Bernat (TCA), Suzanne Checchia (ENSBC), Sonny Cohen (Lake-Cook), Stephen Constantelos (CAS), Donnie Dann (TNC), Dean Engel (Lake-Cook), Glenn Gabanski (DBC), Nat Miller (AGL), Tom Mulcahy (DBC), Glenn Perricone (DBC), Judy Pollock (IOS), Annette Prince (CBCM), Diane Rosenberg (LCA), Terry Schilling (Individual), Nancy Tikalsky (COS), Christine Williamson (COS), Ted Wolff (IOS) **Guests:** None

QUARTERLY MEETING

Introductions

Administration

The meeting was brought to order by President Terry Schilling at 1:17 pm and a quorum was established.

Approval of July 21, 2018 BCN meeting minutes

Motion: Bird Conservation Network approves the minutes of the July 21, 2018 meeting.

Moved: Pollock

Second: Rosenberg

Action: Passed

Treasurer's Report – Glenn Gabanski

2018 Income:

Dues: \$2,070.00

Donations: \$620.88 \$500 given by Jeff and Arlene Koziol; rest from three on-line donations and a check from Donate Well.

Total: \$2,690.88

2018 Expenses:

State fees: \$10.00

Dues to other organizations: \$200.00

New checks: \$49.85

Postage: \$14.05

Conference calls: \$48.17

Monitor Brunch \$155.93

Awards/Prizes/Donations \$50.00

Total: \$528.00

Net Income: \$2,162.88

Checkbook balance as of 10/13/18: \$9,140.50

Funds Balance as of 10/13/18: \$6,115.50. This is the BCN balance after subtracting the Trends Analysis Reserve Fund Balance of \$2,000 and known budgeted expenses not yet paid.

Membership Report – Glenn Gabanski

Membership remains at 21 Organization and 2 Individual memberships.

Glenn also announced that after 15 years of service as Treasurer he will retire at the end of this term and not seek reelection. He mentioned his willingness to help the new person in this role as best he can.

Addition of new BCN Survey Coordinator, Tim Balassie, as new at-large member or representative of a member organization – Terry Schilling

Tim Balassie was added as an at-large member by unanimous vote. Whether Tim will remain an at-large member or if he will represent an organization will be determined later.

Advocacy/Conservation Issues

Report from Advocacy Chair Donnie Dann

Since the previous meeting, July 21, 2018, BCN has advocated the following. Remember, we all must be advocates, whenever possible, signing petitions, contacting legislators, and otherwise speaking up for birds. Most importantly, meet face to face with your State Rep, your State Senator and your Congressman/person and get to know him/her. If possible, I'll be happy to accompany you.

- Signed on to TNC's and ABC's letters in support of strong conservation provisions in the pending farm bill.
- Met with Brad Semel, Susie Schreiber, Emma England, Steve Byers, and Don Wilson re the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Action Plan. I'll send comments on Waukegan Beach to the EPA, per this email link [GLRI ACTION PLAN III@EPA.GOV](mailto:GLRI_ACTION_PLAN_III@EPA.GOV).

BCN Discussion: There is an ordinances link with various master plans. Here are a couple of useful links:

<https://www.epa.gov/great-lakes-funding/great-lakes-restoration-initiative-glri>

<https://www.epa.gov/great-lakes-funding>

Miller explained there is an RFP opportunity for a partner organization to hold an easement or help manage the site. Reps present agreed this is something we as the BCN can offer support for. Common Tern and Piping Plover nesting is just one issue of many of interest to the BCN. Rosenberg said Lake Co Audubon is working on the easement issue.

****Schilling suggested we mention the Waukegan Beach issue on the BCN website.**

- Signed on to the letter supporting the Senate version of the Sodsaver bill.
- Wrote to the developer of the proposed Lincoln Yards development, encouraging bird-friendly construction.

- Joined the coalition comment letter (led by Openlands) re the “On to 2050” plan to oppose including anything resembling the Illiniana Tollway or the extension of Rt 53.
- Signed on to the Field Museum’s letter to the EPA opposing the administration’s NPRM plan that would prohibit using critical **scientific** studies to protect lives and protecting NEPA.
- Joined the Center for Biological Diversity, NRDC, Defenders of Wildlife, and Earthjustice in signing 3 separate letters opposing each of 3 regulatory proposals attacking the Endangered Species Act.
- Again joined ABC in urging passage of the Federal Bird-Safe Buildings Act.
- Bob Fisher and Donnie have been representing the BCN for the IL Enviro Council’s (IEC) executive committee. They participated in the Environmental Executive Report of the IEC to the gubernatorial aspirants. Contact Donnie and he will make sure you get a copy or simply follow this link:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1W1ve1VF0H9s3_9PzW1sPgQwvQoQkJHzY3X6fpE6J9U/edit
 Wolff also agreed to represent BCN to the IEC for similar efforts pertinent to the city of Chicago.

Respectfully,
 Donnie Dann
 Past President and Advocacy Chair
 Bird Conservation Network / www.bcnbirds.org
donniebird@me.com

Projects & Initiatives

Lake County Audubon Society working with both Waukegan and Libertyville to have both cities issue proclamations designating 2018 Year of the Bird – Diane Rosenberg (documents on file)

National Audubon has been helping the LCA work with municipalities and Waukegan became the first city in Illinois to declare 2018 the Year of the Bird. Libertyville also did so. Emma England sent a paper on how important Waukegan was for conservation and the city’s publicity person took it up. England spoke in front of 70+ people, the mayor was happy, the city council was there, etc. Follow-up events were asked for and the LCA provided four. Again, it has been easy to partner with national organizations that offer guidance and provide materials.

****Tikalsky** suggested re-approaching Waukegan about Important Bird Area status now that there is a new mayor.

****Rosenberg** said there are opportunities for BCN member orgs to help in Waukegan to train stewards/monitors, create information booklets, be mentors/counselors, and offer bilingual assistance.

****Pollock** has been involved in Clark Street Beach stewardship and offers her advice and help.

Release of Audubon Great Lakes' inaugural Chicago Wilderness State of the Grasslands report – Nat Miller (document on file)

Release date is Nov 1. BCN has contributed to this and AGL hopes to update it every other year or so. Land managers/counties are the target for the report, which presents species profiles, management ideas, and maps of which counties are managing what and how they are doing it.

**Miller will provide a digital copy when it's finalized.

**Cohen found the document accessible and would love to see it broader distribution on our website and of course any member organizations can do the same.

**Pollock and Miller agreed to collaborate about use of BCN data further investigate the effects of management practices on bird populations.

BCN Conference Update – Terry Schilling

With no scientific bird conferences in the near future for IL and IN, and no bird conservation conferences really at all, there is space for the BCN. Our focus: research and best practices on what it takes to help birds survive. Target date: 2019/2020.

The above issues/activities speak to relevant conference subjects. Grassland bird expert, Jim Herkert, for example, could be a keynote speaker.

Why are we doing this? To make the BCN more well-known and to further our educational and scientific mission. Goal of 300+ people to attend a one-day (at least) conference. Target speakers: ornithologists and those working with ornithologists in the Midwest to publicize and share their research knowledge.

**Schilling suggests it may be time to put out a request for papers and investigate some venues.

Williamson brought up the need for an advocacy track too, which was well-received.

Cohen asked about the audience for this conference, suggesting creating personas of those who might attend. Ornithologists, the general public, land managers, policy makers, and private landowners were all floated as possible attendees. Miller and Rosenberg said focusing on attracting one or two of those groups seems best.

Website Re-Designs – Terry Schilling

Long-term goals were discussed between Schilling and Eric Secker and will be presented at a later time. A complete site re-design is too expensive for now. Automating data bookkeeping is a major item on the table.

A shorter-term goal: more responsive pages for the mobile phone web-browsing age we are in. Schilling asked the group for a go-ahead to get a quote from Secker on revamping 8 to 10 of the more public-facing pages. Reps present agreed.

Schilling has also registered three new domains to get search ranking increase, including birdconservation.network which has the virtue of being our name and containing spelled-out, relevant words.

**Mulcahy suggested updating the website more often to enable timely consideration of and voting on advocacy issues. Tikalsky added that 501(c)(3) is about issues not

candidates and we can post whatever information we want to as long as it's not backing a specific candidate for office.

Chicago Bird-Friendly Design Ordinance (presentation) – Ted Wolff, Annette Prince (documents on file)

Chicago Bird Collision Monitors (CBCM) was formed as a grass-roots initiative and is now a project with Chicago Audubon Society (CAS). CBCM has worked downtown and throughout the Chicago area over the past 15 years to monitor collisions, educate, advocate, raise awareness, advance light reduction, and work on mitigation projects with residents, building managers, and owners. In collaboration with CAS's conservation committee, CBCM proposed that a joint effort be formed to propose a bird-friendly building ordinance for Chicago. San Francisco, Minneapolis, Toronto, and Cook County have varying levels of bird-friendly building initiatives. CAS organized members of the Chicago birding community who could support and be stakeholders in such an ordinance.

That committee, now called Bird Friendly Chicago, has members from Chicago Audubon Society, Chicago Bird Collision Monitors, and Chicago Ornithological Society. They have developed a set of FAQs regarding the need for a bird-friendly design ordinance. These outline the causes, justifications and solutions that can lead to a safer urban environment for birds in Chicago. Ted Wolff's presentation shows follows those FAQs that will be used to introduce this proposal. We are asking organizations—both BCN and its member groups—to sign onto a declaration of support as we go forward in introducing this ordinance. Anyone within these organizations who can lend their support with strategies for advancing the adoption of this bird-friendly design ordinance can reach us through Chicago Audubon Society— Annette Prince or Judy Pollock or the Bird Friendly Chicago website.

A “Declaration of Support for a Chicago Bird-Friendly Design Ordinance” will soon be sent to reps.

Wolff made a fascinating and well-argued presentation and the reps in attendance provided some feedback. Discussion afterwards centered around Chicago's opportunity to be a leader and efforts to work with the Rahm Emanuel, the prospective mayors, and the eventual new mayor.

Motion: BCN and its member orgs will support this initiative.

Moved: Williamson

Second: Group

Action: Passed

Other Items

Establishment of this year's Nominating Committee – Terry Schilling, Nancy Tikalsky

**Mary Bernat and Diane Rosenberg volunteer to be the committee this year.

Proposed amendments to the BCN bylaws: Discussion and Voting – Terry Schilling

Proposed amendments to Articles III and VII were read out and voted upon. The relevant sections are pasted below. *Deleted language is noted by having the text in red with strikeout and a highlight of yellow. New language is in bold text with a green highlight.*

ARTICLE III – MEETINGS

Section 4. Individual Members and representatives of Organizational Affiliates have the right to cast one vote upon any motion relating to the annual budget, election of officers, policy platform, or amendment of these bylaws or any other matter of interest to BCN. Cumulatively, therefore, each Organizational Affiliate shall have up to three votes. Proxy voting is not permitted. However, organizations may send substitutes to replace regular representatives at meetings upon notice to the President **or the Secretary**.

Motion: Approval of the amendment

Moved: Tikalsky

Second: Pollock

Action: Passed

ARTICLE VII – FISCAL POLICIES

Section 7. Disbursements of funds of ~~the Council~~ **BCN** shall be by check issued by the Treasurer in the manner determined by BCN. Vouchers, receipts, statements or other evidence of purchase or obligation shall be a necessary condition of the issuing and signing of any check. Any expense over \$100 must be approved by the Executive Committee, and reported at the next regular meeting of BCN. **For convenience, electronic transactions, and services used to implement them, are permitted, including credit card and electronic transaction services such as PayPal. Any credit card transaction must be initiated by the President, Vice-President, or Treasurer.**

Motion: Approval of the amendment

Moved: Williamson

Second: Rosenberg

Action: Passed

Proposed amendments to Articles II, IV, and V will be discussed, amended, and voted on at the next quarterly meeting. Texts of these can be found in previous emails from the Secretary and as an appendix to the July 21 meeting minutes:

http://www.bcnbirds.org/BCNdocuments_files/BCNminutes180721.pdf

Next Meeting

January 26, 2019 – location tbd

Adjourn

Motion: Bird Conservation Network approves adjournment.

Moved: Pollock

Second: Gabanski

Action: Passed