

BCN Executive Committee Meeting

August 23 & September 4, 2019

Teleconference

August 23, 2019

In attendance: Terry Schilling, Sonny Cohen, Charlotte Pavelka, Steve Constantelos

Not attending: Bobbi Asher, Emma England, Vera Leopold, Tom Mulcahy

Terry Schilling called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm.

Hanson Material Service land use issue. Lee Witkowski, BCN rep from Will County Audubon, asked the organization to weigh in on Hanson's proposed moving of 6 acres of prairie. All agreed that BCN should comment on this issue, disagreeing with the proposed action, but let local Lockport conservation organization, CARE, continue to take the spearhead efforts.

Cohen looked at CARE's email, the public notice, and relevant laws, and drafted a comment, couching it in terms of the proposed action's violation of section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Schilling added some thoughts and questions we could consider adding to our comment or any communication we have with CARE: What chance does this moving of 6 acres have of being successful? How will Hanson permanently protect these areas? Should CARE request a public hearing? Cohen and Schilling will revise the letter and submit comment directly to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Chicago District. Constantelos offered to proof any draft before submitting.

Motion: Approve Cohen's draft letter as revised with the proper detail.

Moved: Cohen

Second: Pavelka

Action: Passed

We then decided to adjourn to re-convene on September 4, 2019.

Motion: ExCom approves adjournment.

Moved: Constantelos

Second: Pavelka

Action: Passed

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

September 4, 2019

In attendance: Terry Schilling, Sonny Cohen, Charlotte Pavelka, Steve Constantelos, Vera Leopold

Not attending: Bobbi Asher, Emma England, Tom Mulcahy

Terry Schilling called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

Nominating Committee procedure. ExCom discussed Diane Rosenberg's detailed proposal for establishing a three-person Nominating Committee and the procedure it would follow. Although we won't be able to implement the plan in full this year, Leopold and Pavelka suggested we use the proposal as a guideline for this year and use as much of it as we can. All agreed this could help establish a process we could carry forward into subsequent years, perhaps one day codifying it in the bylaws.

Schilling will consult with Rosenberg and consider possible candidates for the Nominating Committee to get the ball rolling and try to create the committee before the 10/5/19 quarterly meeting.

Data analysis plan. Since the April meeting's plan to create a plan was unveiled, Judy Pollock has reached out to potential members of an action team and a science advisors team: we now have a short list of people for each. Cohen plans on finalizing both teams by the end of the year and moving into action in 2020.

BCN website. Cohen will get in touch with those who volunteered for this committee and have something to report by 10/5 quarterly meeting. The committee will likely start with small fixes to the website and then move on to a total re-design.

Action alert/email notification system. We have a good group of people who find potential action items, but only one person who can implement the email notifications. Cohen would like to eliminate this weakness in the system by training one or two additional people to create the email notifications. Constantelos will add this to the agenda for the 10/5 quarterly meeting.

Future priorities: BCN planning and goal setting. Pavelka suggested BCN, as a group, consider what our priorities are so we have a vision of what we want to accomplish, and get more feedback from member organizations to see where they'd like to focus. This could be in the form of small group brainstorming discussions at a quarterly meeting, possibly followed up by a Survey Monkey poll.

All agreed it was a great idea, especially in light that BCN is now 20 years old. Pavelka will consider how to carry this out and make an announcement at the October meeting, likely implementing something at the January meeting. Constantelos will add this to the agenda for the 10/5 quarterly meeting.

Motion: ExCom approves adjournment.

Moved: Leopold

Second: Pavelka

Action: Passed

Schilling thanked everyone for attending and the meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Constantelos

BCN Secretary