

BCN Executive Committee Meeting

October 12, 2020

Online Video Conference

In attendance: Sonny Cohen, Matt Igleski, Charlotte Pavelka, Steve Constantelos, Tim Balassie, Tom Mulcahy, Vera Leopold (will view via video recording)

Sonny Cohen called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Monitoring program. Cohen and Balassie shared that there are about 245 people on a mailing list that did, might, or are doing some kind of monitoring/study, BCN or otherwise. Some of what is being monitored is not being monitored by BCN protocols, etc. Balassie is working on getting a better list of actual monitors following our practices, plus total sites being monitored, and is working with county coordinators like Pavelka and Judy Pollock.

Trends analysis. Cohen reports that we have a finalized contract with Valerie Steen (<https://valeriesteen.wixsite.com/valeriesteen>). It should be a three-month project once she gets the data from BCN. Igleski and Balassie confirm that most of the data has been collected for 2020, and are working with DuPage County and Cornell now especially; we are close to getting Steen the data she needs, likely by the end of this month. Balassie and Pollock will continue to work to get as much data as we can from all parties.

Rollout. Cohen says that once the trends analysis is done, there is a presentation component we'll contract out for the website and subsequent outreach. Rollout will continue to develop organically and input is welcome.

Wild Things is February 2021, and Bob Fisher and Igleski have submitted an abstract for a potential talk at that event, just so we have a place secured for sharing trends analysis or, if necessary, another topic.

Marnie Baker is a steward at Orland Grassland and is doing a rapid color guide and would like to use our data.

Trends analysis fundraising. Mary Bernat alerted Cohen that Thorn Creek Audubon has a grant application for \$500 that is due on October 15. Cohen will complete this application. We have also received over \$900 in donations, including \$300 from Lake County Audubon. BCN member organizations will be asked to help. Our rough funding goal is \$6,000.

BCN activism. Back in January, Donnie Dann was communicating to a Lake County Board commissioner, and recently the Public Works, Planning and Transportation Committee was presented a bird-friendly design program by its own staff thanks to Dann and this

commissioner. Maybe this can be shared as a process to other counties and municipalities in our area so we can leverage successful practices; the same goes for other achievements of our member organizations, like Lake County Audubon's work with the city of Waukegan. An activity for 2021/2022.

Nominating Committee for 2021. Will be on the agenda for Saturday's meeting.

BCN meeting agenda. The next meeting will be on October 17 at 1 pm, via Zoom. Topics will include the survey and trends analysis, trends analysis fundraising ideas, advocacy updates, and the establishment of the Nominating Committee.

Cohen thanked everyone for attending and the meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Constantelos
BCN Secretary