

Bird Conservation Network

BCN ExCom Meeting Minutes

December 3, 2007, Giordano's, Westchester

Attendees: Dick Riner (president), Joan Bruchman (vice-president), Glenn Gabanski (treasurer), Donnie Dann (past president), Bob Fisher (past president), Mary Lou Mellon (secretary)

1. Bird Agenda: Dick. Joyce Coffee will do a presentation on the Bird Agenda at the next BCN quarterly meeting.

2. Next General Meeting: Dick. The next meeting will be January 19, 2008, at the Center for Green Technology, 445 Sacramento Blvd., Chicago, IL, from 1-4. There will be a guided tour of the center at 10:30am. Tour participants will be encouraged to bring a sack lunch.

3. Minutes from the November 3, 2007, Quarterly Meeting: Mary Lou. Approved.

4. Financial Status: Glenn. The costs for the alderman mailing were \$100.51, paid to Mary Lou, which puts BCN in the red for 2007 by approximately \$100. When our webmaster renewed the domain name we learned that the annual cost of the BCN website will rise from \$85 to \$98. The webmaster is also to be paid \$80 for maintenance of the E-Bird database, when the work is completed.

5. Website Issues: All. The website needs revising. Mary Lou will be the liaison between BCN and our webmaster to get new material posted. The news section of the website is not "news" presently. Joan Bruchman has agreed to be in charge of updating the pictures and articles with current bird conservation information.

6. Raptor Corridor Support: Dick. BCN has already sent a letter of BCN support for Kittatinny Ridge, a globally significant migratory flyway conservation area, which is under pressure of development and further fragmentation. We have been asked to have our member clubs/organizations to also write letters of support. Dick will bring this up at the January 19th meeting.

7. Nature Conservancy meeting in northwest Indiana: Dick attended a meeting in Merrillville of people from the Nature Conservancy, as well as representatives from Chicago Wilderness, National Audubon, and BCN. The purpose is to identify suitable stopover habitat (using GIS) and encourage shore restoration on behalf of waterfowl and shorebirds as well as land birds.

8. Deer Culling Green Paper: Bob. The paper is complete and has been distributed to all member clubs / organizations. It will be voted upon at the BCN January Quarterly Meeting. Once approved it is to be released to the press and distributed to the top elected officials involved in natural areas land management in the counties that comprise the BCN area. Mary Lou and Bob will work on building the mailing list /data base.

9. New Member Criteria Questionnaire: Donnie attended a meeting of the Chicago Wilderness and brought a sample of the questionnaire that members applying to join Chicago Wilderness fill out. BCN might consider something similar to this for future applicants. It was commented that BCN already has most of the possible members in the fold.

10. Grassland Green Paper: Bob. This is a work in progress.

11. End of Year Letter from President: Dick will put together a summary of BCN's efforts and accomplishments for 2007 and it will be distributed with Glenn's invoices to member organizations for the coming year. Mary Lou provided the Action Issue summary. The letter should be posted on the website.

12. Cats: Cook, Lake Counties and Chicago: Donnie has consulted with Steve Packard re the ordinance passed in Cook County allowing for feral cat Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR) colonies. He is now researching the issue nationwide. The hope is to somehow modify or limit the new ordinance to reduce the impact of these colonies.. Judy Pollock plans to re-apply for a grant to fund the hiring of an outreach coordinator for a Cats Indoors campaign.

13. Equestrian Olympics Location. Dick reported that DuPage County has been endorsed as the preferred site for the Olympic equestrian venue. Bob will check this out with Brent Manning.

14. Snowmobiling at Rollins Savannah. Donnie consulted Jim Anderson about BCN's concern that snowmobiling activity will damage habitat and drive away the Short-eared Owls known to frequent Rollins in the winter. Anderson recommended that good science and a lot of support will be needed to defeat this issue. The question of whether the birds stay around when there is enough snow for snowmobiling was raised. We want to stay on this issue and it is being researched.

15. Prairie Woods: Dick. Donnie recommended contacting Brian Herner and Joan suggested Pat Prichard and Jenny Vogt as people who might assist in bringing this group back to BCN.

16. Lost Mound Playday: Bob and Judy Pollock are members of Friends of Lost Mound and Bob reported that the political problems at LM are significant. Nonetheless it was felt that this is a good activity for BCN to pursue. Dick and Joan agreed to work together on this project. Dick will check with Judy Pollock about how to proceed.

Submitted by
Mary Lou Mellon
Secretary