



Bird Conservation Network

BCN ExCom Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 3, 2008, Giordano's, Westchester

Attendees: Joan Bruchman, Glenn Gabanski, Mary Lou Mellon, Donnie Dann, Bob Fisher, Judy Pollock, Suzanne Checchia, Annette Prince. Absent: Dick Riner

1. Minutes of the December 3, 2007, ExCom meeting: Mary Lou Mellon, Secretary. The minutes were approved as written and have been posted on the BCN website.

2. Treasurer's Report: Glenn Gabanski, Treasurer. It is anticipated that after collecting all dues BCN will have approximately \$400 to \$500 to disburse in 2008 to avoid showing a profit.

3. Report of Nominating Committee: Judy Pollock. The Nominating Committee, comprised of Suzanne Checchia, Lee Ramsey, Bob Fisher and Judy, is pleased to announce that Past President Bob Fisher has consented to serve as President for the remainder of 2008.

The committee made two additional recommendations: The first is that the Executive Committee adds two or three people. The purpose is to encourage and groom new people for leadership positions in BCN. A list of possible people was presented and will be further examined. Also it is felt that BCN needs to develop future goals as well as a plan for what BCN expects of its leaders. Bob recommended holding strategy sessions in addition to ExCom meetings to develop those goals.

4. BCN Census Analysis: Glenn. There is to be a conference call Monday afternoon between Eric Secker, Judy, Dr. John Yunger and Glenn to discuss changes to the BCN website, issuance of a report on the new data and an updated PowerPoint presentation.

5. iSpace: Donnie Dann. iSpace is bogged down in Springfield. No progress to report.

6. Cook County Feral Cat Colony Law: Donnie. Funding for a Cats Indoors advocate is proving difficult to find. ABC is looking for funding for outdoor enclosures to confine feral cats to be cared for by volunteers. Brown fields have been suggested as locations, but contaminated sites are not considered a valid option. Other lands are being sought.

7. Rollins Savanna Update: Joan Bruchman, Acting President; Donnie. There is to be a meeting that will address the acceptability of snowmobiling at this preserve on April 3, 2008. It is hoped that it will be well attended by bird conservationists and other interest groups, such as hikers and plant people. Presently snowmobiling is prohibited in the southwest corner of the preserve and on the ComEd easements.

8. Lost Mound Field Trip/Workday Update, April 12, 2008: Joan. A number of organizations have added our workday/field trip outing to their spring field trip lists. Joan has received 9 RSVPs. Joan will post reminders on IBET as we get closer to the date.

9. Prairie Woods Update: Joan. Jennie Vogt and others are continuing to work on getting this club to rejoin. Tabled.

10. Will County Audubon: Bob Fisher. Will County Audubon will rejoin BCN.

11. Bartel Expansion: Judy. A letter from BCN supporting the expansion of Bartel was faxed by Judy. The expansion passed the board with no opposition.

12. BCN Participation: Donnie. BCN must limit its efforts to important issues on which it can have influence.

13. Flying WILD: Donnie. This is a program sponsored by the Council for Environmental Education, which endeavors to introduce bird conservation education to grade school kids (K-12) through classroom activities and environmental stewardship.

14. ABC Bird Collision Campaign Manager: Mary Lou. American Bird Conservancy has hired the highly qualified Karen Cotton to join its Conservation Advocacy team. She will work primarily on bird-safe architecture and landscape design and other bird strike issues. Joan suggested that Annette Prince of the Chicago Bird Collision Monitors be the BCN liaison with Cotton.

15: Other: Annette Prince, Director, Chicago Bird Collision Monitors. CBCM will become a project of the Chicago Audubon Society. It was determined that a CBCM will remain a separate entity for BCN.

Glenn. The Ordinance Against Open Burning has been resurrected. Mary Lou will resend the letter sent last fall to the additional aldermen that Judy Pollock recommends.

Suzanne Checchia. Suzanne presented samples of business-type cards listing BCN's website that could be handed out in an effort to promote the BCN website. It was proposed that 1000 cards be printed and handed out to the board and member reps for distribution. It was suggested that IBET postings be made from time to time about what's new on the BCN website. "No sightings" would have to be included in the title.

Bob. Wind turbine farms are proliferating in the Midwest and throughout the country. The Wind Energy Association is adamant that they not be regulated. Obviously bird conservation advocates strongly disagree. Donnie checked with ABC and that national organization is fighting for regulation.

Bob also pointed out that the literature that Sarah Beazley (City of Chicago DOE) presented at the January 19th BCN Quarterly Meeting (including the *Habitat Guide for Chicago Land Owners: Enhancing Your Property for the Birds*) is excellent material and the content can be used by other governmental bodies.

Submitted by

Mary Lou Mellon
Secretary