

MINUTES OF BLUE GOOSE ALLIANCE 2002 ANNUAL MEETING
W SUITES HOTEL, NEWARK, CALIFORNIA
OCTOBER 19 & 20, 2002

The meeting was called to order by President Noreen Clough at 9:00 a.m. The agenda was reviewed and approved.

Florence LaRiviere and Joe Mazzoni provided logistics, Hotel Info, etc.

It was noted that minutes of the Second Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, Florida on November 18 & 19, 2001, had been approved by sending them electronically to all Board members soon after the meeting. Several special and emergency electronic meetings were called in 2002, to conduct Alliance business. A policy for Electronic Meetings & Voting Procedures was presented and discussed. Jim Hubert made the motion, seconded by Florence, to:

MOTION: Adopt the Electronic Meetings & Voting Procedures policy as presented. See Attachment 1.

VOTE: All voted in favor.

Only seven (7) members of the Board were present. Eight (8) members are required for a quorum. Thus, formal motions/actions taken at this meeting will be presented to all members of the Board, in accordance with Sec. 6.4 and 6.6 of the by-laws. Minutes of this meeting will be sent via U.S. Postal Service to all Board members. A yes vote from two-thirds of the full Board will approve and validate ALL motions/actions at this meeting.

Board members in attendance were:

Noreen Clough, President

John Martin, Vice-President

Jim Hubert

Florence LaRiviere

John Doebel

Don Redfearn

Phil Morgan

In addition, we were pleased to have Working Group members Robert Fields and Joe Mazzoni present. They contributed greatly to the discussions, and accepted assignments for outreach efforts during the coming year. We encourage more members to attend our annual meetings.

Noreen presented the Treasurer's Report for John Eadie. It was read and approved. The ending balance on October 8, 2002 was \$9,184.99. Noreen also presented Board Members present with a copy of the resolutions required of the BGA, by the bank in Georgia where our funds are deposited. See Attachment 2. This is a formality to satisfy the bank that agents designated by BGA have the authority to expend funds from the Account. The list of resolutions was approved by voice vote. A brief discussion addressed the benefits when members claim reimbursement for travel and then send a donation back to BGA for a like, or greater amount (exchanging checks!). Noreen will post a form on e-mail for use in claiming expenses.

Old Business

John Oberheu had to cancel his travel plans at the last minute, and was unable to attend the meeting. His report on National Wildlife Federation Conservation Directory, and Building a file of Refuge administration issues, will have to be presented in another manner.

Suggestions for minor changes to the by-laws soon got bogged down when it became obvious it would take more in depth study and time than was available. Bob Fields will review the by-laws and make recommendations.

The reports on the Action Plan developed at Jacksonville indicated substantial effort and considerable

success by the central core of our Working Group. A review of the accomplishments provides the breadth of the effort ---- Development of the Rationale Paper, a Web Page for BGA, a slick Brochure, and a Corporate Profile. Submitted Grant Applications to two Foundations. Made follow-up contacts on letters of support from two NWF affiliates, met with key Senators and Congressional people or their staff from Florida, Louisiana, Utah, Nevada, Connecticut, North Carolina, Georgia, Maryland, and California. Sent letters to all Senators and Congressional delegation or their staff from Alaska. Sent letters to, or met with staff of Ducks Unlimited, Wilderness Society, Audubon, NRDC, NWRA and Safari International. Maintained contact and worked with several Friends groups across the Nation, including the many representatives at the first ever Friends Conference in Washington, DC. Recruited first member to the BGA Honorary Board (Nathaniel Reed, former Asst. Secretary of Interior for Fish, Wildlife and Parks - Mr. Reed has already contacted several Congressmen/Senators, individuals in power positions in NGOs and other individuals, seeking support for BGA). Sent individual letters to all members of the Centennial Commission, expressing our support and seeking dialog on how to obtain agency status for Refuges. Distributed packets of information (planting seeds) to key people with politicians and various environmental groups (including the many groups in the San Francisco Bay area). BGA had special articles printed in newspapers, a radio interview with HCN, and Defenders of Wildlife interviewed President Noreen for an article. Prepared groundwork for participation at "Everglades Day" celebration of Audubon Society of the Everglades, at Loxahatchee NWR in Feb. 2003. Made initial overtures to be included in the CARE group of NGOs.

New Business

There was consensus that we had too many items on the 2002 Action Plan, with too few people to get the jobs done with required follow through. The coming year, the Year of the National Wildlife Refuge System, will be approached with a narrowing of issues and a narrowing of focus on those issues. This does not mean unforeseen opportunities will be ignored. Bill Reffalt offered us (presented by Don) an analysis of several scenarios likely to affect whatever is planned, but dependent mostly on the outcome of the November elections, the potential for war, and a worsening economy. Though we cannot develop a response to so many ifs, it behooves us to certainly be aware of the most likely events. The effect of September 11, 2001, Homeland Security, and corporate failures bears witness to how rapidly national issues can change and how they will affect our efforts. Rather than develop a formal Action Plan per se, several issues were identified which require an adjustment of approach, i.e., case studies, grant funding, finding Congressional Champions, etc., and individuals were assigned responsibilities to follow through on these issues.

Issues

Numerical priorities were not established, but four issues seemed to have priority over others at this time.

a) Introduction of legislation - It was proposed that Florence approach her many contacts in the Bay area to determine if one or more might be interested in sponsoring and introducing an Amendment to the 1997 Refuge Improvement Act, which would establish a National Wildlife Refuge Service. The goal will be to have the Amendment introduced, specifically, on March 14, 2003. Florence agreed to do that, if she could be supplied a draft. Jim Hubert will work with John O. and Bill Reffalt to send a draft of both an Act and an Amendment to Florence.

b) NGO recruitment - Even though Audubon and NRDC have given unequivocal written support to our Mission, they have yet to step forward and offer coordinated planning, funds, or public support. Noreen will intensify the effort with these two organizations. John Doebel will contact Defender's of Wildlife and exhort their support. Joe Mazzoni agreed to talk with Jamie Clark at the National Wildlife Federation to seek their support. A strategy for approaching the Wilderness Society has yet to be developed. Nat Reed has approached the NWRA, but a more definitive approach needs to be developed and pursued. It was agreed that BGA should be member of the CARE group. John Martin, Bob Fields, and Joe Mazzoni will approach NWRA to assist in our becoming a member of that group. As a member of CARE, we would have direct contact with other NGOs open to us.

c) Funding - Our efforts to obtain grants thus far demands an assessment of how much we want, and for what. A degree of our failure may be due to the status of the economy. Many Foundations have a greatly reduced fund base from which to work. It was agreed we seek smaller grants for outreach, education, or perhaps studies. It was also suggested that Mike Finley of Turner Foundation be contacted for a model of a good grant proposal, which could be helpful for preparing grants.

d) Friends - The discussion on naming a group to coordinate outreach to Friends groups elicited some concern from Joe and Bob. They felt a BGA effort could cause some confusion with Friends groups, since NWRA is trying to formalize a structure for groups around the nation. They were assured BGA is interested in naming a coordinating group (Friends) from within BGA to make them aware of, and to extend the constituency of, BGA. Phil offered a motion, seconded by Jim, as follows:

MOTION: To develop a group from within BGA to coordinate outreach to all Friends groups to make them aware of BGA.

VOTE: All in favor

Other issues that could be expected to benefit BGA efforts, but would not necessarily take precedence over those named above are as follows:

e) Promises Document - John Doebel pointed out the Case Studies can be noteworthy on individual Refuges, but are difficult to identify, quantify, apply throughout the System, and then state in few words how they have hampered the management of all Refuges. Much the same can be said for the Study of the Studies. John proposed that a better approach would be to use, 'Fulfilling the Promises' document. It would be simple enough to state the Promise, and then explain/demonstrate why, or how, it has become an 'Unfulfilled Promise.' John will work on this issue and use it to sound out a lobbyist friend as to its promise (no pun intended).

f) Honorary Board Recruitment - Bob Valentine has agreed to become the second Honorary Board member. Noreen reported on a meeting with Nat Reed. He has been busy meeting with, or contacting individuals, to determine their attitude toward the BGA mission. Spencer Smith agreed. The Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks stated it was not a good time and could be harmful to FWS. Greenwalt is against. Nat will set up meetings with John Dingell, Bob Graham, Porter Goss, Wayne Gilchrist and others. Nat is of the opinion that goals to achieve in the next 18 months should be set, and then make serious assessment if, or how, to continue.

Other individuals to be sounded out about Honorary Board, and who will make the contact, are Bob Putz (John Doebel), Don Edwards (Florence), Theodore Roosevelt IV (Noreen through Nat Reed), T. Boone Pickens (John M. through Larry Ditto), and Jim Range (Noreen). This effort, while it could prove fruitful, is not considered to be as crucial as the preceding issues. Without identifying who is responsible, there is to be a follow-up with NRDC and Audubon to have an official from each organization named an honorary member.

Other Items

Plans for getting more brochures, who will attend to help, etc., is ongoing for "Everglades Day" at Loxahatchee NWR. Don made a motion, seconded by John D. to:

MOTION: Approach Nat Reed to speak at this meeting on behalf of BGA efforts.

VOTE: Passed.

Several members will be in attendance at the Friends Conference in Washington, D.C.

John Eadie should set up an account at the bank, which will allow an automatic withdrawal/payment each month for Les' account with Homestead.

We viewed a couple of excellent, short movies, at the dinner with Florence's group on Saturday evening. This sparked the thought of how a 4-5 minute video making comparisons with facilities on Refuges with other agencies (i.e. NPS) or of significant issues not being addressed by FWS on selected Refuges. It could be an ideal way to get the attention of those who need to be convinced why Refuges should be an agency. There was not time to explore the possibilities, but perhaps all members of the Working Group who read these minutes will be inspired to come up with some ideas.

Les could not make the meeting, but he submitted an annual Communications Report. Les does not receive the recognition due for his contributions to BGA. Without Les and his computer skills we would not be a viable organization. Thanks from all, Les.

As always, there are those who take on the thankless job of making arrangements for our Annual

Meetings. Thanks goes to Joe for his work on accommodations, and especially to Florence for all the extra-curricular activities she arranged that make these meetings special.

The Nominating Committee submitted its recommended slate of nominees. All Officers and Board Members whose term ended with this meeting were nominated to remain in office. Florence made a motion, seconded by Phil to:

MOTION: Accept the nominees by acclamation.

VOTE: All in favor

Officers and Board members elected are:

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Board members</u>
Noreen Clough - President	Les Beaty
John Martin - Vice-President	Ed Crozier
Evelyn Redfearn - Secretary	John Doebel
John Eadie - Treasurer	Phil Morgan
	Don Redfearn

It has been difficult for the last couple of years to get a good turnout for the annual meeting. The opinion is that the fall period is not a good time because of the many conflicts with hunting, fishing, and less sundry happenings. It was decided that January is a time with less conflicts, particularly if the meeting can be held in a more central location (East v. West). The by-laws say there shall be an annual meeting every year. Therefore, the next annual meeting will be held in March 2003, in conjunction with the Centennial celebration at Pelican Island NWR, Florida. A date of January 24-25, 2004, with the tentative location being in the vicinity of Santa Ana NWR, Texas was then selected as time and place to establish a time sequence more compatible with our widely distributed membership.

There being no more business, John Martin made a motion, seconded by Florence, to:

MOTION: To adjourn - time 3:15 p.m.

VOTE: All in favor

Respectfully Submitted by:

/s/ _____
Don Redfearn, Volunteer Minutes Taker
October 30, 2002

Minutes of 2002 Annual Meeting: Attachment 1

Blue Goose Alliance ELECTRONIC MEETINGS & VOTING PROCEDURES

The bylaws of the Blue Goose Alliance describe the procedures to be followed for meetings and voting in Section 6. Since Members of the Board are separated by vast distances, formal meetings are difficult and expensive to arrange. Board Members and the Working Group are constantly in contact via e-mail. Thus, when an issue is recognized as needing Board action, it is logical to hold a regular meeting using electronic means. The following outline provides the procedures to be followed during such events, and does not deviate from provisions found in the bylaws.

1. Electronic Meetings-The BGA-WG is a forum open to all members of the working group via the internet. Each member is encouraged to participate in all discussions, debates, and deliberations, and is urged to submit ideas and information via the BGA-WG website.

2. Electronic Voting-

(A) Only Board Members can vote.

(B) A Member of the Board may make a motion at any time. Upon a Second to the motion, the president will call for discussion, and will limit discussion to a time period of not less than 3 days nor more than 7 days. At close of debate the president will present the motion and call for a vote, and will announce the

time for voting to close. (7 days maximum)

(C)1-If the president determines that a proposal/question is of the magnitude to require full board participation or approval, the president may, by following the procedures outlined above call for a vote on a specific question. OR

2-If time constraints require a vote be taken without allowing the normal time for the discussion and voting process, the president may call an for an "emergency vote." Those Board Members who VOTE, waive the right to request more time for discussion.

(D) In all cases, the total number of votes, whether they be YES, NO, or ABSTAIN, will determine whether a quorum is present. Section 6.4 At any duly convened meeting of the BOD, half of the Directors must be present to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business....

(E) Any Board Member not voting will be considered absent from the meeting

(F) If enough votes are received to meet the quorum requirement, business can be conducted as per Section 6.5 At any BOD meeting having a quorum present, the affirmative vote of a majority present shall be necessary and sufficient to adopt a decision, except those specific decisions that under these bylaws require otherwise....

(G) At the close of the voting period, the president will tally the votes and announce the results, and the secretary will record the proposition and the results of the voting.

Approved _____

Date _____

#####