

Blue Goose Alliance
2003 Annual Meeting
Sebastian, Florida
March 16, 2003

Present:

Harold Benson
Noreen Clough*
John Doebel*
John Eadie*
Tom Early*
Bob Fields
June Fields

Ron Fowler
Charlene Hardy
Clay Hardy
John Martin*
Karen Morgan
Phil Morgan*
John Oberheu*

Evelyn Redfearn*
Ginny Smith
Larry Smith
Ann White
Joe White*

*BOARD MEMBER

The meeting was called to order by President Noreen Clough at 9:00am.
Quorum Present

Welcome by Noreen.
Introductions.
Logistics

Reading of the minutes of the last meeting was dispensed with, as they were approved earlier by email.

John Eadie gave the Treasurer's Report: Balance as of March 14, 2003: \$5,992.89

The \$1,000 check for dues in CARE has not been cashed.

Phil Morgan made a motion: to accept the Treasurers Report as read.

There was a second- motion passed by voice vote.

The December donation appeal by letter from Noreen yielded over \$800.

John Martin complimented Noreen and Phil (and others) on all the outreach programs/exhibits/handouts etc.

Reports:

Noreen reported on Congressional Contacts, including those already made, those pending and those proposed. She reported that Congressional contacts have picked up considerably, and that more and more members are willing to expand our grassroots efforts to get the word to their senators and congressperson.

According to Mike Daulton there are very few copies of Audubon's *Hidden Lands* brochures left. Noreen will have that brochure duplicated. The duplicates will be mostly in black and white

and will not have the impact of those in color. So if any of the members have some full color ones, they are encouraged to use them judiciously.

John Doebel expressed concern that BGA members who visit Congressional Delegates are unable to cite examples of specific problems with refuges. This prompted much discussion. The bottom line being each visit requires a tailored agenda. In some cases, specific problems, in others nationwide generic problems, and Clay Hardy described the situation of some Congressional Delegates who are more swayed by the number of constituents who support an action than by the merit of the action itself.

Phil Morgan reported on the *Republicans for Environment Protection*. An article is currently being drafted for inclusion in their publication *The Green Elephant*.

John Oberheu reported that the booth at Loxahatchee was successful. There was much interest shown and some important contacts made.

Old Business:

Funding was discussed. A few proposals and sources were considered. (in addition to Ed Crozier's grant proposals)

Noreen reported that **CARE** is holding our check for dues and that there has been no action since she and Arlene Wolff went to the CARE meeting.

Ron Fowler presented the requirements for inclusion in the **Combined Federal Campaign**. To be able to comply with the requirements:

- John Doebel and Clay will check on fees for an audit by CPA.
- John Oberheu offered to compile annual activities (Oct 1 through Sep 30), by state, if and when we decide to go ahead with our application. We have already compiled a state-by-state report on such activities for the past year.
- John Eadie will buy a software accounting program that will be keep records adequate for the financial requirement. With this the above information at hand the decision to join or not can be made at a later date.
- Ron will help with the application if we decide to join.

Bob Fields is continuing to work on the **bylaws**.

New Business:

Honorary Board

The name Honorary Board no longer seems to properly describe the function of that board. John Doebel made the motion:

To change the name of the *Honorary Board* to the *Advisory Board*.

There was a second. The motion passed by voice vote.

Wording in the original policy stated that Honorary Board Nominees will be approved by the *Executive Board*. It should read *Executive Committee*.

Phil made the motion:

To correct the wording of the Policy to read “Executive Committee”. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

More members are needed for the Advisory Board, and we will continue searching for qualified, willing individuals.

There was discussion of how many Advisory Board members we should have. To hasten the discussion to a conclusion, John Oberheu made a motion:

To limit the number of Advisory Board member to ten (10). It was seconded. Further discussion favored having an open-ended membership limit. Motion failed by voice vote.

Board of Directors

Phil made the motion:

To expand the number of Board Members and that Arlene Wolff be invited to fill the new position. Seconded- motion passed by voice vote. Noreen will contact Arlene.

Planning/Strategy/Assignments

Don Redfearn and Clay Hardy will co-chair a committee to develop and implement strategy for contacting, educating, and working with “**Friends**” groups

Phil Morgan, Bob Fields, John Martin, Noreen, John Oberheu, and Ron Fowler have each committed to contacting/educating specific **NGOs** and seeking their support for the Blue Goose mission.

John Martin requested that EVERY member of the Alliance write their **Congressional Delegates** to keep them aware of the BGA and its goals.

John Oberheu is preparing charts of (1) the present organizational structure of the FWS, (2) the position NWRS would have as a separate agency within Interior (3) and a diagram showing FWS without NWRS. He will make it available to be used as a visual aid/educational tool for outreach programs.

John Doebel will track and report on the tasks/activities that various members have committed their effort.

Publicity remains an opportunistic affair. Phil and Ron will make an effort to obtain some professional advice on how to get more national publicity. John Eadie encouraged everyone to get local publicity (small town newspapers, organization newsletters etc.)

Education/Outreach:

Efforts will be made to have booths at some wildlife/birding festivals etc. John Martin will get lists and locations of some.

Phil Morgan will get estimates for professional displays and cases.

Clay Hardy will make a shipping case for our current display.

Funding was discussed under old business. All foundations are cutting back on their grants. New sources under consideration included personal appeals to wealthy individuals.

The 2004 Annual Meeting will be held on January 24-25 on the Texas Gulf Coast. John Martin will announce exact location and other details as plans become firm.

Noreen appointed Joe White and Tom Early to the Nominating Committee for 2004 elections of board members.

Phil made the motion to adjourn-seconded.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted:

/s/ _____

Evelyn Redfearn

Secretary

Approved Noreen Clough (by email)