

Blue Goose Alliance
2004 Annual Meeting
South Padre Island, Texas
January 24, 2004

Members of the BOD present:

Les Beaty	Phil Morgan
Ed Crozier	Don Redfearn
John Oberheu	Evelyn Redfearn
John Martin	Bill Reffalt

One guest also attended the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Vice President (acting president) John Martin at 8:30 a.m. A quorum was present.

Welcome and agenda review by John Martin.

Phil Morgan displayed the plaque thanking Noreen for her contributions as president of the BGA. It will be presented to her with our deepest appreciation. Thank you-Noreen.

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

John Martin gave the **treasurers report** for John Eadie. As of Dec. 29, 2003 there was a balance of \$7,397.91 in the treasury. Phil Morgan asked that the record reflect the Board's appreciation of John Eadie's work as BGA Treasurer---one of the several thankless tasks carried out by individual members.

OLD BUSINESS and REPORTS:

John Oberheu has compiled a list of accomplishments during the past year. Together with information from John Doebel this was published as an **annual report** in the BGA Bulletin #35.

An annual report is one of the requirements for listing in the **Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)** register. A few other requirements include: proof of activities in at least 15 different states, an annual audit, and filing a Form 990 with the IRS. A benefactor has offered to supply us with the software program "Quick Books", an accounting program that provides records adequate to satisfy CFC requirements as well as those of the IRS. Bill Reffalt will notify Treasurer John Eadie of this offer. It was agreed that the BGA is not presently mature enough to apply for inclusion, but that we should continue tracking those requirements with an eye to applying in two years time.

Phil Morgan reported that the **tabletop display** has been upgraded at a cost of \$375. A second one would cost \$600 to \$700. In conjunction with this report John Martin reported on the **festival plan**. The display was used at a few festivals and there are definite plans for a few more, but there has not been a major thrust, and so one display is all that is needed for the present. We will continue to have a presence at those festivals on an opportunistic basis. Phil reported that our supply of printed materials is adequate with the exception of the one sheet IT'S ABOUT TIME bullet statements. It was agreed that we should reprint this document and add our web site at the bottom which Phil will do.

John Martin reported that the President of the BGA is expected to receive an invitation to the **National Centennial Conference**.

Ed Crozier, after careful screening of the foundations, has submitted numerous **grant applications**, none of which have been successful. However, Bill pointed out that very few applicants are successful on the first try and that the original contact was very important. All the hard work Ed has done making that first contact puts us in a better position for a second try. Some personal contacts will be made in an effort to gain more notice from individual foundations.

Bill Reffalt is monitoring events at the **National Bison Range (NBR)**. Negotiations with the Consolidated Salish/Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) are continuing, but there doesn't seem to be much progress. The Annual Funding Agreement (AFA) between Council of Athabaskan Tribal Governments (CATG) and **Yukon Flats NWR** is nearing the comment period and BGA will continue tracking both agreements and take such action as deemed necessary.

Don Redfearn reported on getting "**Friends**" **group support**. A database containing the names of all the groups with their names, contacts, addresses and other information has been set up. Using that database Les was able to subscribe approximately 50 additional "Friends" groups to the BGA Bulletin. Most of those Friends having an email address are now receiving the BGA Bulletin. The point was made that "Friends" groups and their individual members are a potential source for recruiting new affiliates.

Les Beaty reported on **communications**. He sees too much traffic on the BOARD-BGA site that should be posted on the BGA-WG site. He has successfully petitioned ENN for immunity from charges and we can now issue news releases there without charge. He will update the Bulletin list serve to make sure each refuge is on it. The site bluegoosealliance on Yahoo eGroup is not being utilized. After much discussion on member confidentiality it was decided to retain our present method of operation. We cannot guarantee anonymity to members of the WG, therefore anyone not prepared to be publicly associated with the BGA, but who wants to help in our effort may do so by working through a member of the WG.

John Oberheu reported no traffic from our listing on the **NWF Conservation Directory**, but he continues to monitor it.

NEW BUSINESS:

Nominating Committee Report:

Work of the Nominating Committee has been completed with the following results. Board members whose terms will expire in January '04 include Tom Early, Mike Daulton, Jim Hubert, Florence LaRiviere, John Oberheu, and Joe White. Tom Early has elected not to serve another term, but all the rest have. Therefore the Nominating Committee recommends their terms be extended for one more cycle.

Additionally, Arlene Wolff has resigned from the Board. With her resignation and Tom Early's declination, two vacant positions needed to be filled. We were indeed fortunate enough to secure an affirmative response from Bill Reffalt and Burkett Neeley to fill those two vacant Board Member slots. As such the Nominating Committee recommends that Bill and Burkett be seated on the Board.

Joe White and Tom Early

Due to the unexpected resignation of President Noreen Clough the following report by the nominating committee made a revision in the last paragraph of the above report:

Recent work of the Nominating Committee has been completed for nominations for the office of President of the Blue Goose Alliance following Noreen Clough's resignation effective January 1, 2004. We solicited candidates and advice from the BGA Board and other BGA-Work Group members and offer the name of William Reffalt as candidate for this office. As you recall, Mr. Reffalt and Mr. Burkett Neeley are also nominated to serve as BGA Board members. These board nominations were presented in late November to fill a vacant position and to add an additional board member. This information is presented so appropriate action can be taken at the Board meeting later this month.

Joe White and Tom Early

Presiding chair John Martin said “**I will entertain a motion ‘to accept the slate as recommended by the nominating committee and to elect that slate by acclamation’** “

Phil Morgan said, “I so move” The motion was seconded and passed.

Our new President is Bill Reffalt, and Burkett Neeley is the new board member. Remaining on the board for another term: Mike Daulton, Jim Hubert, Florence LaRiviere, John Oberheu, and Joe White

Bylaws-Bob Fields has completed his review of the bylaws. The changes he recommended were discussed briefly. There was discussion on the full ramifications of a change in the bylaws-

- How would it affect our 501(c)(3) standing?
- Since we are nearing the “final determination” (September 2005) of our tax-free status would it be preferable to wait until after that milestone is passed?
- Would it improve our organization?
- Would the changes take the form of a revision or amendments?
- Is it necessary?

John Martin volunteered to get the answers to those questions. After his report further decisions can be made.

John Martin led a discussion on the “**Single Issue Mission vs. Refuge Problems**”. While our mission is focused on agency status for refuges, taking a stand on some of the refuge problems may in fact promote that goal. It is possible that by educating the public to some of those problems, the need for agency status will be made more apparent. A public stand may also add to the stature and recognition of the BGA. With those possibilities in mind, it was agreed that the BGA should take a public position on some of those problems. It will require very careful screening of the issues.

Phil Morgan led a discussion on **how to engage NGO's**. No major new thrust was developed although all agreed that we should individually seek opportunity to work with additional NGO's. Phil did report on his continued contact with REP America.

John Martin & Phil Morgan both spoke on the **place of refuge managers** in our efforts.

The incoming president, Bill Reffalt presented a **preview of his proposed programs and strategies**. Board Members were encouraged to propose ideas during the process. Some actions were initiated as a result of the preview:

Establish a BGA “Vision for the NWRS” to include a document describing the outcome of legislation establishing a National Wildlife Refuge Service. This document should alleviate some uncertainties and end some of the conjecture about the effects of our efforts.

Remarks-This would probably include the charts prepared by John Oberheu showing the present organizational structure of the FWS and another chart showing a more efficient structure.

Action- A team consisting of Les Beaty, John Martin, and John Oberheu will draft a “Vision” document and distribute it for review by late March.

Expand the Working Group to at least two members in each state. New members will provide increased educational, outreach and analytical capabilities to the organization.

Remarks-Clay Hardy has suggested that the title “Affiliate” was more descriptive of the members of this group than our present usage of the title “member”.

Action-The Working Group will now be known as the Affiliated Working Group and members will be known as Affiliates.

Action-A map showing those states where there is the most pressing needs for new affiliates has been prepared by Bill. He has prioritized the states based on members of congressional committees, support shown by individual congressmen, and other criteria. Bill will mail (USPS) this map and its subsequent refinements to each affiliate

Action-Phil has drafted a list of talents/skills needed by the BGA. This draft will be refined and will be used as we recruit new affiliates.

The Alliance should take on carefully selected issues that would have dire effects on the Refuge System if unchecked.

Action- Earlier discussions had decided the course and the actions to take on this issue.

Preparation of a “Game Plan” It should provide ideas and options for taking actions and seeking support from others. It should show how we can make progress even though the present political climate is not favorable, and how to proceed as the climate improves. It could be used as a checklist for all BGA actions.

Action-Bill has already prepared a draft. He will refine it and present it the AWG in the near future

Action-As a method of seeking support, Phil Morgan will continue the search for appropriate candidates for the Advisory Board.

Remarks-During this portion of the preview there was a discussion of funds. John Eadie has proposed dues as one possibility.

Action-A team of John Martin, Evelyn Redfearn and Bill Reffalt will try to clarify this proposal and report back to the AWG.

Remarks-The question “who are members?” was raised.

Action-The following definitions were established:

MEMBERS- All who subscribe to the BlueGooseAlliance forum."

WORKING GROUP (now known as the Affiliated Working Group)-Those who actively support the goals of the Alliance and are willing to help achieve them. Individuals in this group, who are present at the annual meetings are eligible to vote on the election of officers and board members, as well as revisions or amendments to the bylaws. Individuals can be added as affiliates of this group barring an objection by an active member in the group.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS- In addition to the *DIRECTORS* who are elected at annual meetings the BOD includes the four elected officers and the chairs of the standing committees.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE-President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Chairs of standing committees.

It was decided to hold the **2005 annual meeting** during the early part of March 2005. Phil Morgan will make further arrangements.

Motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and passed.
Meeting adjourned at 4:30p.m.

Submitted by:

/s/ _____
Evelyn Redfearn
Secretary

Approved _____