

Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 18, 2014
at Panera, I-480 and Tiedeman Rd.

Present: Kit Birch, Nora Ebie, Nancy Howell, Kurt Miske, Penny O'Connor, Stan Searles

1. Finances:

Nancy Howell reported \$25,397.70 in the treasury, which includes \$2,500. grant money for the bird surveys at Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve. The grant money will be listed as a separate fund in future reports. Membership renewals are coming in. Major expense this past month was printing of the one newsletter issue of the year which goes to all national Audubon members in the WCAS area. Nancy reported that Nora's review of the mailing list weeded out about 200 duplicate addresses.

2. Programs, Field Trips and Community Events:

a) WCAS member Marti Burrows has volunteered to staff the WCAS display at the Conservation Symposium at Cleveland Museum of Natural History on September 5. WCAS will pay her admission and lunch during the symposium.

b) WCAS has been invited to set up a table and offer a bird walk at the Backyard Biodiversity Bash on Sunday, September 7 at West Creek. Event is noon-4:30 p.m. WCAS has a bird id game. Nancy is ready to lead a bird walk but would like an additional leader for the walk. Penny will send an e-blast to ask for volunteers.

c) Nora will attend a Fundraising Workshop on Saturday, September 13 at Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland Novak Education Center in Aurora.

d) Programs: Nancy reports that all monthly programs for 2014/2015 are scheduled except May 2015. The first for the season is on West Creek, Tuesday, September 2 at 7:30 p.m. at the Cleveland Metroparks Rocky River Nature Center.

e) Field Trips: Penny reports that field trips are scheduled through December 2014. The "Second Saturday" bird walks at RRNC have been very well-attended.

f) Walton School Project: Stan reported that the Zoo will be calling a meeting of the organizations who will help to build a nature playground for the neighborhood. Nancy and Nora have a volunteer in mind to offer expertise on behalf of WCAS, and will be contacting her.

UPDATE: Stacey Panteck, Education Specialist at the Zoo sent an email for a meeting to be held on August 28 at 8:00 a.m. at

Walton School. As Nora Ebie is unable to attend at that time, she asked Stan Searles to attend in her place, to which he agreed

3. Other updates:

a) Photo contest: Nora reports that the photo contest is set up on Facebook. A Google form has been created. The contest runs September 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014.

b) Bird stickers: Kurt presented sheets of Audubon bird stickers printed on vinyl. Board suggested adding the chapter name and/or web address when stickers are created for events.

4. NEOCP events (includes Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland, Kirtland Bird Club and Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society, and possibly others?):

a) Nora has coined this term, Northeast Ohio Conservation Partners.

b) Wind Energy Symposium October 19 has attracted the attention of a third organization, Sierra Club, which has requested to participate. The other two speakers, Mike Hutchins and Eric Ritter are both in favor of a representative from Sierra Club joining the conversation. Presidents of the three groups will have a conference call to confer. WCAS Board has recommended that the other group be added.

i. **UPDATE:** Greater Cleveland Audubon Society and Kirtland Bird Club agreed that adding Sierra Club will be a good plan. The person from Sierra Club will be Tiffany Hartung, Moving Beyond Coal Campaign Organizer from their Muskegon County Field Office in Michigan. NEOCP partners agreed that if Ms. Hartung requests travel, accommodations and meals we would provide. Mark Demyan and Lukas Padegimas will inform their boards of the progress and updates and get final approvals.

ii. The conference call also provided an agreement between the three organizations as to the format for the symposium. Stan Searles will welcome everyone and introduce the three speakers. Each speaker will have 5 to 7 minutes to describe what their organization is and what their positions are on wind energy and wildlife. Stan will then ask the speakers questions that were submitted through the email address set up for the event. It was agreed that if time permitted, we would open up the floor to questions for 15 minutes.

iii. Stan Searles will make the travel arrangements for Mike Hutchins and will pick Dr. Hutchins up from the airport, and provide all other transportation he needs while in town.

c) Plans are proceeding for the Wednesday April 1 evening program at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History featuring Bill Thompson III. Snacks will be served. There will be no cost for the room as this is the regular meeting time of the Kirtland Bird Club. Costs will include the fee for the speaker as well as lodging and meals. The three organizations are working out details.

d) Stan Searles reports that American Bird Conservancy is concerned about the measure in Cleveland City Council to institute a Trap-Neuter-Return program to deal with the city's feral cats. ABC is against such programs, as cats are a major predator of birds. Board members present did not arrive at a consensus. Some are in favor of ABC's position in favor of euthanasia. Others believe that TNR is a reasonable middle ground for dealing with the overpopulation of feral cats, as opposed to inaction or mass euthanasia of the animals.

UPDATE: At the Wednesday evening (8/20/14) conference call between the Presidents of WCAS, ASGC, KBC and Stan Searles, the TNR program was discussed as a possible NEOCP group position statement to Cleveland City Council. The Presidents of KBC and ASGC will take this information back to their boards for discussion.

5. New Business:

a) Nora and the Board reviewed content for the National Audubon Society Annual Chapter Report. Board members will find and share the needed details and statistics.

b) WCAS annual plan will revolve around goals which will be stated in the annual chapter report. Board will revisit at future meetings.

6. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next meeting is on Monday, September 15, 2014 at Panera Bread at I-480 and Tiedeman Rd. 6 p.m.