

**Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society**  
**Board Minutes**  
**Monday, January 19, 2015**

**Present:** Liz Clingman, Nora Ebie, Nancy Howell, Penny O'Connor, Mary Anne Romito, Tom Romito. Also: Guest, Eric Ritter, LEEDCo.

1. **Eric Ritter from LEEDCo.** presented LEEDCo's request for a letter of endorsement from WCAS for the Icebreaker Lake Erie Wind Power project. The project would put six Siemens 3.0 megawatt wind turbines in Lake Erie seven miles northwest of Cleveland. This would be a first fresh-water wind turbine project, intended to serve as a catalyst for future wind development in the lake. WCAS could possibly take a position as an "active partner," take part in a workshop on birds and wind power, and aid in developing a bird and bat conservation strategy as the project moves forward. Board members had many questions. Board members stressed the need to speak for birds. Following up on the October Symposium on Wind Energy and Wildlife, Board members asked how some of the concerns of American Bird Conservancy and Black Swamp Bird Observatory are being addressed. Eric Ritter stated that the White Paper of August 2014 is being revised. Tom Romito asked for further clarification of the role of "active partner." Eric Ritter agreed to send a copy of the White Paper to Nora Ebie, and Nora will forward this to the Board along with LEEDCo's sample endorsement and Nora's draft. Eric offered to share the comments from American Bird Conservancy and Black Swamp Bird Observatory.

2. **Finances:** Treasurer Nancy Howell presented a sheet with income and expenses for December 2014 and January 2015. The Annual Appeal has brought in \$1,374. so far. Cost to prepare and mail was \$725. Total in the treasury is \$26,313.86.

Annual appeal donors who are not already members will receive the WCAS newsletter

3. **Metroparks Zip Line and Go Ape:** Residents in Strongsville bordering the Chalet and toboggan area in Cleveland Metroparks have expressed concern about "Go Ape" zip line and platforms being installed behind their subdivision. They have asked for input on habitat damage and impact on bird populations. Mary Anne Romito compiled a species list based on the Forest-breeding bird survey conducted 2006-2010 by WCAS. Penny O'Connor will compose a letter.

4. **Program Updates:** Nancy reported that monthly programs are scheduled through April.

5. **Field Trips:** Penny reported that field trips are scheduled through May. The March field trip will be at Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve (CLNP), led by Laura Gooch and will serve to familiarize attendees with the multi-year bird survey at CLNP.

6. **Photo Contest:** Nora reported that eight submissions are on the WCAS Facebook page, and will also be used in the new WCAS website which is under construction.

7. **Website/Social Media**

- a) Online donations -- Nora will investigate
- b) Updating the calendar on the new site -- February Board meeting will be a workshop
- c) Blog-style interaction will be possible on the new website
- d) Web articles versus Facebook postings: Website will be for more permanent postings, sharing of documents, mission statement, newsletters, minutes. Facebook can be used for dynamic content such as sharing news items, making announcements, brief accounts of activities, thank you notices.

8. **Bill Thompson III event Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at CMNH:** Mary Anne Romito reported that the cost will be about \$900. shared between WCAS, Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland and Kirtland Bird Club. Kirtland Bird Club can validate parking in the CMNH lot. Those who wish to park close to the museum should plan to arrive early, as space is limited. Tom Romito mentioned that overflow parking is at the garage of the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center. Penny will compose an e-blast to announce the event.

9. **Reflections and directions, going forward in 2015:** Nora announced that she will finish her term as WCAS President as of April 1. She will continue her work on the new WCAS website. She plans to pursue higher education, health issues, and to focus on the demands of her new job.

10. **The next WCAS Board Meeting is Monday, February 16, 2015, Presidents Day.**