

Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society
Board Meeting, Monday, June 18, 2012
Sandwich Delites, Berea, OH

Present: Gayle Albers, Mark Hofelich, Kurt Miske, Penny O'Connor, Mary Anne Romito, Tom Romito, Barry Wolfe

1. Finances: \$14,692.84 in the treasury. Received so far from the Ultrabird/Ultrawalk: \$1,592. Next major expense is the August-October newsletter, which will go to 1,000-plus national Audubon members in the WCAS service area.

2. Fairground Wind Turbine Survey Protocols: We need to: Develop Instructions, Announce the Program, find a Project Leader.

Tom Romito reviewed some protocols from Bird Studies Canada and from Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources, and came up with a pattern for carcass searches below the wind turbine at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds. Surveys must be May 1 to October 31, twice a week, starting at dawn and ending no later than 1 p.m. Surveyors will walk 18 transects across a circle 78 meters in diameter, each transect 5 meters from the next. To mark the search circle we will need GPS and markers such as cones. Location of carcasses will be noted by GPS. Will need permits to pick up bird and bat carcasses, instructions for disposing of them or depositing them with authorities, and protocol for dealing with animals found alive but injured. Tom will check with Cleveland Museum of Natural History and Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources. Gayle Albers has some contacts who may be helpful.

3. IBA report: Stan Searles reported that graphic designer Frankie Chung is working on the final report of the WCAS five-year breeding bird survey. Frankie will meet with Gayle Albers on Thursday. Elements that we want in our report: Acknowledgements, graphics that Scott Rush prepared.

4. Annual Appeal Letter and Carbon Offset: Penny O'Connor suggested adding a carbon offset category to our list of special reasons for an extra donation. Board discussed possible gifts for large donors to our upcoming annual appeal. One

possibility is a name plaque on a bird house on the trail at the Zoo. Other ideas: stay at Magee (if donated), shirts, bird photos.

5. WCAS newsletter for August-October 2012: This issue will go to all 1,000-plus national Audubon members. It will include an inserted page for new memberships and renewals. Would like to add a category in the reasons for additional donation: Carbon Offset. This newsletter will include the Ultrawalk/Ultrabird, an article by Tom Romito about the benefits of becoming a chapter supporter, box with progress of the Carbon Offset fund. Need to add information about Sept and Oct programs to www.wcasohio.org, and include in newsletter. Field trips for Aug-Oct are on www.wcasohio.org: 8/12 Black Swamp Bird Observatory, 9/16 Villa Angela/Wildwood, 9/23 Lake Erie Nature and Science Center, 10/13, Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve. We also have Weeders in the Wild 8/4 at Look-About Lodge, and an open house 9/22 at Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve.

Mark Hofelich offered the possibility of advertising Nationwide Insurance's Audubon Affinity program to help support the large mailing. Mary Anne Romito will investigate tax implications of such advertising.

6. Outreach: Mayor Bobst of Rocky River has invited WCAS to take part in the Rocky River FunFest on July 14, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Must have a children's activity. Tom Romito, Terry and Joanne Gorges have offered to represent WCAS at this event. Will send out an e-blast requesting volunteers. Penny will make a one-page flyer with upcoming events.

7. Outreach: Brooklyn Centre Bicentennial celebration is August 10-12. WCAS may possibly take part in the parade or the picnic on Sunday August 12. There is a conflict as WCAS has a field trip that. Will discuss at the next board meeting

8. Field trips and e-blast schedule : Upcoming Peak Preserve, BSBO, Wildwood, CLNP. Working on ideas for November and January. Possibilities: Wellington Reservoir, Lakefront Waterfowl Prowl, starting at Wendy Park. Mary Anne shared a calendar of upcoming e-mail blasts which will announce events.

10. The next board meeting is Monday, July 16, 2012, 6 p.m. at Sandwich Delites in Berea, OH.