

**Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society
Board minutes Monday, March 24, 2014
at Liz Clingman's home**

Present: Suzanne Aldrich, Kit Birch, Liz Clingman, Nora Ebie, Dale Gaul (guest) Nancy Howell, Kurt Miske, Penny O'Connor, Mary Anne Romito, Tom Romito, Stan Searles

1. Introducing Dale Gaul: He is concerned about climate change, and climate deniers.

2. Committee Reports

Finance: Nancy Howell distributed a summary of chapter finances. The treasury has \$28,042.84, including the Annual Appeal. Net so far is \$990.28. Five donations were \$100. or more, only two want to go on a birding trip.

Fundraising committee: Tom Romito noted that this has been a concern throughout his tenure as Chapter President. Mark Hofelich will assist. Tom will recruit additional members.

Field trips: Penny O'Connor reported on field trips arranged for May through August.

Programs: Nancy Howell reported on upcoming programs. June picnic will be held at Lagoon picnic area. Nancy will lead a bird walk. Need a volunteer to arrive early and start the charcoal.

Website: Nora Ebie reported on new domain .ngo compared to .org With .ngo, the nonprofit status is verified, offers access to a public interest registry portal, price is the same as for other generic domains. Nora has indicated our interest in several names in the .ngo domain.

Photo contest: Nora will recruit committee members for a photo contest to select photos for the new website. Committee will set criteria and select winners. Deadline proposed initially for August 1, however this does not allow for time to form the committee and announce the contest.

Outreach: Northeastern Ohio Science and Engineering Fair - Penny reported that WCAS awarded two top prize special awards and five honorable mentions. Debra Jesionowski is the second judge.

Donation to Cleveland Metroparks for land in the Rocky River Important Bird Area. Earlier CMP had approached WCAS for help with

contributions toward land acquisitions. The parcel in question has been funded through Clean Ohio. Tom supplied a letter of support. WCAS Board voted to provide \$2,000, which includes Carbon Offset funds, toward land acquisition in the Rocky River IBA. Kit Birch made the motion and Mary Anne Romito seconded. Unanimous vote. Nancy Howell asked that a letter be included to emphasize that the funds should go toward acquisitions in the East Branch Rocky River watershed. Stan offered the suggestion that WCAS could also work with Western Reserve Land Conservancy or other local conservation entities besides Cleveland Metroparks.

Tom Romito reported that Scott has offered \$50,000 to Audubon Chapters in Ohio for Important Bird Area projects. Proposals are due May 1. Due to the short deadline, WCAS will pursue money toward land acquisition in the Rocky River IBA. Several members argued for a conservation project, but without a definite plan, "banked" money.

3. Old/Continuing Business

March "Friend-raiser" Much enthusiasm, value to having the three groups work together, will plan another event Sunday, October 19 at Rocky River Nature Center.

Conservation project: see above

4. New Business

Newsletter: Kurt would like articles by April 1. He will put the newsletter together a few days after that. Items needed: "Thank you" for March 9 event, Elections, Programs, Field Trips, Weeders in the Wild, New Members, articles by Nora Ebie and Tom Romito.

Friends of Magee Marsh fundraiser - WCAS will "pass the hat" at the April 1 meeting, and match donations up to a total of \$500.

Transition to new leadership: Board members have generic "business cards" to hand out while birding

WCAS credit card: Nora would like to use, but it has to be guaranteed by an individual, rather than WCAS as such. Mary Anne Romito had guaranteed the previous credit card, but it has been cancelled. Stan suggested that only the board approve a credit card. There was discussion of how to pay for minor chapter expenses. Most board members are comfortable paying up front and submitting a receipt to the treasurer for reimbursement. Mary Anne noted that this method conforms to IRS rules.

5. Other business: New signage and event idea tabled.

6. Next Board meeting is Monday, April 21, 2014 at 6 p.m. at Panera Bread I-480 and Tiedeman Road.