

Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society
Board Meeting Monday, May 19, 2014
at Panera North Olmsted, OH
Minutes

Present: Nora Ebie, Nancy Howell, Kurt Miske, Penny O'Connor, Mary Anne Romito, Tom Romito, Stan Searles

1. Finances: Nancy Howell presented a summary of transactions since the April Board meeting. Treasury has \$ \$24,002.54. Major income came from a \$472.63 collaborative payment from Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland. Major expenditures were for the May-July newsletter, pencils for giveaway at EarthFest, and donation to Friends of Magee Marsh.

2. Updates and continuing business:

a) Friends of Magee Marsh donation - WCAS members contributed \$155. WCAS matched this amount and sent \$310. to Friends of Magee Marsh.

b) October 19, 2014 joint program --Will be held at the Independence Civic Center 2-4 p.m. Nancy Howell and Harvey Webster are finding speakers.

c) June 4 picnic at Lagoon Picnic Area, 6 p.m. -- Don Howell will start the charcoal fire and Nancy Howell will lead a bird walk.

d) Fundraising Committee -- Mark Hofelich has been in touch with Stan Searles. Stan and Mark agreed that fundraising should have a theme or a specific project. Board proposed the following ideas: Tom Romito mentioned a phragmites eradication project initiated by the Brooklyn Centre Naturalists. Nancy Howell suggested West Creek Reservation of Cleveland Metroparks or Stearns Farm in Parma, nature trail and/or bird boxes. She emphasized that boxes would require ongoing maintenance and monitoring. Nora Ebie described a former golf course now under the jurisdiction of the town of Mogadore. Other ideas: -- Rocky River Important Bird Area might offer a possibility. Bird Surveys at the Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve (a.k.a. Dike 14), Expand Carbon Offset as a fundraising tool. Penny asked the status of the bird box trail installed at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo in 2010. Tom Romito says that this is ongoing.

ACTION ITEMS: Each board member will investigate their idea further and report back with more detail. Tom Romito will compose a grant application to Grange Ohio Audubon for the CLNP Bird Survey Project.

e) WCAS outreach, Lutheran Home -- WCAS was contacted by an individual wishing to donate bird boxes. WCAS suggest Lutheran Home as a

possibility. Lutheran Home declined. Individual will be advised to look into donating the items for a craft fair or another group.

f) Programs - Nancy reported that she has a lead on a speaker from LEEDCo., the firm working to install wind turbines in Lake Erie. Stan mentioned a possible speaker from American Bird Conservancy. Board agreed that a strong moderator would be needed for a pro- and con-program on wind energy on Lake Erie. Nancy and Stan will investigate this as a possibility for the October 19 joint program.

g) Field Trips -- Penny O'Connor reported that Saturday June 7 will be at Peak Preserve in Lorain County, led by Jeanne Williams. Sunday July 13 will be at Bath Nature Preserve, led by Sandy Brown. Saturday August 16 will be at Daughmer Prairie with David Dvorak and Warren Uxley. Daughmer Prairie is one of Ohio's newest State Nature Preserves. Administered by Crawford Park District, it is in farm territory near Bucyrus, off Route 30. WCAS will meet before and after at Lowe-Volk Park, which has restrooms and a picnic area.

h) Fall Newsletter - Will cover August - October and will go to all National Audubon members in the WCAS area. Kurt Miske needs newsletter copy by week of June 23-27. Nancy will remake the membership supplement.

3. New Business

a) Blue Heron Surveys - Western Reserve Land Conservancy is surveying a property near River Styx, Ohio. They have surveyed one side of I-71 but need more surveying on the other side. WCAS gave a letter of support for conserving this property. WCAS will e-blast need for survey help.

b) Advisors for WCAS Conservation Committee - Stan Searles will lead the committee. He would like to have a panel of outside advisors. He has contacted: Jen Brumfield (Bird expert and Metroparks Naturalist), Andy Jones (CMNH Ornithologist), Mike Melampy (Baldwin-Wallace) and Terry Robison (Cleveland Metroparks). Kurt moved, Mary Anne Romito seconded, passed unanimously.

c) New Opportunity - Stan Searles reported that AZA and Walt Disney are offering grants for Nature Play Areas. Cleveland Metroparks Zoo will submit a grant request for a play area at Walton School. Sponsors will be Cleveland Metroparks Zoo and Esperanza. WCAS will also sign on.

d) New WCAS Signage -- Nora has sent files to Kurt. Larger files will be needed, and in a different format. Mary Anne may have files used to create the existing banners, and will send to Kurt.

e) Technology Resources -- Nora described some applications which may be useful for WCAS:

i. Volunteer match -- allows a group to describe volunteer needs, volunteers can explore options

ii. Google for Nonprofits -- offers apps, Google Earth Pro, One Today, Ad Grants

iii. ArcGIS -- Audubon's mapping clearinghouse - free to chapters

f) **Next Meeting: Monday, June 16 at 6 p.m. at Panera Tiedeman Rd. and I-480.**