

Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society
Board Minutes Monday, October 20, 2014

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

Updates:

1. Finances: Nancy Howell reported \$23,246.56 in the treasury. Memberships and donations are still coming in. Expenses include \$300. for tax preparation and \$50. to the Ohio Attorney General for non-profit status.

2. Review of Symposium on Wind Energy and Wildlife October 19, 2014. Eighty-two people attended this collaborative event by Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland, Kirtland Bird Club and WCAS. Stan Searles observed that it was a great achievement to have representatives of American Bird Conservancy, LEEDCo and the Sierra Club on stage discussing the importance and impacts of wind energy, and looking forward to further interaction.

3. Walton School Project: Off to a slow start, need buy-in from school officials and parents. Esperanza, the community development organization is working to fill a liaison position for working with the school. WCAS representative Michelle Manzo is meeting with Zoo (which secured the grant) and others and looking forward to progress in the spring.

4. IBA Surveys at Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve: One or two surveys are coming in per week. Coordinator Laura Gooch is looking for ways to increase the number. One possibility is to break the survey points into blocks so that a birder can sign up for a shorter session. Mary Anne Romito report that currently it takes 3-4 hours to complete the set of points.

5. Programs: Christmas Bird Count, December Potluck and Silent Auction.

a) Christmas Bird Count will be on Sunday, December 28, 2014. Tally and dinner will be at the Rocky River Nature Center. WCAS will pay RRNC \$100. for use of the room. Dinner will be catered by Frankie's in North Olmsted.

b) December Potluck and Silent Auction will be on the first Tuesday in December, that is 12/2/2014. WCAS will provide ham and turkey. Liz Clingman will order and pick up. Kit Birch will bring table cloths and centerpieces. WCAS will put stickers on the chairs to decide the winners of

the centerpieces at the end of the evening. Penny O'Connor will bring bid sheets and pens for the silent auction.

6. Field Trips: Penny reported that WCAS will bird with Black River Audubon at Lorain Harbor for the January field trip. Will also have the Second Saturday walks at Rocky River Nature Center in January and in February. In February WCAS will have a bird walk at Lake Erie Nature and Science Center. This and the Second Saturday walk for February will be during the Great Backyard Bird Count, an important citizen science event.

7. Newsletter for November 2014 - January 2015. Nearly finished. Kurt will send to Mary Anne after any last-minute corrections.

8. Annual appeal 2014, and "Birding with Jen" awards from 2013: Have not been able to set a date with Jen Brumfield to bird with 2013 donors. May explore other options. For 2014, the appeal will go to only about 200 members and friends, including donors from the last three years plus current WCAS members. Nora Ebie has a spreadsheet and will update it with information from Nancy about donors and newest members. Would like to personalize each letter. Kurt suggested using window envelopes. Mary Anne will explore options for printing and preparing the mailing.

9. Website and Social Media Updates: Nora sent a field trip spreadsheet to Penny. Penny would like to use more accurate maps than Google maps, which do not provide good directions to some field trip locations. Nora is looking for ways to make the site interactive.

10. NEOCP event for April 1, 2015: Bill Thompson III will be the speaker, in the evening at Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Likely will not have refreshments due to cost. Marni Urso (Audubon Ohio) would like to speak on climate change. Lukas Padegimas (Kirtland Bird Club) suggests that she could open the Bill Thompson III event.

New Business:

11 Request from LEEDCo for support at the Icebreaker Project (wind turbines on Lake Erie): Board says not at this time, as the project is still in an early stage and we do not yet know how bird mortality will be assessed.

12. Marni Urso request to speak on Audubon bird and climate report: see 10 above.

13. Conservation Partners events for 2015: LEAP Lake Erie Allegheny Partnership is working on the issue of cats indoors. Nancy Howell would like to take up this issue. This topic was tabled.

Continuing Discussions:

14. Strategic Plan: Nora would like a long-term plan, 3 years or more, also to see more growth of WCAS. Proposal to facilitate sessions for \$3,000 minus donation of \$1,000, for a net of \$2,000 from Susan Cucuzza was included with the agenda. Board has not voted on this.

The next meeting will be November 17, 2014 at Panera Bread at I-480 and Tiedeman Rd.