

Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society
Board Meeting
Monday, October 22, 2012 6 p.m.
Sandwich Delites, Berea, OH

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

Guests: Susan Cucuzza - Executive Coach, Bob Gardin - Friends of Big Creek (Introductions prior to agenda)

1. Finances: \$14,441.01 Upcoming expenses: Newsletter and Annual Appeal, printing of final report on Rocky River Important Bird Area Forest Breeding Bird Survey

2. IBA Final Report (printing quotes, final edits)

Lapstrake: 100 copies - \$668, 200 copies - \$995 (partially recycled paper)

Berea Printing: 100 copies - \$551, 200 copies - \$1,048 (gloss, recycled content)

Jakprints - 250 copies (minimum order) \$1,960

We will print 200 copies and offer to local officials, libraries, universities, Audubon groups and survey volunteers. Gayle will investigate whether Lapstrake or Berea Printing offers paper certified by Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

3. Articles for upcoming newsletter: Additional content from Tom and Penny by Thursday. Kurt will add a blurb thanking members who have renewed.

4. Support for Medina Raptor Center: WCAS has donated \$100 per year for the past few years. Will donate in March.

5. Annual Appeal Letter Plans: Mary Anne reports that once per year we send a letter to all National Audubon members in our area, asking for donations. Board puts together the letters. This year: IBA report, shade grown coffee. Add a category for no gift. Make clearer that dues are not included. Penny will revise last year's letter. Donors may be recognized in the newsletter, but we will have a check box for those who prefer not to be listed. Mary Anne will buy envelopes and stamps. Kurt suggests we investigate bulk mail. Tom will investigate, possibly for next year.

6. Silent Auction Plans: Mary Anne will print bid sheets, Mark will bring pens. Will finalize plan on Nov 19. Date is Tuesday, December 4.

7. Hog Island grant request: Audubon camp off the coast of Maine. Teacher residing Westlake has asked for support to attend. He teaches in Elyria and at Lorain Community College. Tom will contact Al Dolan, treasurer of the defunct Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters to see if he will distribute funds to the requestor for Hog Island.

8. Northeastern Ohio Science and Engineering Fair March 5, 2013: WCAS will offer a special science fair award. Will put a note in the newsletter asking for volunteer judges.

9. Letters of support for Cleveland Metroparks: Sent three for DB Midland property area expansion, Strongsville area, Metroparks seeking support for land acquisitions.

10. Visit by Executive Coach Susan Cucuzza:

Tom suggested a coach to take WCAS to the "Next chapter" since the Bird survey is complete. Tom would like to have help to bring up "big ideas"

Susan's approach: Leadership coach, to help senior leaders become better leaders

Strategy, mission, goal-setting for leadership teams

Different from a consultant, client arrives at plan, appreciative inquiry

Think big, think future

Half-day offsite, with space

Barry: Does this project fit our mission? Kurt: Look at the type of organization we are, and what can we do to fulfill our mission statement. At our next meeting, the WCAS Board will discuss how we want to proceed.

11. Visit by Bob Gardin of Friends of Big Creek on fund raising:

Longtime involvement with watershed groups, success has been in getting recognition and exposure. Fundraising always a challenge.

Listing members shows support to others. Friends of Big Creek depends on grants. Applying for grants, foundations see look at board and members to see who is contributing and how much. Names that stand out.

Some other groups have an advisory board.

List board members and credentials on request letters.

Friends of Big Creek is funded by NEORSD as a qualified watershed group, receives funding for fundraiser.

Gayle mentioned that there is a value to studies like the IBA 5-year breeding bird survey. These can be listed on grant requests.

Barry would like to involve more members in plans for WCAS' future.

12. Next Meeting: Monday, November 19, 2012. Sandwich Delites.

We will assemble annual appeal letters.