

Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society  
Board Minutes September 15, 2014  
at Panera, I-480 and Tiedeman Rds.

**Present: Liz Clingman, Nora Ebie, Nancy Howell, Kurt Miske, Penny O'Connor, Mary Anne Romito, Tom Romito**

**UPDATES**

1. Finances: Nancy Howell presented a summary of financial transactions for the past month. There is \$23,346.48 in the treasury. Funds for bird surveys at Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve are broken out, \$2,500.

2. Programs: Nancy reports these are planned except for May 2015.

3. Christmas Bird count: Nancy will check on room reservation and rental at Rocky River Nature Center

4. Field Trips: Penny O'Connor reported all planned through December 2014. "Second Saturday" bird walks are drawing well.

5. NEOCP event: Symposium in Wind Energy and Wildlife - No food to be served. Room rental will be \$400. which is split 3 ways between WCAS, Kirtland Bird Club (KBC) and Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland (ASGC). Speaker will bill ASGC for expenses and groups will split the cost. Will have Ohio Sierra Club representative.

6 Community Outreach: Zoo Nature Club (Walton School) Michelle Manzo and Stan Searles are WCAS representatives. Nora Ebie provided Michelle's notes on the plan and timetable for planting and organizing the garden. Two members have volunteered to help: Joy Coleman and Audrey Kodger. An open house was held Sept 9. There is a planning session on September 16. Tom Romito would like to attend.

Nancy reported that Marti Burrows staffed the WCAS display at the Conservation Symposium at Cleveland Museum of Natural History on September 5, attended by 358 environmentally conscious participants. Nancy Howell and one other volunteer staffed the WCAS display at the West Creek Biodiversity Bash on September 7 and interacted with 120 visitors.

7. NEOCP event: Bill Thompson III will speak on April 1, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. (first Wednesday) Still much planning to be done. Will put a "save the date" note in the upcoming WCAS newsletter.

8. IBA surveys at Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve: Discussed protocol, and noted that leader Laura Gooch would like more observers.

9. Website/Social Media: Calendar, Articles, Posts and Maps - Nora reports that the design for a new website is in place. She is now working on content. Kurt observed that the maps are difficult to translate into newsletter format. Nora gave a URL for the new website in case Board members would like to test. It is: [http://wcasohio.org/1\\_Stage/](http://wcasohio.org/1_Stage/)

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Checking account debit card: Mary Anne noted that this would normally have to be guaranteed by an individual, rather than by the organization. Nora has been investigating possibilities at various banks. May possibly open a second account with limited funds on deposit if WCAS decides to do this.

2. Audubon Collaborative Funding: Will investigate if it can be used to bring in speakers

3. Annual Appeal: Will do targeted e-mail to a larger list. Members will receive letters.

4. Newsletter: Next newsletter will cover November 2014-January 2015. Kurt must have copy by October 10. Will list new members, thanks to volunteers, and an article on Walton School. National Audubon kit on climate change has some sample copy for articles, which Nora may use for a President's message. Christmas Bird Count will be on the first page.

5. Audubon Works: A section of the National Audubon Society's website just for chapter leaders, Nora suggests Board members have a look.

## **OPEN DISCUSSION AND POLICY**

1. Audubon Climate Science Initiative: Nora shared the kit. Shirts are available for sale, and can be customized. Board asked Nora to investigate whether shirts can be purchased by individuals, possibly through a link on WCAS website, rather than WCAS buying a quantity of shirts. The kit contains educational materials for Audubon leaders and staff, press releases, and more. Nancy provided a laptop for viewing of a short video on taking action.

2. WCAS Annual Planning Meeting: Nora proposed a meeting of the Board for the purpose of planning for the coming year. Instead of this, Tom Romito would like to have strategic planning sessions with a facilitator, sometime after January 1, 2015. Tom suggested seeking collaborative funding. Penny felt that the suggested plan is costly and consumes too much time.

3. Nora proposed guidelines for board meetings. One item was the issue of board member attendance. Board discussed ways to replace board members who cannot attend the meetings or who may have resigned. Elections are one route. New members may also be appointed. Board will request volunteers for a nominating committee from among the membership at the November meeting. Board members are asked to think of candidates and sound them out. There will be no December Board meeting. Nora will cancel Panera reservation.

4. The next meeting is on Monday, October 20, 2014 at Panera I-480 and Tiedeman Road.