

Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society
Board Meeting
Sunday January 28, 2007, 4 p.m.

Present: Nancy Howell, Terri Martincic, Penny O'Connor Mary Anne Romito, Tom Romito, Diane Sigler

1. Update on finances:

Nancy Howell reported that WCAS has \$7891.20 and about 80 supporters, Mary Anne noted that since WCAS has less than \$25,000 and less than \$15,000 in receipts, only need to report to Ohio Attorney General by letter. If we receive grants, it is likely that we will need to file 990 IRS form.

2. Gund Grant:

Mary Anne Romito reported that the Gund Foundation awarded WCAS \$5,000.

3. Strategic Planning Meeting Action Plan Items

- Tom Romito distributed the WCAS Action Plan developed at our Strategic Planning Meeting of January 6, 2007. Board will refer to the Action Plan at each meeting. Tom highlighted Jerry Tinianow, workshop leader, as a resource for Audubon Chapters. Our chapter supports Audubon Ohio through prompt fulfillment of reporting requirements and through participation.

a) Survey of Rocky River Important Bird Area (IBA):

Target date to begin survey by June 1.

Twenty additional points need to be identified by May 15. Dan Petit of Cleveland Metroparks will create points by March 1 or thereabouts. Tom Romito and Diane Sigler will organize finding of additional points. Twelve observers will find points they used last year and flag. Twenty new points will be located by Tom Romito, Rich Kassouf, Penny O'Connor, Liz Clingman, and Don Howell. New points may be on private land.

Day needed for testing to find some more observers, and to review protocols. Need to select a date convenient for Dan Petit and for WCAS and reserve RRNC, April 1st choice, March 25 backup date for testing, training, review for observers

b) Partnerships: Consider a Memorandum of Understanding to formalize some of these relationships.

Dike 14 education piece: Diane Sigler, Paula Lozano and Mary Anne Romito created birding activities (teacher training resources) to be added to the Dike 14 educational pack. Diane notes that WCAS should have a letter stating that WCAS is the local representative for Audubon Ohio, for legal reasons. WCAS was not grandfathered into the group therefore; do we need to follow steps 1-5 to join the Dike 14 EEC? WCAS cannot yet sign agreements for funding. Will contact Jerry Tinianow to look into getting a letter for WCAS to clarify status.

Partner groups or potential: Terri Martincic passed around a sign up sheet so board members can pick partner groups and be the contact person. Mary Anne suggests that WCAS can provide some groups with data and time, rather than money. Other birders we know, or some of the Young Birders may be able to help with the IBA survey. The Dike 14 group may have some names to suggest for contacts.

Coe Lake: Terri Martincic will meet with teachers at the Coe Lake Nature trail Tuesday, January 30, 1:45 in Berea. High school students will help maintain that area.

c) Fund Raising:

Birdathon When, and who will do this? Birdathon could be announced at the training day, corporate matching will increase the value of sponsorships. Birders will recruit their own sponsors, Possible sites: Crane Creek, Hinckley reservation. May pick one day, or extend the Birdathon for the month of May, having birders pick the times and places. Birdathon sightings in the Rocky River IBA could be entered on the WCAS website as casual observations. WCAS will promote the Birdathon at meetings from now through May in order to identify birders. Birders will need sponsors and WCAS will register participants. The Birdathon will be announced on website and on the listserv.

Bird photos and videos: Two members have offered to sell their beautiful bird videos and photos through the WCAS website with a portion of the proceeds going to the chapter. May set up a written agreement with each.

Shade-grown Coffee: Kit Birch has taken the initiative to buy bags of shade-grown coffee to sell at meetings Nancy Howell will touch bases with Kit, so we can have bags of coffee to sell at all events, set the prices, put on website.

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d) WCAS Boundaries: Terri Martincic notes there is an area in Hinckley and Brunswick which appears not to be claimed by any Audubon group. Tom will investigate adding this area to WCAS territory.

e) Form a development committee: Tom is looking for a chairperson to spearhead the effort. That committee could meet separately from the Board. Nancy Howell expressed interest in helping as a member of the committee.

- 4. Nesting Raptor Survey, Dave Dvorak of Cleveland Metroparks.** Terri Martincic reports that more observers are needed in WCAS area. She distributed a list of survey results to date.
- 5. Lakewood Earth Day 5/5 WCAS participation?** Nancy Howell noted that this event is in WCAS area? Can someone do a display? It will be in Lakewood Park. No volunteers yet.
- 6. Weeders in the Wild flyer:** Decided to do flyer in color

7. Cleveland Metroparks North Coast Nature Festival booth: Mary Anne Romito

8. Adjourn: 5:50 p.m.

- Penny O'Connor, WCAS Secretary