

Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society
MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING
of November 26, 2007

1. **CONVENING.** The WCAS board convened its monthly meeting on Monday, November 26, 2007, at 5:00 p.m. at the Book and Bean Coffee Shop in Berea, Ohio. Attendees included President Tom Romito, Treasurer Nancy Howell, and Directors-at-Large Mary Anne Romito, Terri Martincic, Kathleen Tiburzi, Liz Clingman, Penny O'Connor, and Kit Birch. Guests included Rocky River IBA Coordinator Diane Sigler, Stan Searles (Curator of Ornithology at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo), and Chapter Supporters Vic and Terri Macha.
2. **END-OF-YEAR APPEAL LETTER.** Board members and guests all participated in assembling the end-of-year appeal letter for mailing. This task included folding the letters, applying labels and postage stamps to the envelopes, stuffing the envelopes, and sealing the envelopes. We had 950 mailings. Liz took the boxes of mailings to deliver to the Post Office.
3. **IBA MESSAGING.** Terri led us in a discussion about developing a message for our IBA project during our public outreach efforts. Terri and Nancy are going to take the lead in developing a Powerpoint presentation for the outreach. The message will be about ten minutes long and include visual images of birds, habitat, and survey results. It will focus on the outcome we aim to achieve, which is that our data will show the need for public officials and developers to make wise land use decisions in the Rocky River watershed. It will also include a direct appeal to the audiences for monetary support of our financial requirements, such as our IBA coordinator's on-going annual salary. The first use of the presentation will be made in conjunction with the Rocky River Watershed Council in late January 2008.
4. **CHRISTMAS POTLUCK DINNER.** We discussed plans for our annual Christmas potluck dinner, which is Tuesday, December 4. Tom will call the Rocky River Nature Center to ask the staff to allow us in at 5:00 p.m. to set up the auditorium. All board members will bring a different side dish. WCAS will provide ham and turkey. Diane and Kit are organizing the table decorations, which will include table cloths and centerpieces. We will raffle off these items at each table. We will also raffle off one gingerbread house, which Chapter Supporter Pam Kallhof is donating, and one DVD of the evening's program. We will have a silent auction. Each donor will set the minimum bid and take home any items not getting the minimum bid. Bids must be in increments of one dollar.
5. **ANNUAL REPORT.** Diane distributed the initial draft of our annual report, which our funders require us to produce. We decided that it would be a chapter report with a focus on our IBA project. Diane asked that all board members provide her with inputs by December 4.
6. **ANNUAL SAFETY NET PAYMENT.** Tom reported that the National Audubon Society has awarded WCAS a safety net payment of \$2,583. Nancy said the payment has already reached our bank account.
7. **NOMINATION FOR AUDUBON CENTRAL REGION.** Tom said the National Audubon Society is soliciting nominations for a representative the Central Region. We don't plan to nominate anyone. Alan Dolan of the Canton Audubon Society is the current representative and will likely be the nominee.

8. COUNSEL OF OHIO AUDUBON CHAPTERS MEETING. Tom reported that he attended a meeting of the COAC trustees in the Mohican area on November 3. He lobbied for blending COAC with the Chapter Relations Committee of Audubon Ohio's Board of Directors, which he chairs. The COAC trustees chose to preserve the status quo, which is that COAC exists independently of Audubon Ohio and in principle consists of all 18 Audubon chapters in Ohio.

9. BACKYARD BIRD GUIDES. Tom asked the board to purchase more Backyard Bird Guides from Waterford Press as a fund-raising tool. We sold 100 this year and netted \$125. The board asked Tom to obtain more information, including the wholesale price and whether we can purchase a variety of guides instead of just one, as we did the first time.

10. IBA WALK. We discussed plans for the second annual IBA walk, which will occur next May 24. Stan Searles said he would like to make the "duathlon" part of the walk competitive. This part of the event will involve bicyclists and runners. Stan and Tom will work with Champs Racing in January to develop this concept.

11. RECEPTION. Tom floated the idea of holding a reception for WCAS. The concept is based on a model that the Audubon Ohio Board of Directors uses around the state throughout the year. Someone (possible a WCAS board member) would host the event in his or her home. We would invite influential and affluent people in the area. Board members would mingle with the guests and promote support of WCAS. We could have a guest speaker. The board did not reach a decision on this issue.

12. NEXT MEETING. The board decided to meet on Monday, January 14, at 6:30 p.m. at the Book and Bean.

13. ADJOURNMENT. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.