

**Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society  
Board Meeting Minutes**

Sunday February 18, 2007, 3:30 p.m., Book and Bean, Berea OH

Present: Liz Clingman, Nancy Howell, Terri Martincic, Penny O'Connor, Mary Anne Romito, Tom Romito, Diane Sigler and Marnie Urso from Audubon Ohio

Called to order at 3:36 p.m. by WCAS president Tom Romito.

Tom Welcomed Marnie Urso, grassroots coordinator for Audubon Ohio. Marnie would like to help with our Dike 14 projects. Audubon would like to elevate its role on global warming issues. Thanking Congress for supporting the campaign to put oil (taxes) into a global warming fund. Audubon did a press conference with Ohio Environmental Council. Please send letters to the editor to keep education going. Also please send letters to the editor on green energy. Audubon is pushing a bill in Congress: U.S. Safe Climate Act. It would cut U.S. carbon emissions 80% below 2001 levels by 2050. Please ask Ohio congress people to support this. We can make an impact on the most catastrophic effects, though we cannot reverse some of the damage already done. Need to have the Great Lakes states ratify the Great Lakes Compact. Capital campaign is going well for center in Columbus. Audubon Ohio has an Urban Conservation crew in Columbus. Jerry Tinianow would like to use the Rockefeller Park Greenhouse as a base in Cleveland, in a similar way, in order to draw in neighborhood kids. This is part of Audubon Ohio's Education goal. Tom Romito noted that Penny and Tom are on the Audubon Ohio Chapter Relations Committee. Marnie will be part of the committee meetings. Make sure every chapter knows how to draw on Audubon Ohio as a resource. 18 chapters.

Tom noted the absence of board member Kathleen Tiburzi due to death of a brother.

1. Dike 14 Update -- Mary Anne Romito, Nancy Howell, Tom Romito, Diane Sigler.  
WCAS will Supply 25 kits to go into backpacks. Each institution will get 2 backpacks. Activities in the kits are for kids to do on their own. Diane Sigler and Mary Anne Romito are sending a letter to adjust collaborative language to include Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society, as an original member or as a tiered member. We would like to have clear legal language about our role, and coverage for our legal liability. Dike 14 is an important bird area (IBA), and WCAS has an educational role to play in the Collaborative.
2. Interests and priorities of board members -- Terri Martincic  
Everyone present briefly outlined their interests and priorities in being part of WCAS:  
Terri Martincic: Science of our IBA bird survey, interaction with habitat, next step is communication with school groups and others. Diane Sigler added the vegetation survey with Dan Petit, possibly other components. It is important to bring up additional questions with Dan.  
Liz Clingman: Into birds, would like to help with projects, provide support, logistics.  
Marnie Urso: Make sure that Audubon is a player in the policy arena, to have impact, to make the air cleaner and the habitat better.

Diane Sigler: The support and purpose of this group makes it easier to go out and talk with people and promote these goals. To see the bigger picture, for instance with "Weeders in the Wild."

Tom Romito: Organizational work. Would like to make sure the group is productive. To help the group obtain resources to further its goal. Habitat.

Mary Anne Romito: Terri noted that we appreciate the work with the website. Diane added that we appreciate the stable base that Mary Anne provides.

Penny O'Connor: Promote the Rocky River IBA, for the science, to have birding experiences and to have trips and programs to share with the public.

Nancy Howell: Science, education: notes that the Science Olympiad was a BLAST, also to branch out into new things, such as grant writing...

### 3. Brainstorm a list of volunteer duties for the IBA, vegetation monitoring, college and school visits -- Mary Anne Romito

Young students need volunteer activities on their resumes. Their energy and work could help WCAS with projects. What activities would be appropriate for younger volunteers? We need outreach to schools. Ads for Birdathon, Flyers for different audiences, presentations to recruit volunteers, Diane contacted JVCC Polaris (career days are a natural) also Biology Dept. at Baldwin-Wallace for assistance with vegetation and salamander surveys. At the high school level we must go through guidance counselors or teachers. Need a database volunteer.

Suggestions: Point-finding, Training the bird observers, Marnie advised that we map it out, then have a peer talk to a class. Mary Anne: we need to publicize our work. The student contacts and organization contacts will do this.

Tom: Need to update the IBA flyer for this year, and have something to take to the potential volunteers.

### 4. Report on Fundraisers. This is part of the IBA effort, since we need to diversify our fundraising.

- a. Shade Grown Coffee: Sold 5 bags at last meeting. (Audubon: organic, shade-grown, fair trade). We make a couple of bucks per bag. Will bring to all meetings, IBA training sessions, etc.
- b. Dave Lewis Photos: Dave is offering to sell his bird photos on the chapter website and give a portion to WCAS. Board has discussed pricing. Dave will handle shipping or pickup arrangements. Mary Anne is creating order forms. Buyers will print out the form and mail to Dave Lewis with payment.

c. Birdathon, another fundraising theme: Encourage people to focus on Rocky River IBA birds, but no limit. Birdathon will be the entire month of May. Birders may work as individuals or teams. We can set up the website to enter IBA birds online. Prizes for top teams? Glenda Buzzelli will continue to work with us on the database. Develop IBA checklist. Birdathon can be issued as a challenge to birders.

Need to create a sample letter for pledges. Need application forms. When we have letter, Mary Anne will e-mail to the list. Need a checklist. Need info on letter, plus application, plus list of sponsors, plus list of pledge per bird or lump, plus collect. Matching? Penny will draft a letter.

### 5. IBA 2007 Survey (Diane, Tom, et al)

Sunday April 1 event for training of IBA observers. Will add 20 extra points in Hinckley area, vegetation survey later, maybe August. Grantseeking: We have an opportunity now to apply for a grant from Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Network and Fund. This year we do have data and outcomes to show. Nancy will work with Tom.

6. Field Trips and Program Update: Need a leader for the March 31 field trip at Sandy Ridge at 5:30 p.m. Mary Anne suggested four names. Possibly can add a Dike 14 trip in summer. Memorial Day to Labor Day no field trips at Dike 14 on Sunday or on Friday p.m., because of fisherman and boating parkers. July is a possibility. Penny suggested a downtown field trip for spring or fall to see warblers in Library Garden and other spots. Public transportation is a possibility to avoid parking issues.
  6. Alliances, Partnerships – maintaining contacts – Penny O'Connor and Terri Martincic have made a list. Mary Anne sent the list around for board members to sign up as contact. Will send the complete list to board members.
  7. Science Olympiad (Nancy Howell) 19 schools signed up, 18 participated, Jan (?) and Dave LeGallee and Jan Holkeborg helped out. About 32 kids in grades 4-6. Each student took home a newsletter, healthy schoolyard brochure, GBBC flyer, IBA flyer. Idea: Supply the Healthy Schoolyard flyer for Dike 14 kits.
  8. Announcements: Transit-oriented development projects: RTA forum on Thursday Feb 22, 2007 8-noon at Cleveland State. Tom noted a possible moneymaker, Eastern Backyard Birds flyer. Can buy 100 copies at \$2.65 each. Liz: suggest buying 100, can sell for \$5 and break even at 50 or so, have some copies for Dike 14 packets. Diane: Earth Day tee shirt, to add logo. Nancy: Thanks to Terri and Tom for adding Brunswick and Hinckley areas to WCAS territory. Nancy will send welcomes to Audubon members in those ZIP codes. Terri will try to publicize WCAS events via Sun papers in those areas.
  9. Agenda items for March 6 membership meeting: 1- Intro (Tom) 2- Bird of Month (Ken Ballas) 3- Audubon and Global Warming (Terri) 4-Field Trips and Weeders (Terri) 5- Birdathon (Penny) 6- Shade grown coffee (Kit) 7-Dave Lewis Photos (Mary Anne or Tom) 8- IBA training (Tom) 9-Program: Taldi Walter from National Audubon Society on ANWR.
  10. Date and time of next board meeting: Sunday, March 18 at 3:30 at Book and Bean.

Adjourn at 5:54.

Minutes by Penny O'Connor, WCAS Secretary