

Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society Board Meeting
Monday, May 24, 2010
At Sandwich Delites, Berea, Ohio

Present: Gayle Albers, Kit Birch, Liz Clingman, Nancy Howell, Terri Martincic, Mary Anne Romito, Tom Romito, Stan Searles, Diane Sigler

1. Nancy told us we have \$12,899.65 in the treasury. We did get an \$800 direct deposit from the Audubon Grant on May 18. Nicola Douglas has not cashed her Science Fair check of \$50; Penny will get in touch with her about this.
2. Tom asked everyone to give an opinion or comment about what WCAS should in the future regarding the areas of discussion at the Stakeholders Meeting.

a. Terri suggested we do more walks in Hinckley to get locals there involved in the RR IBA, which could come under the Land Acquisition, Conservation and Restoration heading. They could also help to get the message out that WCAS is their Audubon chapter and to educate people about what an IBA is.

b. Diane thinks we should have a follow-up letter sent to all stakeholders so everyone is current on what happened at the recent Stakeholder Meeting, including a summary statement and highlights of the flip chart material. It should also contain a request for what they would like to see happen next.

c. Gayle stated that we should concentrate on our strength in the Applied Research area, such as our citizen science IBA Survey which is useful for a number of reasons, and to keep training people to do this. She also mentioned LEAP (Lake Erie Allegheny Partnership) as an important potential partner because it is regional.

d. Tom stated he would like to give a program to LEAP to show them what WCAS does and can offer as a partner. Everyone agreed that LEAP is a good resource for information and has a useful website for posting our events for a broader audience. It would be helpful in networking with other groups. He also stated that the next natural step for WCAS is to do something with our data.

e. Stan suggested we hire a grad student to process our data. Terri suggested contacting Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology to see if they can help us. Dave Kriska is handling data for the Museum of Natural History and may give us some input on this matter. Stan also suggested we need to do a better job of marketing ourselves and our activities. Vicky Searles may help WCAS get on Facebook to help us achieve an "active, cool conservation group" image.

3. The UltraWalk/ UltraBird event will begin at Hinckley at 6:00 am on June 5. The final 5 mile Walk will begin at 3:00 pm at Park Ops and will need the following materials:

- water bottles (Diane)
- 2 folding tables (Liz)
- WCAS banner

woodpecker costume (Nancy) sign-up sheet, money collection,
leftover t-shirts, official permit for walk (Diane)
folding tents (Liz will ask Metroparks about borrowing pop-up tents)

Terri and Joanne Gorges will be asked to man the table at Park Ops. Gayle will send a publicity blurb to Jane Goodman at the Cleveland Environmental Examiner. The Rocky River mayor will not be able to attend this year, but has asked Mayor Fitzgerald of Lakewood to fill in for her.

4. Nancy informed us that Parma South Library wants WCAS to provide a display to "Celebrate Urban Birds" on Saturday, Sept. 25, 2010. This is also a Dike 14 Open House day.

5. Gil has two grad student funded for this summer and would like to have a meeting with us.

Steve Mather, who works for Cleveland Metroparks will work with Gil. Eventually they will need our point data which is currently on Excel spread sheets. This survey may be able to have identification of birds at each point; can click on a point of the IBA and it will list what birds go there, or click on a bird and it will tell you at what points they have been seen.

Terri Robison of Metroparks has all our past survey data and can give it to the GIS group.

This links WCAS up with Urban Studies at Cleveland State University and is free. Terry has not processed our fourth year data, but has promised to do it soon. He will summarize the data, but this is not statistical analysis of bird densities based on habitat, which we hope to some day have.

6. Diane said that all the IBA observer data sheets have been delivered to each observer. She requests that observers take a picture of each point only once and hand in to her.

7. Hinckley Bird Hikes already discussed in # 2.

8. Mary Anne is expecting a visit from Jim Kilmer on June 2 to advise her on getting a new web server as our current one is crashing to much. He suggests "Godaddy.com"

9. The Important Migratory Bird Day at Dike 14 was fairly well attended even though it did rain. Terry and Joanne Gorges had the WCAS table there.

10. We will once again have a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner for all those who help with the IBA Survey. It will be at the Zoo in August or Sept.

11. Kit reminded everyone that all Feathered Flyer Newsletter information is due in to her or on the website by July 1. She will order shade-grown coffee in time for the first meeting in Sept. and again in Jan. for the end-of-year donations gifts.

12. Tom reviewed the past months WCAS events:

National Migratory Bird Day

Stan and Tom visit to Seniors Young at Heart Group

Weeders in the Wild event at Bacon Woods

Dike 14 Open House

Field Trip to Lake View Cemetery (was very well attended)

Should we have something to hand out at field trips to encourage new memberships? This will be on agenda for next board meeting.

Other Upcoming Events: Greater Cleveland Trails & Greenways Conference, Monday, June 7 at Polaris Center in Middleburg Hts. Visit www.GCtrails.org for more information.