

## **WCAS Board Meeting: Minutes**

### **Monday June 23, 2008 at 6:00 p.m., Book and Bean, Berea**

Present: Kit Birch, Liz Clingman, Nancy Howell, Terri Martincic, Penny O'Connor, Tom Romito, Mary Anne Romito, Kathleen Tiburzi

1. Treasurer's Report (Nancy Howell) Balance is \$13,114.73. IBA walk pledges received so far total \$1,452. We are still waiting for some large pledges. Timing of the walk was not ideal for runners, bikers. Will discuss the economics at July board meeting. Three of public outreach talks pitched IBA, some groups contributed cash or made pledges. Also sold bird guides at outreach talks.
2. Clean Ohio Fund resolution (Tom Romito) State of Ohio to sell bonds to protect farmland, natural trails, etc. Gov. Strickland is seeking to put it on the ballot for reapproval in November. WCAS will send a letter of support. WCAS will also suggest they seek support of Audubon Ohio.
3. Toyota grant opportunity (Tom Romito) Toyota has partnered with National Audubon Society to promote chapter projects. WCAS will seek a grant to support IBA coordinator. Tom Romito was named Together Green Hero! This national award brings visibility to WCAS.
4. Audubon Ohio mini- grant (Tom Romito) WCAS expects to receive about \$1,000 from Audubon Ohio. Six chapters were vying for money; all projects were funded for most of the money requested.
5. Freshwater Future Request. (Tom Romito) WCAS was turned down. Project did not have "immediacy" Brainstorming on what would meet that criterion. Ideas: Dedication, Private parcel of land going up for sale and needing conservation easement, Urgency of communicating to cities about unrestrained development, slowing development along the watershed, i.e. advocacy. Nancy will help to reformulate the Freshwater Futures application. Ideas: Riparian setback, permeable parking lots, etc.
6. Nancy Bucher's passing (Tom Romito). She was a dedicated volunteer doing data entry for IBA point data in years one and two. WCAS will send condolences to Nancy's father.
7. IBA article for Earthwatch Ohio (Kit Birch)  
Terri will send Kit the address to send article. Suggestion: Page 5 and 6 of our Progress Report. Add info on Walk and monthly meetings. Mary

- Anne will circulate that section to the WCAS board so that we can formulate an article for EarthWatch Ohio. Kit asked for an article for WCAS newsletter on recent IBA walk.
8. Selling of shade grown coffee at meetings (Kit Birch) Kit has analyzed our coffee sales. We have made \$124 since January 2007. Kit mentions that it is an advocacy effort as well as a fundraiser.
  9. Field trip Coordinator (Tom, et al) We had hoped to approach people at picnic, but foul weather cut attendance. Still a few to be asked. Christmas Bird count will be Dec 28. Dike 14 open House is Sept 20. WCAS Dike 14 field trip will be after that, possibly early October. Nancy Howell will lead. Terri suggests Allardale, (Medina Co.) for Sept. Mary Anne suggests Hampton Hills/Top of the World (Summit Co.) for June 2009 (chats and alder flycatchers). August 2008 field trip: Coe Lake, possibly Terri will check for leader and date. Nancy suggests: Lake to Lake trail for a future trip. Penny would like to have some low-carbon local trips, maybe at locations accessible by public transportation. For the WCAS Newsletter: Everything needed by 2<sup>nd</sup> week of July.
  9. Review of new birding book (Tom) Smithsonian. Pub by Collins. We will put a note in the newsletter.
  10. Planning for summer board meeting: Liz will host Monday July 14 at 6 p.m. Bring a dish. Will invite Stan Searles from Zoo and Wendy Weirich, new manager for Rocky River Nature Center.
  11. Newsletter: Front page: Benefits of WCAS membership, also about walk, IBA, OBBA blitz.
  12. Grant opportunity from CMNH, due in a short time. Nancy will send info to Tom.
  13. Audubon Ohio is having assembly October 18-19 in Bellville in Mohican area. Nine workshops conservation related.
  14. Biodiversity Alliance: There is an award of \$2,500. We have applied based on IBA project. Freshwater Futures is soliciting additional contributions in addition to membership fee.
  15. Adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Addendum to WCAS Board Minutes for June 23, 2008:

## **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE CLEAN OHIO FUND**

It is determined and confirmed that the Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society supports a fully-funded renewal of the Clean Ohio Fund bond package.

WHEREAS, the renewal of the Clean Ohio Fund bond package will on the November 4, 2008, ballot.

WHEREAS, a \$400 million renewal of the Clean Ohio Fund will meet the growing demand for green space conservation projects, brownfields revitalization, recreational trail development, and farmland preservation.

WHEREAS, “conservation projects” means conservation and preservation of natural areas, open spaces, and farmlands, while “revitalization” means providing for and enabling environmentally safe and productive development and use or reuse of publicly and privately-owned lands through remediation or clean up.

WHEREAS, to date the Clean Ohio Fund has funded over 700 projects preserving over 26,000 acres of natural areas and 16,000 acres of farms, creating more than 216 miles of recreational trails, and cleaning up 141 polluted sites.

WHEREAS, the annual allocation for each program year will continue as follows: \$50 million for brownfield revitalization, \$37.5 million for greenspace preservation, \$6.25 million for farmland preservation, and \$6.25 million for recreational trails.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the said investment will improve the quality of life for Ohioans and help promote the mission of the Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society, and we support and endorse the renewal of the Clean Ohio Fund.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Ted Strickland; Jon Husted, Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives; Bill Harris, President of the Ohio Senate; the Cuyahoga County Legislative Delegation; and to David Beach, Chair of the Cuyahoga County Natural Resources Assistance Council.