

Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 14, 2008 6 p.m. at Clingman's Residence

Present: Kit Birch, Liz Clingman, Nancy Howell, Penny O'Connor, Mary Anne Romito, Tom Romito, Diane Sigler, Kathleen Tiburzi, Barbara Warny, Wendy Weirich

1. Welcome to guest: Wendy Weirich, new manager at Rocky River Nature Center. Board members and guests introduced themselves. WCAS would like to meet with the naturalists at Rocky River Nature Center to talk about the Rocky River Important Bird Area.
2. Treasurer's Report: Nancy Howell reports \$13,223.12. The 31-mile ultrawalk has raised \$1,969. so far, not counting costs such as tee shirts. Metroparks Zoo sent a check for \$1,000 to help fund the IBA surveys. Metroparks will want a report at the end of the year.
3. Hinckley properties and Western Reserve Land Conservancy: Terri reports that she and Dave Dvorak have surveyed 9 points at Rising Valley plus others on private property near Hinckley. Three of the Rising Valley points will become part of the IBA forest-breeding bird survey. Will survey a property near Lodi (Chatham), also one north of Rising Valley, and one in Hinckley Township. Discussion of appropriate type of survey. Is a point-count survey needed? Or more of a walk-through?
4. Fairview Summerfest: WCAS will have displays Saturday July 19 10-3 and Sunday July 20 2-4 at this Bohlken Park event. Gloria Kimmer of Fairview Garden Club is our contact.
5. United Way request for contributions: Tom Romito reports that WCAS has netted a few hundred dollars per year from the Combined Federal Campaign. United Way has sent a request for money. We will discuss at the next board meeting.
6. Silent Auction: Board voted yes to a silent auction at the December Potluck.
7. Point counts for land owners and conservancies after current 5 years: Terri would like WCAS to take on this role. Bird surveys are important in preserving land. Tom noted that ongoing leadership will be needed to organize volunteers, also for fundraising. Mary Anne asked about mileage costs for volunteers who do the surveys, as some locations are far away and require more than one visit. This is an item for our next board meeting. Nancy asked if the conservancies require any particular type of survey. Terri noted that in most cases a walking bird survey would be

- sufficient. Tom noted that a transect survey is another method, can be done instead of point counts. Diane asked if vegetation surveys are also done. Terri noted that vegetation is more often surveyed than birds. She would like to see more bird counts. She noted that the presence of any rarity makes a stronger argument for conservation. Kathleen asked why plants are surveyed. Wendy noted that they are indicators. Diane pointed out the value of a comprehensive survey of plant and animal species.
8. Ultrawalk Lessons Learned: Keep it simple; there was no favorable response to the bike component. We think Walk only will be enough. Adding a birding component would promote more involvement of birding public. More attention needed to having table and welcome for the people walking the last five miles. They were left looking for sign-in and directions for some time before the tables were set up at Park Ops. Need more publicity and preparation in advance. Late May is a good time weather-wise. We will discuss more at the next meeting.
 9. IBA appreciation dinner. We will explore having an appreciation dinner for Important Bird Area volunteers. Probable date is October 16.
 10. Other issues: Ohio Ornithological Society – Board voted to be a paying member. Cost is \$40. Diane and Mary Anne reported that they have survey sheets for all except 5 points in Hinckley and one other area. Round 3 still needs to be done for a few more points. Diane is processing the data. Sheets will be scanned onto WCAS website. Diane is working to capture the observer comments from the data sheets as well as point counts.

Penny asked about recognition for field trip leaders or Bird of the Month presenters. Shirt, Letter with cling?

Date of the next meeting will be set as soon as Tom is able to pick a date for the recognition dinner.

--Penny O'Connor