

Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society
Board Minutes
Monday, July 21, 2014
at Panera, Tiedeman Rd. and I-480

Present: Suzanne Aldrich, Nora Ebie, Nancy Howell, Kurt Miske, Penny O'Connor, Stan Searles, and guest Eric Ritter

1. Stan Searles introduced Eric Ritter from LEEDCo., a possible speaker at the October 19 symposium on wind energy and wildlife, cosponsored by Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland, Kirtland Bird Club and Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society. LEEDCo's mission is to build the offshore wind industry in Northeast Ohio. Ritter presented LEEDCo's plan for an initial 6 turbines place about 7 miles off Cleveland in Lake Erie and would generate 3 megawatts each. A map of the Ohio shore of Lake Erie showed best and worst sites, based in impact on shipping, fishing, birds and other wildlife.

Board members discussed some options for the format of the October symposium.

2. Finances: Nancy Howell \$24,214.35 in the treasury.

3. Programs, field trips and special events:

a) Nancy has acquired three bird-oriented videos to be shown at programs in case a speaker cancels at the last minute.

b) She reported on a presentation about birds and adaptation that she did at Lakewood Catholic Academy for 2nd-5th grade campers.

c) Mary Anne Romito had e-mailed the Board to ask if WCAS will have a silent auction at the December program and potluck. Board decided yes on the silent auction.

d) Penny O'Connor received a go-ahead to make flyers to publicize the "Second Saturday" monthly bird walks at Rocky River Nature Center now sponsored by WCAS. She also got an ok on a flyer to publicize the October Wind Energy and Wildlife Symposium. The flyers can be distributed to field trip and program attendees or left as handouts at RRNC.

4. Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve Survey:

Nora forwarded an e-mail from Survey Coordinator Laura Gooch, containing the point count calendar, spreadsheet and protocols. WCAS will put a link on the website.

5. New Business

a) Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland will sponsor a fundraising workshop on September 13 at the Aurora Sanctuary. Nora is seeking

members to attend, preferably from the fundraising committee. She will contact Mark Hofelich.

b) The New York Council of Audubon Chapters invited WCAS to attend a conference October 17-20 at Mayville, NY near Chautauqua. This conflicts with the Wind Energy Symposium. Nora will make the information available at the WCAS September program.

c) Invasive Species Bill in US Congress and Senate: The National Environmental Coalition on Invasive Species contacted WCAS for support to encourage passage of H.R. 996 and S. 1153. Board asked Nora to send a letter of support. WCAS will e-blast the information to members and friends.

d) Volunteer opportunities for members: The current newsletter lists some options. Will request participation at meetings. Suzanne Aldrich noted that one-on-one requests have the best result.

e) Social Media and computer training: Nora would like to hold a workshop in the future.

6. Suzanne Aldrich announced that she will leave the WCAS Board.

7. Next meeting: Monday, August 18 at 6 p.m., Panera Bread, Tiedeman Rd. and I-480.