

MINUTES OF COAC CONFERENCE CALL OF 02-13-2018

1. CONVENING. A conference call of the Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters convened at 7:00 p.m. on February 13, 2018. Attending were Betsey Merkel, web consultant for Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society (WCAS); Tom Romito, Mary Anne Romito, Nancy Howell, and all of WCAS; Liz Woedl and Carly Zeis of Audubon Miami Valley (AMV); Jim Tomko and Mark Demyan of Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland (ASGC); Jackie Augustine of Tri-Moraine Audubon Society (TMAS); Nancy Brundage of Mahoning Valley Audubon Society (MVAS); and Irv Oslin of Greater Mohican Audubon Society (GMAS).

2. OPENING COMMENTS. Betsey began the call by making the following points:

a. The purpose of this conference was to have COAC chapter representatives make a decision on whether or not to fund construction of a website.

b. The COAC web proposal came about last July when Betsey, Nancy, and Bill Heck held a conference call about how to revitalize COAC. The proposal would allow COAC members to conduct business relating to all chapters on a central website.

c. The construction of the website would cost \$9,100 in the first year and about \$6,000 each following year. COAC members would have to determine how to acquire funding for those years.

3. DISCUSSION OF FUNDING THE WEBSITE.

a. Liz asked if we could consider options other than using the COAC account for funding the website for the years after the initial construction. Betsey said we would talk about it during the March 4 meeting.

b. Nancy Howell noted that when she became treasurer of COAC in 2017, the bank account had \$20,000 in it. It has \$17,800 left.

c. Jim asked what we could do to spend the money if we did not have a website. Liz said we could do litigation and lobbying as long as it does not entail substantial expense. Nancy Brundage agreed with Liz.

d. Carly noted that the money has been in the bank for ten years and asked if we can still do anything with it. Tom said we should spend it.

e. Jackie said that people on these calls have a hangup over spending \$9,000 on the website. She asked if we could explore free options instead. Betsey noted that even free Google apps have fixed costs.

f. Betsey said she would provide a link showing details of the cost of construction.

4. OTHER ISSUES. Betsey invited discussion on the following issues:

a. Cost of travel to the March 4 workshop in Aurora, Ohio. There was a consensus to require people to pay their own ways.

b. How to fund catering at the workshop. There was a consensus to have people self-pay for their own consumption of the catering food. An exception would be if someone had a hardship paying for it. Jim said he needs five days' notice on the quantity of food to order.

c. Hours of the workshop. Nancy Brundage suggested 1:00-4:00 and Liz suggested 11:00 or 12:00-4:00. Jackie said it would depend on how much we will try to do at the workshop. Betsey said she will publish an agenda.

5. ADJOURNING. Betsey adjourned the conference call at 7:50 p.m.