



November 11, 2019 Board Meeting Summary

The Morse Waterways Association Board of Directors Meeting was held on November 11, 2019 at 6:30 pm in the Cicero Library.

The meeting opened with approval of the minutes from the previous board meeting, held on September 16, 2019.

A calendar for 2020 was submitted by President Dave Vanette and was approved by the board.

A new slate of officers for 2020 was proposed as follows:

President: Jeff Derda

Vice President: Dave Vanette

Treasurer: Jerry Schwier

Secretary: Chuck Watkins

The officers for 2020 were approved unanimously.

Roger Goings provided information relative to the potential Federal Grant that could be secured for the purpose of improving water quality. The substance of that information is as follows:

- Past studies of the quality of the water in Morse Reservoir have been performed by the county surveyor.
- Hamilton County Soil and Water has provided assistance in the past with data that was used to support the dredging in the reservoir.
- The MWA has been providing support and communication to local farmers in an attempt to promote the use of cover crops and other good practices to reduce the amount of runoff that would eventually be deposited in the reservoir. The Hamilton and Tipton County Soil and Water Divisions have also been promoting this program and Hamilton County has since secured grant funding for that purpose.
- Additional funds are available from a national Farm Bill (2018) as well as an environmental grant from the Soy Bean and Corn Association. In conjunction with support from Becks, there is money available for cover crop seed planting for new farmers from organizations such as the USDA, Becks discounts, the Soy Bean and Corn Association, and Citizens Water.
- The MWA, with support from the White River Alliance, will take the lead in writing a grant application to be submitted by Citizens Water to attempt to secure funding from the available sources.

- This project could involve as many as 20 or more farmers and up to 3,000 acres of cover crops. The objective will be to include the largest farms in the Morse / Cicero Creek Watershed. The discussions will attempt to focus on the needs of the individual farmers with one-on-one communication, in order to provide the maximum benefit for each.

Roger Goings also provided a summary of the meeting that was held with residents of the Big Cicero Creek area regarding the recent developments on dredging activities.

1. The meeting covered the latest dredging plans, information on dock and lift removal, funds required for a matching L.A.R.E. (Lake and River Enhancement) Grant, and information from the USGS (United States Geological Survey). It was noted that these are current plans and, along with grant funding, are subject to change.
2. USGS data from 2017 was presented at the meeting. The data was to determine the actual depth of the Big Cicero area as compared to surveys done in 1956, 1978-80, and 1996. The system used in 2017 was much more sophisticated and accurate than previous methods but, based on the data available, there has been an accumulation of 65 acre-feet of silt since 1996. What that means is that an additional amount of silt has been deposited in the Big Cicero area that could provide a one foot cover for 65 acres of land. Based on this information, in the absence of any preventive measures, such as mentioned in the section above, the area would have to be dredged again in another 20 years.
3. A 20 acre site has been identified by Citizens Water for the disposal of the dredged material. Dock and lift removal will be the responsibility of the homeowner but Citizens will provide assistance, communication, and contractor support.
4. The initial payment, including matching funds, from the homeowners, will be due by December 31, 2020 and will be managed through the MWA.

The only new business, discussed was plans for the improvements on the Carrigan Bridge. John Weis provided information that he had obtained from a recent meeting that he had attended relative to the reconstruction.

President Dave Vanette adjourned the meeting at 7:40 pm.

The next MWA Board meeting will be at 7:00 PM on Monday, January 20th at Hamilton North (Cicero) Library.