

Morse Mulerways Association

Board Meeting Notes for Monday January 20, 2020

Meeting at Hamilton North Library, Brinton St, Cicero 7:00 PM. Indiana Room.

Present: Dave Vanette (Vice President)

Dean Denhart Jeff Derda (President) Chuck Watkins (Secretary) Martin Furnish Matt Clarke Roger Goings Jerry Schwier (Treasurer) John Weis Eric Harley Andy Sheetz Jennifer Carpenter, Junten Gross representing John Maxon

- 1. President opened the meeting at 07:00PM.
- 2. Minutes from November 11, 2019 meeting.
 - a. Approved and recorded.
- 3. Carrigan Bridge Project.
 - a. Jim Neal, the county engineer provided information on the Carrigan Bridge Project. Carrigan bridge was built in 1954. It is 234 feet long. The project plan is to replace the surface deck. There are no plans to replace the horizontal beams. All work is to take place at the bridge surface level. Modification to discourage placing bottles and cans on the beams is being considered. Bridge project updates will be posted on the county website.
 - a. Contractor bids are to be submitted by 4th Monday of February. The work will begin early April and be finished by July 31, the day before school starts at Noblesville Schools. Carrigan Road is to be closed 120 days.

- b. What will be the effect on boating?
 - i. During demolition early in the project boating under the bridge will be prohibited approximately three days.
 - ii. During the replacement of the concrete deck in mid to late June, boating under the bridge will be prohibited approximately one day.
- 4. Treasurer's report.
 - a. Summarized by Jerry Schwier. Accepted and recorded.
- 5. Potential application for federal clean water act grants to improve water quality. Reviewed by Roger Goings.
 - a. Funds from the grant would have been applied to improve agriculture practices in Hamilton county. Some of the goals being to reduce sediment, phosphorus, and nitrates ending up in the reservoir. Bureaucracy at the federal level revealed no added value at the local level.
 - b. It was decided Citizen's Energy and the Big Cicero Drainage Board would run the project locally. Surveys to local farmers will be sent the first week in February. Invite farmers to participate by planting cover crops. Project cost per farmer is estimated to be \$1,500 per farmer. This is seen as an excellent opportunity for MWA to have a significant local impact.
 - c. Challenges.
 - i. Having to solicit funds.
 - ii. No instant gratification. It may be ten years before measurable results are seen.
 - iii. Current per acreage cover crop planting is seven percent in Indiana. Morse watershed is two percent.
 - iv. Net effect of planting cover crops is perceived to be better on rolling acres rather than flat land.
- 6. Donation of \$1,020 from the Waterscape Homeowners Association.
 - a. "Thank You" letter will be sent.
- 7. SweetWater Brewing.
 - a) SweetWater Brewing would like to partner with the Lake Cleanup in July.
 - a. Partnership will continue.
- 8. Dock Number update. Reviewed by Dean Denhart.
 - a) Should we do a dock number survey? An informal survey will be conducted during early boating season.
 - b) 39 new plates installed. Cost of \$780. We received \$1150 in donations.