



## Morse Waterways Association Newsletter March 2023

### LATEST DREDGING INFORMATION

It has been several months since the last Morse Waterways Association Newsletter. With some recent positive activity regarding the dredging, it is time to share that information.

#### **ADDITIONAL L.A.R.E. GRANTS:**

For those who are not familiar with L.A.R.E. (Lake And River Enhancements) Grants, they are DNR funds that the MWA board has received for additional dredging in the Morse Reservoir to supplement what is being budgeted by Citizens Water. The MWA has, already, been awarded two grants of \$100K each, one for dredging at Hinkle Creek and one for Big Cicero Creek. Under the previous DNR rules, a maximum of \$300K would be allowed for a specific body of water, such as Morse Reservoir.

Last December, Roger Goings and I met with a representative from the DNR and were informed that the rules have changed and more funds are available. Having received that information, the MWA board has decided to submit more grant requests for additional dredging.

The difficult part of this, however, is that, to receive a \$100K L.A.R.E. grant, \$20K must come from third party funding. The DNR will provide the remaining \$80K.

The good news is that we have been able to secure a commitment for \$20K per year for the next 3 years. This will allow us to apply for \$100K L.A.R.E. grants, each year, for 2024, 2025, and 2026.

The next step will be to find another donor under the same conditions as above. This search has been initiated and we will make the appropriate announcement if it successfully completed.

So, to summarize:

- The DNR has increased the amount that can be committed to dredging on a single body of water.
- The MWA will be submitting L.A.R.E. grant requests in 2024, 2025, and 2026 for \$100K each year.
- The MWA has a funding source for \$20K for each of those years.
- The MWA will be attempting to find another source for 3 additional \$100K grants.
- Finally, Citizens has budgeted \$300K per year for dredging.

#### DREDGING SCHEDULE AND CLARIFICATIONS:

1. *Dredging will begin again in the summer of 2024.*
2. [Why is there no dredging in the summer of 2023?](#)
  - a. The first thing to understand is that Citizens' "fiscal" year begins September 1.

- b. The second thing to understand is that there is a cost to put the dredging equipment into the water and remove it after each dredging operation. That takes away from the funds available for the physical dredging.
  - c. To be cost-effective, Citizens did dredging in June, July, and August of 2022 (The end of Citizens' fiscal year 2022) and continued dredging in September, October, and November 2022 (The **beginning** of Citizens' fiscal year **2023**) saving the cost of loading and removing the equipment a second time.
  - d. In November 2022, Citizens completed 2 years of dredging. (Fiscal 2022 and 2023)
  - e. That is why the next round of dredging will begin in the summer of 2024.
3. Dredging for calendar 2024 will continue at Big Cicero Creek.
  4. Under the current plan, dredging of Little Cicero will not begin until Big Cicero is complete.
  5. **How long will it take to finish Big Cicero and when will dredging start on Little Cicero?**
    - a. We cannot answer this question. It is dependent on the amount of material that remains to be removed at Big Cicero.
    - b. Roger and I will be doing some depth measurements this summer to provide an estimate of how much material remains.
    - c. As the dredging progresses, we will provide as much information as we can relative to the actual schedule.

That is the latest information that we have as well as a synopsis of the work that we are doing to generate additional revenue. The more dredging that can be completed, the longer the life of the reservoir.

Hopefully this information will provide an explanation of what has happened, what will happen, and what the MWA Board is doing to expand the dredging process.

As always, if there are any additional questions, please send them to the email address listed below and you will receive a prompt reply.

### **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**MAY 18<sup>TH</sup> - MWA General Meeting** (Latest information regarding dredging, 2022 boating violations review, and update on lake cleanup will be included.)

**July 15<sup>th</sup> - Lake Cleanup**

### **Donate to the Morse Waterways Association**

The MWA is dedicated to protecting and preserving the Morse Reservoir so that it can be a source of enjoyment for many years to come. Please consider supporting this mission.

Donations can be made to Morse Waterways Assoc., P.O Box 422, Cicero, IN 46034 or by using PayPal as found on the website ([morseh2o.org](http://morseh2o.org)).

### **Current MWA Board Members:**

Matt Clarke	Roger Goings	Pat Kelleher	John Weis
Andy Sheets	Dean Denhart	Art Hall	Eric Harley
John Myer	Dustin Dixon	Randy Clark	Jeff Derda – President
Dave Vanette – Vice President	Chuck Watkins – Secretary	Jerry Schwier – Treasurer	

Thank you to all of those who have contributed to the Morse Waterways Association.

Jeff Derda, President – Morse Waterways Association