



## Morse Waterways Association Newsletter April 2022

### **General Meeting Scheduled for May 18<sup>th</sup>.**

**The Spring General Meeting will be held at Red Bridge Park on Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.**

The Speakers will be as follows:

1. Roger Goings will provide an update on dredging, cover crops, and the L.A.R.E. grant.
2. Kelly Brown or Jill Hoffman from the White River Alliance with a presentation on the RAFT (River Assessment Field Team) program.
3. Billy Doss with a discussion of issues that affected the reservoir in 2021.

The meeting will begin with a brief presentation of recent activities by the MWA Board.

### **Dredging**

Since the 2023 fiscal year for Citizens Water begins in September, the 2022 phase of the dredging is planned to begin in June (the end of the fiscal year 2022 for Citizens) and the 2023 phase will begin in September.

The current plan beginning in June is as follows:

1. Complete dredging the Channel
2. East end of the island
3. Start along the lots East to West

The following issues, however, are what could affect the timing:

1. Actual June start date.
2. Quantity of material to be removed in the channel.
3. Weather.
4. If the dredging material does not dry at the disposal site, there will be a break between the 2022 and 2023 phases.

The 2022 dredging is funded for \$300K by Citizens. The September phase also includes the \$100K from the L.A.R.E. (Lake And River Enhancement) Grant. That application was submitted by the MWA Board in January and was approved by the DNR in April. The total 2023 funded amount is \$400K.

**White River Alliance RAFT Program** The White River Alliance has initiated a program to help monitor and improve the quality of the water in our area. A representative will be making a presentation at the May general meeting. A summary of the program is as follows.

The River Assessment Field Teams (RAFTs) are individuals, family members, or small groups of friends, colleagues, or neighbors that are willing to donate time to help strategically assess local water quality. Data collected through this program will:

- Help provide a more complete picture of our water quality by teasing out pollution hot spots and measuring trends over time
- Help our Alliance direct educational and cost-share resources to areas with bad water quality
- Help agencies like the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), and county health departments fill in knowledge gaps and address concerns

## **Dock Signs**

In previous newsletters the need for dock signs has been emphasized. In 2020 – 2021, the MWA Board provided 58 new dock signs but there are still 235 signs that are missing. The Dock signs are provided at no cost but, of course, the MWA is happy to accept donations. In the past 2 years dock signs have been provided at a cost of \$1,231 with corresponding donations of \$1,095. There are currently 1,387 docks listed on Morse and, if the individual docks at homeowners' associations and docks such as those at the marina are included, that total increases to approximately 2,136.

It is not only important but it is beneficial to have a dock number. The numbers not only provide easy identification for your location in the event of an emergency but the number is, also, linked to your home address for emergency police, fire, or ambulance services.

Please help to provide a full complement of dock signs. The MWA is working to keep this project functioning but it cannot be done without your support. If you need a new sign, please see the following information.

For new or replacement dock numbers:

Contact: Dean Denhart

[pdenhart@comcast.net](mailto:pdenhart@comcast.net)

## **Boater Safety**

Safe boating on Morse Reservoir has been a concern for the MWA for many years. It has become more of an issue in recent years with the increase in the number of boats and jet skis. The MWA had, previously, given its support to a group of lake associations throughout the state of Indiana, under the direction of the Lake Wawasee Association, to facilitate the passage of a state law to implement boater training requirements.

That initiative is currently in the lobbying stage in the state legislature and will likely not see much activity until next year.

## **Safety Awareness Programs**

In previous years, the MWA had reserved a weekend during the summer as Safety Awareness Days. As a substitute to that activity, the MWA is working on the possibility of providing a sign near the boat ramp with important safety information as well as a map of the reservoir, highlighting idle zones, etc. This project is in the early stages but, if anyone would like to provide any input, please make contact through the website.

## **Lake Cleanup**

Please mark your calendars for the 2022 lake cleanup, which will be on **Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup>**. Details will be provided in the next newsletter.

## **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

Andy Sheets

John Myer

Chuck Watkins – Secretary

Roger Goings

Dean Denhart

Jeff Derda – President

Jerry Schwier - Treasurer

Pat Kelleher

Art Hall

Dave Vanette – Vice President

John Weis

Eric Harley