



## Morse Waterways Association Newsletter June 2021

### Spring General Meeting

The spring general meeting was held at Red Bridge on Tuesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to all those who attended and a special thanks to Roger Goings and Billy Doss for their presentations. The MWA Board also appreciates everyone's cooperation with wearing masks and maintaining distance as much as possible. The following is a summary of the presentations and discussions at that meeting.

### MWA Board Members

The board members who were present introduced themselves. They were Dave Vanette, Brian Czekala, Dean Denhart, Jeff Derda, Roger Goings, Art Hall, Pat Kelleher, John Myer, Chuck Watkins, and John Weis. A brief description of the function and purpose of the board and its activities was given by Jeff Derda.

### Lake Cleanup 2021

Dave Vanette made an announcement regarding the Lake Cleanup. It is scheduled for **Saturday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00 am until Noon at Red Bridge Park.** We need all the help that we can get.

### Presentation by Roger Goings, who is the Noblesville Representative to the Service Advisory Board for Citizens Water

Roger discussed issues that have an impact on the Morse residence along with the improvements that have been made by Citizens Water to reduce the frequency and magnitude of the amount of water that will be withdrawn from the Morse Reservoir during the summer. The improvements that were discussed are as follows:

#### **WATER SUPPLY**

1. Citizens Water owns Morse and Geist. Although there is more water in each of the reservoirs, only 3 billion gallons of water can be drawn from each. Most of the water for Indianapolis, approximately 70%, comes from streams.
2. The White River (supported by Morse Reservoir) and Fall creek (supported by Geist Reservoir) are the main sources of water for two treatment plants at 16th street and east of the Fairgrounds on 38th street. Two new pumping stations have been added to the system. One from the White River to the Canal and a second from Fall Creek to the Canal.
3. Citizens Water, which was the gravel pit at the NE corner of Geist Reservoir is now complete and filled. This will provide an additional 3 billion gallons of water that can be pumped into Geist.
4. With these improvements, minor droughts will have a minimal impact on Morse Reservoir.

#### **IRRIGATION**

1. A project has been continuing with Purdue University to reduce the demand for irrigation water. The drought of 2012 resulted in a significant increase in the water used for irrigation.
2. One facet of the project is to develop a type of grass that requires less water. There are hundreds of varieties of grass that are under consideration.

3. New weather stations are being developed to control irrigation systems. The standard home system is on a timer which provides water regardless of the conditions. In a 25-week season, this results in a total water usage of 25 inches. With a rain sensor, that amount is reduced to 20 inches. The new system, with irrigation demand controlled by a weather station, could reduce the consumption as 67%.

## **COVER CROPS**

1. The Cover Crop program was established in 2017 for farmers new to the use of cover crops. The objective is to reduce the amount of soil erosion and, consequently, the deposits that enter the reservoir. The program provides 40 acres of an aerially applied cover crop mix.
2. The program partners are:
  - a. INDIANA SOYBEAN ALLIANCE & INDIANA CORN MARKETING COUNCIL (Funding, program coordination, marketing & communications)
  - b. BECK'S HYBRIDS (Technical assistance, marketing support, seed logistics)
  - c. CARGILL (Funding, marketing support)
  - d. WALTON FAMILY FOUNDATION (Funding)
  - e. The MWA board has committed \$3,200 to fund 2 farmers
3. In 2020, 75 farmers have participated in the program totaling 3,000 acres.
  - a. 50 first year participants.
  - b. 4 second year participants
  - c. 16 third year participants
  - d. 4 fourth year participants
4. The program received the White River Alliance "Exceptional Commitment to Watershed Protection" Award.
5. 2021 Program Timeline:
  - a. May – June: Confirm funding.
  - b. Late June – Early August: Open Enrollment
  - c. September: Cover crop seed applied
  - d. Winter 2022: Sampling, peer meetings, surveys
6. The MWA Board has committed to two additional farmers or \$3200 for the 2021 Program. If the program receives more applicants than the available resources will support, MWA may be back to the membership for additional funding.

## **DREDGING AT BIG CICERO CREEK**

1. Citizens has committed \$300,000 per year for dredging. The fiscal year for Citizens is from September to September. The dredging for 2021 has been completed.
2. Dredging for 2022 is planned to start in June but will continue until October. This will include the end of the Citizens 2022 year and the beginning of the 2023 year totaling \$600,000. It should be noted that this is the current plan and it could be revised depending on conditions.
3. The MWA Board is in the process of preparing a L.A.R.E. (Lake And River Enhancement) grant submission to fund another \$100,000 of dredging. This will be submitted in January 2022.

## **Presentation by Billy Doss, DNR Conservation Officer**

### **2020 BOATING VIOLATIONS**

Billy presented the following list of violations that occurred in 2020 as well as an explanation when required. Those violations are as follows:

- i. Fishing – 39
- ii. Hunting – 3
- iii. Minor Consumption of Alcohol – 11
- iv. Providing Alcohol to a Minor – 2
- v. Disorderly Conduct – 3
- vi. Interfering with an Investigation – 2
- vii. Littering – 11
  1. Both \$250 and \$1000 Fines

- viii. Resisting Law Enforcement – 1
- ix. Boating While Intoxicated – 19
  - 1. Highest BAC was .318
- x. Boat Registration – 20
- xi. Idle Zone Violations – 28
- xii. Permitting Unlawful Operation of a Watercraft by a Minor – 8
- xiii. Gunwale Rider Violations – 4
- xiv. Towing Skier Without Observer – 3
- xv. Shoreline Speed Violations – 4
- xvi. Navigation Rules – 5
- xvii. Nighttime Speed – 10
- xviii. Imprudent/Dangerous Operation – 10
- xix. PFD/Lifejacket – 44
  - xx. Navigation Lights – 16
- xxi. Marijuana – 6

## BOUYS

1. There are more buoys being used. A permit is no longer required to use a buoy. The buoys should be located no farther than 185 feet from the shore. The DNR officers can and do check the distance.
2. Of the 16 buoys that are put on the reservoir by the DNR, only 3 of them are left.
3. New buoys have not been put into place because the order for new ones have not been received. They will be put in as soon as they are delivered.
4. If you see a buoy that is floating free, please report it to the DNR.

## OTHER COMMENTS

1. COVID contributed to a 35% increase in boat licenses for 2020.
2. 2021 will likely be another busy year.
3. In response to a question about limiting the number of boats, the response was that the public boat ramp is under the control of the Marina Limited Partnership. It is their decision to shut down due to heavy boat traffic.
4. The town of Cicero Police/Fire Department will have a new boat on the water. It should be available by the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend.
5. The DNR is hiring 25 new officers. The requirements are a high school diploma and a background check. If anyone is qualified to serve the community, they are encouraged to apply.
6. **IMPORTANT:** Billy emphasized that, if you have any questions regarding something being legal or illegal, **DO NOT** get your information from the internet. For correct information, contact the **Department of Natural Resources.**

## Dock Numbers

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. (Be sure to write your dock number on all your water toys (kayaks, canoes, paddle boards rafts), in case they escape from your dock.)

For new or replacement dock numbers:

Contact: Dean Denhart

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

## 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.

If you would like to make a **tax deductible contribution**, please use the PayPal feature on our website [www.morseh2o.org](http://www.morseh2o.org) or make a check payable to Morse Waterways Association and mail it to: Morse Waterways Association, PO Box 422, Cicero, IN 46034.

**Current MWA Board Members:**

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

**Final Comment!**

A special note of gratitude from the MWA is extended to Amanda Sheets for making it possible for the MWA Newsletter to be sent to everyone for many years.

Jeff Derda, President – Morse Waterways Association