



Morse Waterways Association Newsletter October 2023

The MWA is a Not for Profit, 501c3, organization that is supported by donations from those who use the reservoir. 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).

Due to a relatively slow couple of months, the MWA had decided not to schedule a September, Fall General Meeting. There are, however, a few items of interest that will be addressed in this newsletter and, as always, any questions can be sent to the MWA website and they will be promptly addressed.

The MWA, thanks to the efforts of Roger Goings with special thanks to Amanda Sheets, has been sending periodic Newsletter Alerts regarding the water level in the reservoir. Those will continue until conditions normalize.

Lake Cleanup

A summary of the 2023 Lake Cleanup and the associated complications was included in the July Newsletter but the following notice is repeated as a reminder and a courtesy to Jimmie Hunter and the Parks Department. They do an exceptional job of maintaining Red Bridge Park and we have an obligation to assist in any way that we can.

VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE:

DO NOT BRING LOGS TO RED BRIDGE ON ANY DAYS OTHER THAN THOSE DESIGNATED FOR LAKE CLEANUP!

There are times throughout the year when logs and debris are brought to Red Bridge Park and tied to the dock. This can only be done during Lake Cleanup. When this happens, the Parks Department must make special arrangements to have the material removed and hauled away. Jimmie Hunter and the Park Staff are dedicated to keeping the park clean and maintained and they already do a special service to repair the damage from the cleanup. Please exercise some consideration for the work that they do.

Dredging and Other Projects

The following information was included in the July Newsletter but nothing has changed. The information is simply a reminder of the current schedule.

DREDGING SUMMARY:

- The last dredging cycle was completed in November 2022.
- The next dredging cycle is scheduled for June – November 2024.
- The target area is from the St Rd 19 bridge, 80 feet from shoreline to the railroad bridge.
- When that is completed, work will start on the island.

L.A.R.E. (Lake and River Enhancement) GRANT UPDATE:

- \$200,000 per year for dredging is now available from the DNR. Sponsor must provide \$20,000 to get \$80,000 from the state.
- The Big Cicero Drainage Board agreed to provide \$20,000 for each of the calendar years 2024, 2025, and 2026.
- The MWA board has initiated the application for additional L.A.R.E. Grant funds, using the money allocated by the BCDB and any other revenue sources we can secure.
- The total amount will not be determined until after review by the DNR.
- The material that is removed is deposited at a location on 236th street approximately 3 miles west of town.
- The material will be dried and sold as topsoil.

MORSE WATERWAYS WEBSITE:

Matt Clark has been working on a new MWA website that will be more intuitive, include more photos of past events, have more information and be easier to use. Thanks, Matt, for all your effort. Stay tuned for further updates.

RENEWAL OF BOARD MEMBER TERMS AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

The terms for Dean Denhart, Art Hall, John Weis and Chuck Watkins will all expire at the end of 2023. They have all expressed an interest in serving another term and the vote will be taken at the November board meeting as specified in the bylaws, since there was no Fall General Meeting.

The elections of officers for 2024 will also take place at the November meeting.

If anyone has an interest in serving on the MWA Board please contact us through the MWA website. We are always interested in considering new members when openings are available.

Important Information for Improving Water Quality – ANNUAL REMINDER!

Fall is here and leaf removal begins, please do not blow your leaves in the lake. The leaves contain phosphorous and nitrogen which adds to the growth of blue-green algae and contributes to reduction of oxygen in the water which impacts the fish. The leaves will settle to the bottom of the lake and increase the amount of silt, thus reducing the lake depth. Remind your neighbors of these issues. An alternative is to mulch your leaves. The nutrients in the leaves are good for the grass, flower beds and vegetable gardens.

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).

Current MWA Board Members:

Matt Clarke	Roger Goings	Pat Kelleher	John Weis
Andy Sheets	Dean Denhart	Art Hall	Eric Harley
John Myer	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.

Thank you to the MWA Board Members for their time and commitment.

Jeff Derda, President – Morse Waterways Association