



## Morse Waterways Association Newsletter June 2024

The Morse Waterways Association had the Spring General Meeting on Wednesday, May 22 at Red Bridge Park. The following is a summary of the information that was presented and the discussions that occurred.

### SUMMARY OF RECENT MWA BOARD PROJECTS:

Jeff Derda opened the meeting by recognizing and thanking the board members who were in attendance and reviewing the composition and purpose of the MWA.

The board consists of 14 members (There is currently 1 vacancy) and was formed in 2005 to support safety and environmental concerns on the reservoir. The board members serve three-year terms and board meetings are held every two months.

Some of the current MWA Board projects are as follows:

1. **New MWA Website** about to be initiated. Matt Clarke has been working on this for many months and the new version is a major improvement. It will have photos from activities such as the cleanup, copies of all the newsletters and announcements of meetings and special events. Thanks to Matt for all his efforts.
2. **Party Island Improvements** were highlighted in the February newsletter. Thanks to the initiative of Andy Sheets and funding from Andy and the MWA board, the island has received a major cleanup and is ready for use.



**Before**



**After**



**Now**

3. **Newsletters** are periodically issued to update the property owners on current activities as well as alert members to dam openings, low water level conditions, treatments for algae, and other conditions that are addressed by Citizens Water.
4. **Geese Control** measures are implemented in accordance with DNR regulations to help reduce the population of Canadian Geese on the reservoir.
5. **Other Activities** are described in more detail below.

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

The L.A.R.E. Grant (Lake and River Enhancement) for 2024 had been submitted to the DNR in December 2023. The total amount requested was \$300K. Unfortunately, the grant request was denied.

On May 16<sup>th</sup>, Roger Goings and Jeff Derda attended a meeting with a representative from the DNR to determine the cause of the rejection and possibilities for future submissions. The results of that meeting were as follows:

- Due to the drought in 2023, there was a large increase in the number of grant requests submitted.
- The fact that the MWA has previously been approved for 2 grants influenced the decision.
- Although revenue from boat registrations resulted in increased revenue, that money is not available for the DNR to distribute until 2025. (Rates increased because the amount was based on the value of the boat and not the size.)
- The MWA will apply again for 2025.
- Two requests will be generated. One for dredging in Big Cicero and one for Little Cicero.

## **DREDGING SCHEDULE:**

- Citizens will not be able to start dredging until October 2024. The original plan was to begin in the summer of 2024. Regardless of the late start, the full schedule of dredging will be completed. It will just be carried into the later months.
- The next dredging is scheduled for 2026.

## **WEATHER FORECAST:**

Yes, the MWA newsletter is presenting the “Breaking News” on the summer weather. (I have always wanted to use that term “Breaking News” in one of the regular newsletters and I finally have the opportunity.)

At the meeting, Roger Goings gave a summary of his studies relative to the weather conditions for the summer. He does a lot of research on weather sites and targets those that do not have a specific agenda and tend to be unbiased. From what he has discovered, we can anticipate some of the following conditions this summer:

- Higher than average temperatures August – November.
- Intermittent rains throughout the summer months.
- 20-25 named storms. 4-7 hurricanes.
- Rain will be coming in the northern part of Indiana. Southern Indiana should get more rain. Not so much in central Indiana.

## **LAKE CLEANUP:**

Dave Vanette comments on lake cleanup.

a. Cleanup is July 20<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am to noon. (Cleanup is always the third Saturday in July.)

b. **Logs and debris can be brought to the Red Bridge Ramp only on the days of July 18, 19 & 20.** If logs are brought on the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup>, please tie them to the shore so they do not float away. If logs are brought any days before and after, the city will have to make special provisions to haul them away.

c. Duke Energy Employees have been contacted to help again this year on Friday the 19<sup>th</sup>.

d. Volunteers needed with boats, pontoons, Jet Skis... Volunteers are also needed to help in the water, pulling the logs to shore so the tractor can remove them.

e. Scott Thomas will be providing dumpsters so we can deposit logs directly into the containers and not have to lay them on the ground, damaging the grass and gravel parking area.

f. The MWA will have to pay truck drivers to remove, empty and return the dumpsters.

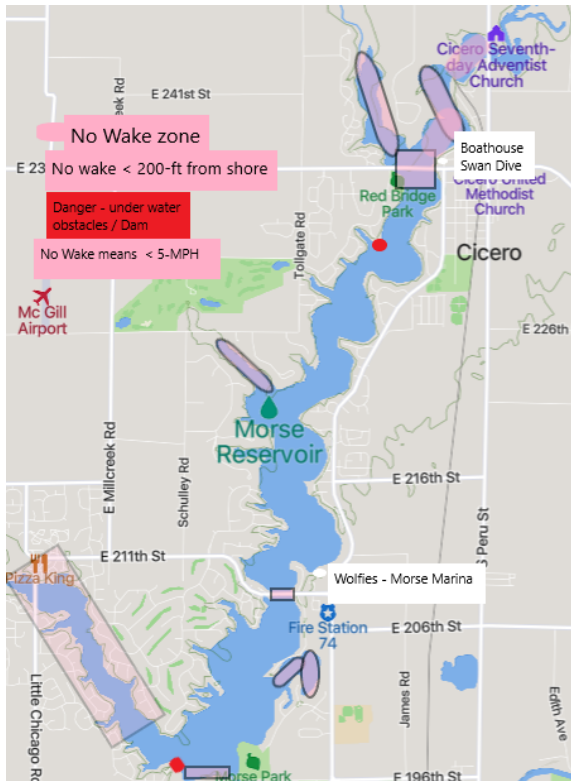
g. The more volunteers and boats we have, the more logs and debris we can remove.

## SAFETY SIGN:

As a replacement for Safety Days that had been sponsored by the MWA board, Pat Kelleher has been working on a “SAFETY SIGN” to be placed by the boat ramp. The intent of the sign is to provide information to boaters, especially those who are new to the reservoir. Some of the highlights of the sign are:

- There will be a map of the reservoir.
- No wake zones will be identified along with hazard areas.
- The purpose of the buoys will be explained.
- Safety and emergency information will be included.

The drawback is that an estimate to make and install a 4’x5’ sign was \$3,500 which is more than the MWA account can support. We may have to solicit donations, if the consensus is that it is a worthwhile project or find a sponsor and apply the sponsor’s name to the sign.



Welcome to Morse Reservoir Morse Waterways Association		
This is a Citizens Energy Resource		
Have a Safe & Enjoyable Day		
Drinking Water Supply		
No Dumping / polluting		
DNR Patrolled		
Links - Emergency numbers -Use Dock numbers as Location Reference		
MWA- QD		
DNR - QD		
DNR - Phone		
Fire Department - Phone		
Noblesville Police - Phone		
Cicero Police - Phone		
Safety gear minimum requirements		
1 PFD / Occupant		
Throwable PFD		
Fire Extinguisher		
Boat Registration		
Key Bouy references & pictures		
Idle speed - No Wake < 5 MPH		
Idle speed always < 200 Ft from Shore		
Danger- submerged object		
Lake Map		
Danger Zones		
No Wake Zones		
Lakeside Restraunts & parks		

This is just a sample of how the sign might look. If anyone has any suggestions as to other things that should be included, please send them via the [morseh2o.org](http://morseh2o.org) website. In addition, if anyone would like to make a donation or has a suggestion on a possible sponsor, please contact the MWA.

## Dock Signs

### **CHECK YOUR DOCKS! DO YOU HAVE A DOCK NUMBER SIGN?**

In previous newsletters the need for dock signs has been emphasized. 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 exceeds 2,100.

It is not only important but it is beneficial to have a dock number. The numbers provide easy identification for your location in the event of an emergency and the number is 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)

### **MWA EDITORIAL:**

Thank you to all those who attended the MWA General Meeting. It was an engaging meeting with many questions, comments, complaints and compliments. Many thanks to the input provided by everyone. All the board members did their best to answer and address the issues but there are many that are out of our jurisdiction.

The major topic for the evening seemed to be the debris that is filling the lake and what can be done about it. This year seems to be the worst that many can remember. However, to put this into perspective please consider these comments that were submitted at the meeting:

- We live on a reservoir and this is to be expected.
- It was suggested that Lake Cleanup be done earlier in the summer. This had been done many years ago and the result was that the water was too cold and we could not get volunteers needed in the water.
- The more volunteers we have at the Lake Cleanup in July, the more logs and debris we can remove.
- If you have a log at your property and are unable to remove it or bring it to Red Bridge during cleanup day, please notify the MWA and we will do our best to make arrangements to have it removed.
- Finally, bring logs to the Red Bridge ramp only on the designated days (July 18, 19, 20). Do not bring logs to the ramp on any other days during the year. While we realize that this can be an inconvenience, the Parks Department does not have the manpower and equipment to remove logs every day of the year.

Again, thank you to everyone who attended the general meeting. It was a very good meeting and I hope that we were able to address many of your issues and answer most of your questions. We encourage everyone to attend these meetings as they affect everyone on the reservoir.

### **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)).

**Please consider that our expenses are increasing. In order to preserve the quality of Red Bridge Park we will be required to pay to have logs and debris hauled away. We also have disposal expenses and recycle expenses that we did not have in previous years.**

**Along with that, the MWA board has been paying fees to write and submit L.A.R.E. grants and additional funding will be needed if we are to be able to proceed with the Safety Sign.**

**So, please consider donating to the MWA and supporting the projects.**

**Current MWA Board Members:**

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