

Welcome Members and Guests



**WEST LAKES
ASSOCIATION**

PROTECT PRESERVE PROMOTE

2018 Spring Meeting

Diann Scott, President

June 9, 2018



**WEST LAKES
ASSOCIATION**

PROTECT PRESERVE PROMOTE

Welcome & Introductions

- Officers & Lake Directors
- Special Guests
- First Time Attendees / New Residents

Secretary's Report

Garth Coons

Approval of 8/26/17 Fall Meeting Minutes

Minutes of 8/26/17 Fall Meeting

- The meeting was called to order by President Diann Scott. Diann introduced West Lakes Association Board Members and Lake Directors.
- It was voted to accept the June 17, 2017 meeting minutes as distributed.
- Jill Becker presented the Treasurer's Report which was approved as noted. Checking balance was \$17,923.24 and Savings balance was \$14,272.13.
- Old Business - Information on log jams, Long Term Recovery, Southern Baptist Relief and updated West Lakes Association website.
- New Business – Diann recognized all river clean-up volunteers and gave each on a special t-shirt that can only be received if you do river clean-up. Diann also launched our new association logo (designed by Eric Knittle) and shared some of our initial logo'd promotional merchandise. Thanks to Bill & Cindy Vanderbosch for building really great new West Lakes info boxes for each lake.
- Elections:
 - *Cindy Vanderbosch was elected Vice President. Thanks to outgoing VP Elizabeth Graham.*
 - *Jill Becker was re-elected Treasurer.*
 - *Tom Goyings was re-elected Waldron Lake Director.*
 - *Anne Bougher was re-elected Steinbarger Lake Director.*
- Diann Scott presented an informative report about West Lakes activities and meetings of this year. Committees and Top 10 Action Plans and Project Leaders were announced. (see Facebook West Lakes Association; see www.westlakesassociation.com)
- We had 55 paid members this time last year. We now have 225 paid members in the West Lakes Association.

Respectfully submitted by Garth Coons, Secretary, 260-466-5601, gcoons3@gmail.com

Treasurer's Report

Diann Scott presenting for Treasurer, Jill Becker

Treasurer's Report 6/09/2018

CHECKING		SAVINGS	
<i>8/26/17 Beginning Balance</i>	\$17,923.24	<i>8/26/17 Beginning Balance</i>	\$14,272.13
Dues & Donations	\$6,853.86	Fundraising & Donations	\$15,111.55
Promo/Fundraising	(\$8,183.09)		
River Cleanup / Water Quality	(\$2,406.25)		
General Expenses	(\$2,565.30)		
Expenses	(\$13,154.64)		
<i>6/5/18 Ending Balance</i>	<u>\$11,622.46</u>	<i>6/5/18 Ending Balance</i>	<u>\$29,383.68</u>
Total Funds Available	8/26/2017	\$32,195.37	
	6/5/2018	\$41,006.14	

Old Business

Any Old Business from Floor?

New Business

- President's Report
- Top 10 Projects Update
- Committee Reports

President's Report

- **Keeping West Lakes Issues Relevant**
 - Noble County Commissioners Meetings, Drainage Board Meetings and individual meetings with county departments
 - Agencies, Clubs, Associations, Civic Groups at County & State Level
 - Noble County Long Term Recovery Group
 - Noble County COAD – Community Organizations for Aid & Disasters
- **Building our Credibility**
 - Purdue University Watershed Management Leadership Certification
 - Board Member of ILMS – Indiana Lake Management Society
- **Results & Leadership**
 - February Flood Results
 - Increased membership by over 400%
 - Much stronger financial position
 - Top 10 Projects Leaders meet twice a month

Our Action Plans & Project Leaders

<i>Project</i>	<i>Tasks</i>	<i>Project Leader</i>	<i>Agencies Involved</i>
AGRICULTURAL IMPACTS & WATER QUALITY	Run-off, Tiling, USDA Grants to set aside land, Land Use, River Friendly Farmers, Nutrients & Buffer Strips. Establish baseline measurements and frequency of tests (lake, river), nutrients, fertilizers and chemicals	MICHAEL SCHAEFER	Soil & Water Conservation, USDA, Drainage Boards, DNR, EPA, SJRBC, MRBC
VEGETATION	Identification of native vs invasive plants, LARE Grant, Weed Harvesting,	CINDY VANDERBOSCH	DNR, SJRBC, MRBC, USFW, USFS
SEDIMENT	Understand changes, identify problem areas, LARE Grant	DOUG BORDEN	DNR, USACE, Noble Cty Surveyor
LOG REMOVAL	Evaluate current situation, LARE Grant, Process to maintain going forward	MIKE KURTZ	DNR, Noble County Surveyor
CONSERVANCY DISTRICT	Evaluate process, establish recommendations, evaluate funding needed	DAVE WINEBRENNER	DNR, Noble County Planning
NOBLE COUNTY LAKES COUNCIL	Review LaGrange & Steuben Councils, Ordinances Needed, Funneling, Flood Plan, Needs Assessment, Structure, etc.	DIANN SCOTT	Noble County Lake Associations, Noble County Commissioners
BRIDGES & ROADS	Make recommendation on items needing attention (1050 raise bridge, elevate concrete walls and approaches)	RUSS LAYMAN	Noble County Highway Dept
LAKE GAGE & PREDICTIVE FLOOD MODELING	Get lake gage back on Waldron lake. Unsteady state modeling.	DAVE WICK	DNR, USGS, USACE
FLOOD PREPAREDNESS	Flood Insurance, Anchor Propane Tanks, Elevate Water Well Heads, WLRSD, Sandbag Storage	BILL VANDERBOSCH	Noble County EMA, WLRSD
HOME ELEVATION ASSESSMENT	Buyouts, Elevation of Homes (how many still need to be raised)	DIANN SCOTT	Noble County, SJRBC, MRBC

Water Quality – Michael Schaeffer

GOAL	
1	Create Land Use Database outlining Land types that may contribute to run-off discharges entering into West Lakes, and
2	Establish baseline Water Quality Measurements of pathogens, nutrients and sediment loads
3	Sources of Flows targeted: 1) North Branch of Elkhart River, 2) Middle Branch of the Elkhart River, 3) Gonzer Ditch, 4) Gretzinger Ditch, 5) Boughey Ditch and 6) North Branch of the Elkhart River at Duke's Bridge (leaving West Lakes Chain)
TEAM MEMBERS	
	Hans Hofer and Ned Lichtsinn
ACCOMPLISHMENTS	
1	Created Monitoring Plan, and
2	Collected pathogen, nutrient and sediment load samples last Fall and this Spring at each River branch and ditch. Each sample taken during Indiana's recreational period, and
3	Performed stream measurements and calculated flows each time samples were collected, and
4	Attended meetings with various Federal, State and County entities.
GOALS <i>(for the next calendar year, included, but are not limited to)</i>	
1	Con tinue to collect sampling and stream flow data, as identified above, and
2	Create GIS mapping of conservation and non-conservation practices for each <i>flow source area</i> , and
3	Hire a consultant or technical advisor who will endorse our findings, and
4	Generate a Strategic Plan designed to reduce pathogen, nutrient and sediment loads for each <i>flow source area</i> , and
5	Recruit team members to assist in data entry

Vegetation – Cindy Vanderbosch

GOAL

- 1 Minimize vegetation to maximize flow.
- 2 Restore riverbanks and help diminish trees falling into the river.
- 3 Restore canopy to decrease light to vegetation to slow growth.

TEAM MEMBERS

Jim McLaughlin, Dennis McClellan, Rita Kemmerly

TASKS

- 1 Prepare LARE Grant application for Tier Two Aquatic Study
- 2 Determine types of trees and shrubs best suited for our area and funds to replant.

RESULTS

Obtained LARE grant!

Still pursuing tree and shrub information for shoreline stabilization.

Sediment – Doug Borden

GOAL

1	Complete Sediment removal plan to identify areas where silt has built up and impairs water flow and boat traffic.
2	Establish sediment pits on incoming streams to reduce sediment from entering the lakes at collection points.
	<i>a) Bridge locations that can be cleaned from the road prior to entering the lake system</i>
	<i>b) help water quality affected by sediment in water</i>
	<i>c) reduce the need for future dredging</i>
3	Look at all the channels and incoming streams to determine the need for dredging
	<i>a) all 3 channels and 4 incoming streams</i>
	<i>b) other locations that the study may suggest</i>

TEAM MEMBERS

Cindy Vanderbosch

TASKS

1	Prepare LARE requesting \$7500 to complete Sediment Study
	<i>a) this is a two year process - year 1 complete study and establish needs, year 2 implement plans</i>
	<i>b) bidding process is being done with approved DNR vendors</i>
	<i>c) there will be at least one public meeting about sediment removal once the study is done</i>
	<i>d) dredging targeted to be completed in the fall of 2019</i>
2	Following Sediment Study, prepare 2nd LARE request for Implementation Plan
	<i>a) Maximum LARE Grant per year is \$100,000 and a max of \$200,000 over a two year period</i>
	<i>b) West Lakes Association has to provide 20% cost share of the total project cost</i>

RESULTS

Obtained LARE Grant!

Log Removal – Mike Kurtz

GOAL

1	Remove all obstructions from the stream bed downstream of West Lakes as far as necessary to ensure sufficient flow from the lakes

TEAM MEMBERS

Over 100 volunteers from the surrounding areas removing debris or supporting the river crew with food and drinks, including several people from other lake chains.

TASKS

1	Successfully cleaned 5.2 miles of river starting at Duke's Bridge dam and working downstream, removing over 200 trees from the river bed that were restricting water flow.

RESULTS

Measuring from the previous year's high water level of 7.11', we have increased water flow by 40% and decreased the peak water height by 13.75%.

Lake Monitoring – Mike Kurtz

GOAL

- 1 To reinstall the Duke's Bridge Stream Gauge measuring Waldron Lake height

TEAM MEMBERS

Dave Wick, Craig Miller, Diann Scott, Randy Sexton

TASKS

- 1 Many phone calls, emails and meetings to find a funding source to replace DNR portion
- 2 Formal request to St. Joseph River Basin Commission Spring Board Meeting to fund

RESULTS

The gauge is currently funded and up and running under its original stream gauge number of USGS 04100220

Conservancy District – Dave Winebrenner

GOAL

1	Evaluate the establishment of Conservancy District

TEAM MEMBERS

Garth Coons, Linda Smith

TASKS

1	Obtained rules and regulations to form a Conservancy District
2	Contacted existing conservancies about pros and cons
3	Meet with Jamie Miller, DNR, Conservancy District Project Planner
3	Obtained maps to create the conservancy

RESULTS

Maps obtained to create conservancy district boundaries

Ready to establish planning meeting to draft conservancy proposal

Notifications and signature requests will follow

Bridges & Roads – Russ Layman

GOAL

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Work with Noble County Highway Department to understand road and bridge maintenance plans and priorities. |
| | |

TEAM MEMBERS

Keith Ellert

TASKS

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Working with Zack Smith, Noble County Highway Director for public roads and bridges |
| 2 | Working with homeowners on private roads |
| | |

RESULTS

Limited results with Zack Smith

Good results with homeowners on private roads

Noble County Lakes Council – Diann Scott

GOAL

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Bring together all public and private lakes in Noble County, to establish a Noble County Lakes Council |
|---|--|

TEAM MEMBERS

Cindy Vanderbosch

TASKS

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Meet with Steuben County Lakes Council and LaGrange County Lake Council to understand structure, benefits and responsibilities. |
| 2 | Identify all lakes (public and private) in Noble County, and associated lake association and/or homeowner's associations, and |
| 3 | Send out initial information packet describing concept |
| 4 | Schedule initial organizational meeting for early summer. |

RESULTS

Letters mailed to all lakes (public and private)

In process of scheduling organizational meeting to bring all interested parties together.

Creation will allow the lakes to influence ordinances and work together for common issues.

Flood Preparedness – Diann Scott

GOAL

1 Identify efforts that residents can initiate for flood preparedness.

TEAM MEMBERS

Diann Scott

TASKS

1 Meet with Emergency Management, West Lakes Sewer District and others to identify activities, resources and initiatives that residents can undertake in advance of flooding to reduce risk.

RESULTS

Items identified and in process of creating reference document that can be published for use by any lake resident (not just West Lakes, but all lakes within Noble County and beyond).

In process of scheduling organizational meeting to bring all interested parties together.

Home Elevation Assessment – Diann Scott

GOAL

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Identify which West Lakes homes are below base flood elevations |
| | |

TEAM MEMBERS

Ken Hughes (Noble County Plan Director), Randy Sexton (Noble County Surveyor), Rod Renkenberger (Maumee Valley River Basin Commission) and Mick Newton (Noble County EMA Director)

TASKS

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Prepare new GIS maps with the BFE (base flood elevation) of each home identified. |
| 2 | Make sure all homes are accurately depicted. |
| | |

RESULTS

Noble County Commissioners have established a Committee that is working on this activity.
In process of scheduling organizational meeting to bring all interested parties together.

We are becoming a strong organization!

We always need more volunteers!!

In addition, to our Top 10 Projects – we've had several Committees that have been actively working since our Fall meeting...

- By-Laws / Job Descriptions – Cindy Vanderbosch
- Dam Maintenance – Mike Mast
- Boat Parade – Jane Silver
- Lake Management (Buoys, Fishing Tournaments) – Ned Riser
- Fundraising – Jeanne Schaeffer

Fundraising – Jeanne Schaeffer

- Completed Activities
 - Main Street Village Ham 'n Beans – October 2017
 - Craft Bazaar & Bake Sale & Chili Cookoff – December 2017
 - Valentine's Cocktail Party – February 2018
- Upcoming Activities
 - Fundraising Garage Sale – June 16th
 - Community wide Garage Sales the same weekend



New Business

*Any other
New Business?*

Fall Meeting – August

Election of Officers

ODD YEARS - FALL MEETING	2011	2013	2015	2017
Vice President	Rick Smigielski	Rick Smigielski	Elizabeth Graham	Cindy Vanderbosch
Treasurer	Linda Lichtsinn	Linda Lichtsinn	Jill Becker	Jill Becker
Lake Director - Waldron Lake	Tom Goyings	Tom Goyings	Tom Goyings	Tom Goyings
Lake Director - Steinbarger Lake	Anne Bougher	Anne Bougher	Anne Bougher	Anne Bougher

EVEN YEARS - FALL MEETING	2012	2014	2016	2018
President	Dave Wick	Gordon Anthony	Diann Scott	
Secretary	Diann Scott	Diann Scott	Garth Coons	
Lake Director - Waldron Lake	Joyce Smigielski	Joyce Smigielski	Mike Kurtz	
Lake Director - Tamarack Lake	Pam Frosch	Pam Frosch	Dave Wick / Randy Mull	
Lake Director - Jones Lake	Ned Lichtsinn	Ned Lichtsinn	Ned Lichtsinn	
Director at Large - Pat Filler	Mike Harris	Pat Filler	Buzz Junk	

Can I get a motion to adjourn?

