

**Minutes of the
Annual Crooked Lake Association Meeting
June 7, 2025**

Call to Order and Welcome by Association President Phil Walker. This is the 55th Anniversary of the Crooked Lake Association and the 31st year of our Association being legally organized in Indiana as a public-benefit organization.

Handouts. President Walker listed the handouts available on each table: Meeting Agenda, President's Annual Report, Financial Balance Sheet and Cash Flow Statement, Things to do at Lake 2025, and Tax-Exempt Contribution to CLA.

Contributions to Lake Association and Tax-Free Alternative Giving. Contributions to the Crooked Lake Association can be sent to the new Treasurer Bob Remaly at his address: 5877 S. Woodstrail – 57, Columbia City, IN 46725. Alternatively, contributions can be made out to the Community Foundation of Whitley County (Foundation) - a 501c(3) tax exemption agency - with the byline that the funds are for the Crooked Lake Association and mailed directly to the Foundation. The Foundation forwards the money to the Lake Association Treasurer and the Foundation sends the donor verification of the donation. Contributions from income made out to the Foundation may be tax exempt **if** the donor is itemizing taxes **or** if the contribution is made as a distribution from an IRA (retirement plan) or Deferred Compensation account. Tax Free Contributions can also be made to the Foundation for the Crooked Lake Conservation Fund, initiated by John and Aileen Meiers. The Crooked Lake Association receives approximately \$2,000-\$4,000 dollars annually from the Foundation in variable interest from the Crooked Lake Conservation Fund.

Sue Farris listed New Lake Residents: Daniel and Gina Juergens on Spear Road, and the following on Pressler Road: Ryan and Wendy Smith, Krystal and David Coleman.

Financial Report from Retiring Treasurer George Banta. The 2024-25 Cash Flow Statement shows "Cash In" of \$115,757.83 and "Cash Out" for completed water quality projects of \$41,396.13. The Balance Sheet shows total checking account and assets of \$158,795.45.

CLA Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet)

Report Date: 6/1/2025

Assets			Liabilities	
FDP1 Pledge	\$ 25,000.00		Accounts Payable	\$ -
Farm Ditch 1	\$ 36,413.38		Provisions for Legal	\$ -
Farm Ditch 2	\$ 80,335.62		Financial Liabilities	\$ -
Johnson Pond Reserve	\$ 4,777.74		Current Tax Liability	\$ -
Operations fund	\$ 12,254.55			
Osprey nest fund	\$ 14.16			
	\$ -			
CFWC Cons Fnd Available	\$ 2,740.43			
FDP Donations at TWF	\$ 3,122.50			
Total Assets	\$ 164,658.38		Total Liabilities	\$0.00
Bank Acct Bal (chk + CD)	\$ 158,795.45			
Net Worth			\$ 164,658.38	
Bank Acct Balance (12/31/24)			\$ 158,795.45	
Available CFWC Conservation Funds			\$ 2,740.43	
FDP1 Donations at TWF			\$ 3,122.50	
CLA Checking + assets at CFWC and TWF			\$ 164,658.38	

2024-25 CLA Cash Flow Statement

6/1/2024 through 5/31/2025

New Cash Balance		
Beginning Checking Acct Balance	\$ 33,031.39	
Beginning CD Balance	\$ 51,402.36	
Beginning Cash	\$ 84,433.75	
Financing Activities		
		Notes
Fundraising Income: Donation	\$ 63,655.07	\$4,958.40 Operations, balance to Beyond Clear Campaign
Fundraising Income:Garage Sale Income	\$ 8,475.00	Applied to Beyond Clear Campaign
Fundraising Income:POTL Fundraiser	\$ 1,451.00	Pancakes on the Lake proceeds- applied to Beyond Clear Campaign
Fundraising Income:Proceeds from CFWC	\$ 2,860.95	Meier CL Cons Fund-applied to Beyond Clear Campaign
Fundraising Income:Pulled Pork Fundraiser	\$ 1,172.00	Applied to Beyond Clear Campaign
Fundraising Income:Pumpkin Fundraiser	\$ 1,000.00	Applied to Beyond Clear Campaign
Grant Income:WLT	\$ 28,620.00	Watershed Land Treatment Grant
Operations Income: Dues	\$ 5,250.00	\$2800 for '24, \$2450 for '25, 105 total dues payments
Operations Income:Interest Inc	\$ 733.81	Interest from CD
Other Income	\$ 2,540.00	Karl Fuerste Memorial applied to CLA Operations
Cash In	\$ 115,757.83	
Operating Activities		
Fundraising Expense:Campaigns and Appeals	\$ 125.00	Signs for September Campaign meeting
Fundraising Expense:POTL Expense	\$ 776.33	Pancakes on the Lake supplies and food
Fundraising Expense:Pulled Pork	\$ 239.51	Supplies
Fundraising Expense:Pumpkin Fundraiser Expense	\$ 73.35	Seed and fertilizer
Lake Improvement:Check Dams	\$ 27,957.00	Crow & Decker check dams (\$663 prepaid FY23-24)
Lake Improvement:Osprey Nest	\$ 39.00	Software for Osprey Cam
Lake Improvement:WASCOB	\$ 8,335.00	Bishop WASCOB installed June, 2024
Operations Expense:Annual Meeting Expense	\$ 175.05	Supplies, food, printing
Operations Expense:Cash	\$ 100.00	Cash to make change at Annual Meeting
Operations Expense:Gifts & Donations	\$ 534.24	Gift for M Johnson (pumpkins), donation to TWF
Operations Expense:Liability Insurance	\$ 755.00	Officers and Directors Liability
Operations Expense:Office Supplies	\$ 200.70	Supplies for CLA record archival
Operations Expense:Printing	\$ 777.04	Fundraising letter and handouts, dues statements
Operations Expense:Registration Fee	\$ 440.03	Website registration fee
Operations Expense:Software License	\$ 57.88	Quicken software for financial record keeping
Operations Expense:VOID	\$ -	check 994 discarded
Other Expense	\$ 100.00	Chargeback for bad check
Tax Expense: Tax Preparation	\$ 235.00	Duffitt & Associates
Tax Expense: Federal Tax	\$ 455.00	2024 CLA Federal Income Tax
Tax Expense: Federal Tax	\$ 21.00	2024 CLA State Income Tax
Cash Out	\$ 41,396.13	
Transfers		
Into Checking Account	\$ 52,136.17	Redeem CD 9/30/24
Out of Checking Account	\$ (100,000.00)	Purchase 3-month CD 3/26/25
Net Cash	\$ 158,795.45	
Ending Checking Acct Balance	\$ 58,795.45	
Ending CD Balance	\$ 100,000.00	
Ending Cash	\$ 158,795.45	

Introduction of Board Members by President. President Walker introduced and thanked the following members of Board of Directors: George Banta (Valley Ave for 19 years), Bob Remaly (Woodstrail Dr for 1.5 years), David Nelson (Northshore for 10 years), Denise McCann (Pressler Rd for 73 years), Todd Putman (family owned resident for 55 years), Joe Cochran (Spear Road owner for 19 years), Francie Hill (Morsches Road family owned for 71 years), Phil Walker (Morsches Road for 11 years). Tracy Hamilton and Clint Decker left the board this past year due to family or work commitments, and were thanked for their service, along with retiring board member David Nelson.

New Members on the Board of Directors and Vacancies. The nominating committee proposed two nominees for board membership: Tony Gatton (retired information technology guy) on Morsches Road and Tony Flesch (retired food scientist) on Pressler Road. The membership voted unanimously in favor of both. Please contact President Walker or any Board Member if you would like to serve on the Board of Directors. There are specific vacancies for Spear and North Shore.

Officers of the Board of Directors to be voted on at the next board meeting. The following are candidates for officers of the Board of Directors: Phil Walker as President, Bob Remaly Treasurer. The offices of Secretary and Vice President remain open at this time.

Past Presidents Honored. President Walker honored the past presidents of the Crooked Lake Association: John Meister, Ken Engh, John Meier, Chuck Farris, Jan Barkley, Brooks Langeloh, George Bruce, Pat McNaghy, Richard Hartman and Kenneth Sheehen.

Past Board Members acknowledged and thanks. President Walker honored all Lake Association members who have served as Board Members in the past years.

Remembrance of the Passing of Lake Members this past year. The members took a moment of silence to honor Barb Gatton, Dick Erdman, Roxy Gibson, Gerald Runkle, Karl Fuerste, and George Bruce.

Volunteers Acknowledged and Thanked. A slide show of Lake Association members volunteering on various water quality, maintenance, lake clean up and fundraising projects was viewed prior to the call to order. All members are invited and challenged to join in or continue their volunteer efforts around the lake.

3 Water Quality Projects/Progress in 2024-2025 year. President Walker presented information on 3 water quality projects completed this fiscal year. The **Morsches Rd WASCOB** prevents excessive water runoff from the old golf course, by slowing down the water flow from rain, allowing it to be absorbed into the soil. Regular checks after heavy water flow shows a decrease in muddy water runoff, indicating reduction in sediment flow into the lake. Two sets of **Check Dams** were built in separate ravines on the Don Crow

property to slow runoff from the field just south of the county line road which flows into the Farm Ditch. Scott Ziegler (our TWF consultant and private contractor) did this work.

Decker Check Dams control runoff from the western part of the old golf course. The check dams are a series of rip-rap dams and mini retention ponds at the intersection of Woodstrail and Morsches Road that reduce the flow of sediment and pollutants into lake.

Farm Ditch Project to Begin Soon. The fabulously successful fundraising through the Beyond Clear Campaign will be used to complete the work to be initiated soon. The main contractor is the Stanger Group. The weather and prior projects have delayed the ability of the Stanger group to get started.

Priority Committee. President Walker announced that the Association has formed a Priority Committee to identify and list the water quality issues on the lake and prioritize them for action over the next 20 to 30 years. This will involve the identification of new problem areas around the lake, defining potential solutions, securing funding and providing for maintenance after completion.

Water Quality testing/Slow Pontooning Recommended. Lake residents Bob Remaly and Chuck Farris conduct regular testing for water clarity on the lake and monitor testing results conducted by TWF and other sources. They reported that in 2003 Crooked Lake was 4th and Little Crooked 49th in water quality. The big basin of Crooked Lake slipped to 7th in water quality out of 55 area lakes, and Little Crooked improved to 32nd recently. They also provided data on the increase in phosphorus and nitrogen in the lake basins. Chuck informed the group that increased boat speed and driving close to lake edge churns up phosphorous from the lake bottom which reduces water quality, harms natural habitats, and encourages algae growth. Please remember: (1) Have a slow stroll rather than a race for your nightly/daily pontoon cruise; (2) stay away from shallow water. Use your binoculars if you want a close up of the wildlife rather than churning up the lake bottom by going too close to the lake shore.

Memorial Fund for Karl Fuerste. President Walker reported that \$2,800 has been contributed to the Crooked Lake Association in Memory of longtime resident, golfer, fisher, and all-round great guy – Karl Fuerste who passed away this year. Karl is missed. The fund is still in effect if you want to contribute. You can mail a memorial check in Karl's name to treasurer Bob Remaly or the Community Foundation (with notation that the funds are for Crooked Lake Association in honor of Karl).

Crooked Lake Web Site. Board Member Todd Putman has done a great job creating and maintaining the Crooked Lake Web site. As you may know there are other Crooked Lakes in Indiana, so our web site title is a little long to ensure you get the right lake.

Crookedlakenoblewhitleycoindiana.com is the official website but you will get there if you just google Crooked Lake Noble Whitley. The website contains, among other things, a picture gallery of lake residents (enjoying blazing paddles, ice fishing, volunteer work projects, gorgeous landscapes and sunsets, osprey and eagles), minutes of board meetings, newsletter, lake events, Beyond Clear fund raising, and information on our Farm Ditch projects. Please send pics to the web site for the monthly pic contest. Don't confuse this web site with the Crooked Lake face book page and Osprey 24-7 live video stream—which are linked to the web site. If you are aware of a business that would like to sponsor/advertise through our web site let Todd know. We already have sponsorships with Hand to the Plow Surveying, Big Lake Church of God and On The Go Detailing.

Upcoming Lake Events: pancakes, boat races, fireworks, pork sandwiches, and pickle ball. Chuck Farris reminded everyone of the July 5th Pancakes on the Lake and Blazing Paddles Races (adult races start at noon near the public access) and Kids Race begins at 1:00 p.m. at east end of the lake. Board Member Denise McCann reminded everyone of the Pulled Pork Fundraiser on August 9 from 5 to 7 PM and Fireworks on Little Crooked on July 12 at dusk (donations accepted to help with that cost). She also mentioned our pumpkin fundraiser in the fall and thanked everyone for their contributions and help for the giant garage sale fundraiser last summer. Denise announced that Crooked Lakers will try to organize weekly pickle ball in Columbia City beside Fahl Aquatic Center (city pool) sometime in late July. Dates and times are not yet determined. Let Denise, Dave Nelson, or Bob Remaly know if you are interested.

Presentation by Adam Balzer – new DNR, Nature Preserve Director. Adam replaced Rich Dunbar as our new in-residence DNR director of the Crooked Lake Nature Preserve. Adam serves 10 counties, overseeing 8,000 acres within 60 nature preserve properties, half owned by the DNR and half owned by partner organizations. Adam reminded the group that the Crooked Lake Preserve is a “very special place”, and he is committed to community involvement through the preserve. He will be focusing on restoration, trail maintenance, guided hikes, and engaging the community with volunteering and educational opportunities. Additionally, he is restoring the historical residence built in the preserve in 1875, and has 2 major restoration projects on the lake: (1) creating shallow wetlands and structures in the preserve to stabilize erosion, with volunteer opportunities for planting wetlands and pulling/treating invasives (including wild mustard, honeysuckle, poison hemlock and cattails), and (2) Spear Road pond and continuing beaver activity/damage. He hopes to encourage the county to fix a large and reoccurring hole on Spear Road which he believes is probably caused by “seeper” condition or broken tile. Everyone appreciated the informative and positive presentation, and the Association looks forward to working closely with Adam.

Closing. All were thanked for their attendance and a motion was offered and seconded to close the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.

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