

Lake Logan group holds first annual meeting

LOGAN — Lake Logan Association held its first annual meeting April 12, 2025, at the Hocking Hills Chamber of Commerce building. Paid organization members, ex-officio board members and presenters were in attendance including Brent Bendele and Joel Yott representing Hocking Hills State Parks and Lake Logan State Park.

LLA President Stuart Bruny opened the meeting with a summary of the busy 18 months since LLA was organized. He introduced the board of directors and all in attendance introduced themselves. Attendees included Lake Logan area property owners, business owners, concerned citizens and a local college student who is studying environmental sciences.

Following the business meeting Carol Mackey, board member and secretary, gave a presentation on the history of the organization and Brent Bendele gave an update on ODNR activities to date in support of the



SUBMITTED

Lake Logan Association board member and secretary Carol Mackey recounts the history of the organization at its first annual meeting.

Lake Logan Evaluation and Restoration Plan. Mackey reflected on the first informal meeting of concerned citizens. There was enthusiastic support for the vision and mission as described by founders Maria Diaz Myers and Roberto Myers. An informative website was created and a petition drive was launched shortly thereafter that resulted in over 5,000 signatures. That overwhelming community interest provided the support needed to open wider communication channels with ODNR senior leadership.

The three primary objectives of the new organization were to request ODNR to demonstrate that (1) the dam gate would be restored to functionality; (2) expand and improve the mitigation of vegetation in the lake; and (3) take measures to dredge the lake as necessary. The dam repairs were contracted for as of December 2023 and work was completed in January 2024. After learning that there was no well documented plan to address the mitigation and dredging, LLA obtained funding to engage a private sector

consultant to do an evaluation and restoration plan specific to Lake Logan. That document was completed in December 2024.

In the meantime, negotiations continued by the ODNR dredge team to lease suitable land for a dredge material relocation area. This effort had been going on for several years. Additional sites were presented by LLA members and at a community meeting in January 2024. One site remained the primary focus until today. That site is no longer an option so the process either starts over or, as President Bruny and others emphasized, it is time to look outside the box for other options.

Those in attendance discussed the possibility of other dewatering processes, or using state-owned woodland nearby. Without dredging in the north end of the lake as shown in the RLS plan, the silting and vegetation will expand, reducing the lake's recreational areas as well as impacting fish and

wildlife.

At the first meeting between LLA liaison members and ODNR staff, including Chief Glen Cobb, the question was asked, "Does ODNR have the intention to restore the lake to its intended purposes when developed, or is it inevitable that its wetland features that are expanding today will take over or as some say, is it the intention to let nature take its course?"

Assured that the intention is to restore it, the organization was formed and encouraged by Chief Cobb. It is LLA's intent to engage ODNR in another community meeting to help educate and discuss the challenges with the restoration efforts, most importantly, the dredging to seek viable solutions without delay before it really is "too late."

For more information contact Stuart Bruny, president, at 740-964-4502 or Maria Myers at 805-455-8532.

Submitted by Lake Logan Association