

WEBSTER LAKE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. Box 79, North Webster, IN 46555 - www.lakewebster.net

Webster Lake Dam – Request for Charitable Contribution for Restoration and Maintenance Project

Your charitable contribution is needed to help (a) fund immediate repairs to the Webster Lake Dam, (b) pay associated current legal and engineering expenses necessary to make those repairs and (c) establish a tax-funded conservancy district to be responsible for future repairs and long-term maintenance of the dam.

Webster Lake Conservation Association, Inc. (WLCA), is a member funded not-for-profit corporation which functions as a Webster/Backwater Lakes voluntary property owners association. WLCA owns only the gated weirs that are a part of the Webster Lake Dam and is taking the lead in establishing a tax-funded conservancy district for the purpose of making necessary repairs and providing long-term maintenance of all structures comprising the entirety of the dam. At the same time, WLCA is attempting to minimize potential taxpayer expenses associated with such a conservancy district by securing a firm commitment from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and the State of Indiana to reconstruct or repair portions of the dam for which IDNR is contractually responsible. WLCA is also soliciting funds from town, township and county governmental units towards this project.

Over the past five years, WLCA has spent more than \$40,000 in litigation expenses to enforce a reconstruction and repair contract between WLCA and IDNR. Currently, IDNR has offered to repair a void and deteriorated concrete that exists under the apron of the downstream spillway which was omitted from the 2012 reconstruction of the primary gated weir. That concession is very much appreciated; however, there are a few more items for which the IDNR may be responsible. Additional settlement meetings may be held prior to an early June, 2024, trial date to determine the extent of liability of IDNR and the State of Indiana should the settlement meetings fail.

Under pressure from the IDNR, WLCA has had to engage both engineering and legal advocates for future representation regarding this project at an initial cost of \$78,000. Unanticipated expenses will increase these estimated fees. This figure does not include the cost of any immediate repairs to the dam that will be necessary prior to the establishment of a conservancy district and legal fees needed to finish the current court case. The goal of this voluntary charitable contribution campaign is to raise at least \$200,000. There are relatively few residences and businesses related to these lakes so your most generous contribution will be greatly appreciated.

The Watershed Foundation (TWF) has established a restricted fund for the receipt of your tax-deductible donation to the Webster Lake Dam Project. TWF is a not-for-profit entity with 501(c)(3) tax status. TWF will confirm your tax-deductible donation in writing. TWF will hold your donations and apply them to expenses for this project.

Donations may be made on-line to The Watershed Foundation at <http://tinyurl.com/WebsterLakeDam>; through a link on the WLCA website at www.lakewebster.net; or through a link on the WLCA Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/343088493575948>.

Donations may also be made by personal check or by the administrator of an Individual Retirement Account (IRA), which offers tax savings if you are required to take a required minimum distribution (RMD) from your IRA account.*

Checks should be made payable to The Watershed Foundation. All checks need to contain a written notation in the memo line of the check or be accompanied with a written note that the check is for the **“Webster Dam Project.”** Checks are to be mailed to TWF at the following address:

The Watershed Foundation
c/o Lake City Bank
PO Box 1671
Warsaw, IN 46581-1671

The QR code below may be used to donate on-line using your cell phone:



Each and every person who enjoys Webster Lake and/or Backwater Lake, owns a residence or business with a value that is dependent on these lakes or receives income generated from individuals who use these lakes has a personal stake in the maintenance of the Webster Lake Dam. WLCA and the individual dam property owners are asking for your financial help as we work towards transferring these responsibilities to a conservancy district! The dam needs repairs and maintenance that cost more than WLCA and the individual owners of the dam can afford. If there is no more Webster Lake Dam, your investment in your property or business will be worth much less than it is now.

WLCA and TWF thank you for your consideration of this request for funding.

**This letter should not be considered tax advice and independent consultation with a qualified tax advisor is strongly encouraged.*