

An aerial photograph of Lake Lemon, a large reservoir with a prominent dam on the left side. The lake is surrounded by dense, brownish forested hills. The water is a deep blue-green color. The text "Lake Lemon Conservancy District" is overlaid in yellow at the top.

Lake Lemon Conservancy District

Coleman Smith
Lake Biologist

Lake Lemon



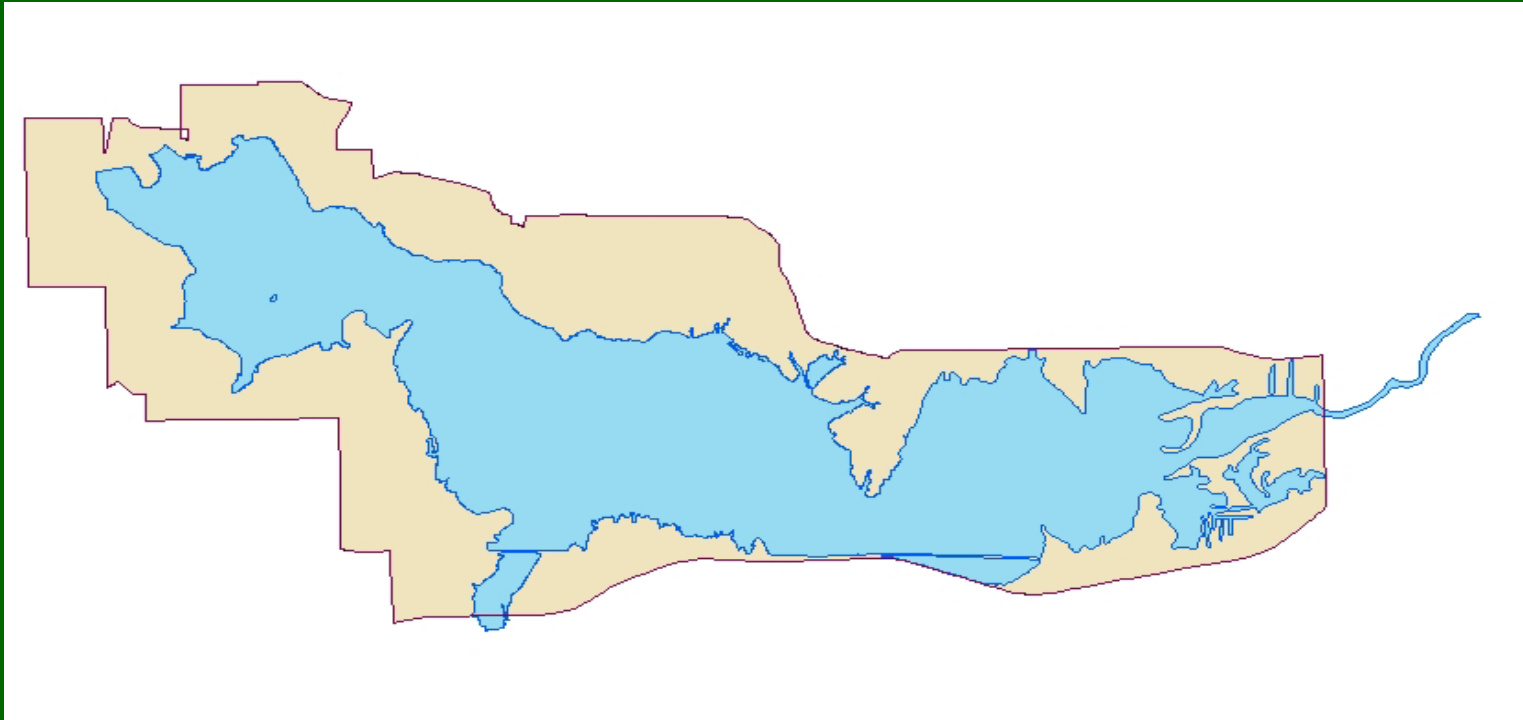
- 7th largest Indiana reservoir
- 1,650 surface acres
- 24 miles of shoreline
- Spans Monroe and Brown Counties
- Provides habitat to critical species such as the American bald eagle and Kirtland's snake.

History of the District

- Lake built in 1953 by City of Bloomington Utilities
- Used as a drinking water source until the early 1970's
- Until 1994 Lake Lemon was managed by Bloomington Parks and Recreation
- 1990- Lake residents began to organize with the goal of better lake management.

History (cont'd)

- LLCD created in 1995 by massive effort by lake residents
- Currently, the District has ~530 freeholders and growing



Organizational Structure

Board of Directors (7 members)

7 District Directors elected from sub-districts
1 Non-voting member from CBU
2 LLCD employees

Manager

Oversees all
aspects of District
management

Lake Biologist

Assists Manager
Wildlife monitoring

Purposes of LLCDC

- Protection of Lake Lemon from abandonment and possible drainage
- Maintenance of water quality as a back-up water supply for Bloomington
- Operation, maintenance, improvement of water-based recreation
- Protection of health, safety, welfare of property owners within the District

Services Provided by LLC

- Weed Control
- Shoreline Improvement
- Park Management
- Boating Patrol
- Wildlife Management
- Dock Regulation
- Freeholder Education
- Infrastructure Management
- Possible Dredging



Sources of Revenue

48% (~ \$126,000) Tax Revenue from
LLCD freeholders

51% (~ \$130,300) Recreational fees

- Boating permits
- Marina/club fees
- Sublease fees
- Park fees



Regulatory Power

New policies passed by Board resolutions

- 42 resolutions passed since formation
- Resolutions filed in Circuit Court
- Common resolution issues:
 - Annual fees and charges
 - Annual meeting times
 - Amendments to bylaws
 - New agreements with CBU

Relationship with Freeholders

LLCD acts as a tool for community involvement

- Safety Committee
- Environmental Committee
- Community meetings



LLCD viewed as regulatory or participatory tool, depending on situation/issue

Freeholder Participation

LLCD holds monthly Board meetings

- Average attendance = 10 freeholders

Annual meeting

- Average attendance = 23 freeholders

Annual picnic

- 2004 attendance = 30 freeholders

One additional meeting at Riddle Point Park

- 2004 attendance = 14 freeholders

Freeholder Attitudes

- Overall perception of LLCDC is positive
- LLCDC continuously strives to improve Lake Lemon
- Difficult to monitor public opinion because complaints are often voiced the louder than approval
- Occasional complaints of “predetermined outcomes,” but Board works hard to overcome stereotype

Conclusion

The Lake Lemon Conservancy District is a successful example of individuals collaborating to protect a natural resource.

- Lake Lemon, a common pool resource and otherwise would be an example of Tragedy of the Commons
- Requires resources (money & manpower) of freeholders to maintain District's success

QUESTIONS

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Coleman Smith, Lake Biologist

www.lakelemon.org

Llcdoffice@aol.com

(812) 334-0233