

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Lake Association to partner with Indiana DNR

Partnership established to enforce conservation easement for former Lambright farm property

The Board of the Oliver and Martin Lakes Conservation and Improvement Association (OMLCIA) has entered into an agreement with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to partner in holding a conservation easement that is recorded as part of the deed for certain property formerly owned by Alvin and Ruth Lambright and now owned by LaGrange County. The conservation easement confers on its holder certain legal standing to enforce the restrictive covenants associated with the property, located on the south shore of Oliver Lake in LaGrange County. It was the Lambrights' wishes that their property be utilized only as a farm, and with restrictions including only one home, no logging, and preserving the natural scenic beauty of the 5596 feet of undeveloped shoreline.

In June 2013, the OMLCIA Board voted to modify its Articles of Incorporation to expand the purpose of the Association to include that of serving as a holder of a Conservation Easement. The Board then requested the DNR to join the Association as a holder, with similar legal standing to enforce the covenants.

The Board believed that including the resources and years of experience the DNR has through its Division of Nature Preserves, including the Olin Nature Preserve, would provide invaluable support towards its mission to help retain the natural beauty of the Oliver, Olin, and Martin Lakes chain for all Indiana citizens for generations to come.

It took six months to obtain the state required approvals and for the agreement to be signed, finalized, and recorded. In addition to the DNR, approving agencies included the IN Attorney General, the IN Department of State Administration and the IN State Budget Agency. The DNR now co-owns with the Association all of the conservation easement rights and interests in this conservation easement. The DNR has the right along with the Association to enforce the restrictions into perpetuity.

"This is truly an historic event for our lakes. The Association is pleased to be able to build on our long and successful relationship with the Indiana DNR and its Division of Nature Preserves," said Dr. Lynn Bowen, OMLCIA Board President. "We look forward to working with them on a number of other projects to improve water quality and natural habitat in 2014 and beyond."

The detailed [agreement with the State of Indiana](#) and a [picture of the 5596 feet of meandering shoreline](#) accompany this news release.

For additional information, contact Dr. Lynn Bowen, OMLCIA Board President, (260) 463-7554.