

DRAFT

MINUTES

ECOLOGY COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING

Cordry Sweetwater Conservancy District

5 November, 2020

- A. The monthly meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission was called to order by Commission Chairman, Rick Normington, at 6:00 P.M. on 5 November 2020, in the CSCD conference room.
- B. Members Present: Rick Normington, Sunny Leerkamp (CSLOA), Ty Cooper, Brenda Maulden, & Jim Donnell (Recorder)
- C. Members Absent: Josh Edwards (Board), Randy Brumfield
- D. Others in Attendance: Josh Hawley + 5 guests
- E. *Ty Cooper moved to approve the Minutes of the 1 October, 2020, meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission; Brenda Maulden seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*
- F. (6:05 P.M.) FREEHOLDER CONCERNS:
1. Freeholder Neil Gilson (6277 Grouse Drive) appeared before the Commission to inquire what CSCD can do to alleviate the periodic spillway overflows onto his property (5 lots) that appears to be coming from the pond located on the property located southwest of his, belonging to Brent Chitty. The Acting Conservancy Manager, Josh Hawley, agreed to look into this issue and will get back to Mr. Gilson with his findings and recommendations.
 2. Freeholder Neil Crum (Kiwi Drive) appeared before the Commission to offer his services to both the CSCD and to all freeholders as a professional consultant in the subject of purple martin conservation. As a representative of the Purple Martin Conservation Association, he has myriad resources available to him to offer the CSCD community including educational seminars, individual freeholder consultation, and technical assistance in increasing and improving purple martin habitat throughout the CSCD. After a very informative presentation, it was agreed that the ECOLOGY Commission will co-host, with CSLOA, a Purple Martin Educational Seminar in Jan/Feb 2021, probably in the clubhouse, to educate CSCD freeholders on the subject of “Purple Martin Conservation.” Also:

Ty Cooper moved to permit Mr. Crum’s request to replace the martin house located at the Sweetwater Marina dock area with a winch-operated “gourd rack” at a cost of not more than \$500 and to install a similar system on the “Sweetwater Beach Peninsula Point,” at a similar cost, and a third system at the Cordry Marina for a similar cost. Jim Donnell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
 3. Representatives of CSLOA were in attendance to coordinate details of a previously-planned-for “Educational Packet” to be cooperatively created and produced for distribution to new CSCD residents to welcome them to our Lakes Community and to help them more efficiently navigate the process of integrating into the community. Brenda Maulden agreed to serve as the ECOLOGY Commission representative on the joint committee to produce this new freeholder resource and all members of the commission were invited to assist in this effort through her. Target date for production of this “Welcome Packet” is Spring, 2021.
- G. OLD BUSINESS :
1. (6:35 P.M.) **DEER CONSERVATION HUNT UPDATE** (*Rick*): Rick Normington and our CHAP Coordinator updated the Commission on the status of this year’s Deer Reduction Hunt. To date, 12 deer have been harvested within the CSCD and there are a total of 62 hunters who have been deemed qualified to hunt here.
 2. (6:40 P.M.) **REVIEW OF CSCD WATER/GROUNDS SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**(*Josh H.*): Josh’s update covered progress reports on projects of interest to ECOLOGY including: status of work on various coffer dam repairs. Also, the CSCD Community Garden will be “winterized” on 16 November.

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3. (6:45 P.M.) **POLLINATOR HABITAT** (*Brenda*): Volunteers are all signed up to help with the brush clearing work scheduled for this Saturday at a time TBD.
4. (6:50 P.M.) **ACTION PLANNING FOR NON-BUDGET ISSUES** (*Jim*): Jim Donnell's handed out several documents and reports that outline the myriad economic and ecological consequences to similar lakes communities who have suffered Zebra Mussel infestations over the last 4 decades of this invasive species crisis in the USA. These reports paint a very bleak picture and point out that without proactive action, zebra mussel (and other invasive species) infestations are inevitable, and, in the case of mussels, eradication is impossible; prevention is the only option available to lake communities not already infested. In the interest of time, it was agreed that the commission will begin its problem solving work next month to recommend to the Board appropriate preventative measures to enact to protect our lakes from the threat of these pernicious mussels.

H. **NEW BUSINESS** (7:00 P.M.):

1. **FREEHOLDER DREDGING APPLICATIONS:** NONE
2. **MEMORIAL NAMING OF CENTERLAKE PARK PAVILION:** (*Josh H.*) At the suggestion of a concerned freeholder through the Acting Conservancy Manager:

Sunny Leerkamp recommended that the CSCD Board name the shelter house located in Centerlake Park in honor of the recently deceased Robert Wright, who was instrumental in its construction. Brenda Maulden seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

3. **COMMISSION MEMBER CONCERNS** (7:05 P.M.):
 - a. Due to his unavoidable absence, Randy Brumfield provided commission members with an e-mail to express his concerns with two issues:
 - (1) Inappropriate Use of the Reservable Sweetwater Beach Shelter House - After review of his concerns and discussion, it was agreed that the reservation application for that shelter house is in need of review and revision to preclude inappropriate use. The Acting Conservancy Manager agreed to perform that function and coordinate any changes with the ECOLOGY and SECURITY Commissions, and with the CSCD Board for approval.
 - (2) Non-Transparent Budget Approval Process - After review of his concerns and discussion, it was agreed that the transparency intended in the budget refinement and approval process has not always been adhered to in the recent past. The Acting Conservancy Manager agreed to recommend to the CSCD Board that each Board member sitting on the various commissions be responsible for presenting their respective commission budget proposal each year and be given the opportunity to defend the proposal before any line items are deleted or changed.
 - b. Ty Cooper expressed concern over freeholder allegations of deer carcasses being dumped on CSCD property and the resultant attraction of coyotes in the CSCD. In a brief discussion, it was learned that no deer carcasses or entrails are ever dumped or disposed of on CSCD property as a result of our annual deer reduction hunts. Our CHAP Coordinator always removes 100% of all deer remains from our hunts to an authorized off-CSCD site for responsible, appropriate disposal. Josh Hawley agreed that there appears to be a noticeable increase in coyote sightings in the CSCD and perhaps we should consider adding coyotes to the list of varmints we hire "Rusty's Animal Control," to trap and remove each year, just like we do for muskrats, beavers, and Canadian geese. More discussion to follow in future meetings on this subject.

The next meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission is scheduled for Thursday, 3 December, 2020, at 6:00 P.M. in the CSCD conference room. A draft Agenda for that meeting was developed.

- I. **ADJOURNMENT:** *Ty Cooper moved to adjourn the November meeting of the Ecology Commission. Rick Normington seconded. The motion passed.* The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:
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Commission Recorder
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