

DRAFT

MINUTES

ECOLOGY COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING

Cordry Sweetwater Conservancy District

6 October, 2022

- A. The monthly meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission was called to order by Commission Chairman, Josh Edwards, at 6:00 P.M. on 6 October, 2022, in the CSCD conference room.
- B. Members Present: Josh Edwards (Board), Sunny Leerkamp (CSLOA), Brenda Maulden, Randy Brumfield, Shena Johnson, and Jim Donnells (Recorder).
- C. Members Absent: Ty Cooper
- D. Others in Attendance: Nick Johann (Director of Operations), Katie Starr (Boat Steward) plus 2 guest freeholders
- E. Shena Johnson was introduced as the newest member of the ECOLOGY Commission.
- F. *Randy Brumfield moved to approve the Minutes of the 1 September, 2022 meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission; Brenda Maulden seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*
- G. (6:05 P.M.) **FREEHOLDER CONCERNS:** 2 freeholders re-appeared before the commission to urge action to stop big-wake boats from further damaging their shoreline and docked property. They submitted more information on nation-wide research into this very issue on other small lakes. Their new research papers will be offered to the soon-to-be organized, joint “Big-Wake Study Committee,” comprised of 3 ECOLOGY-oriented freeholders and 3 SECURITY-oriented freeholders.
- H. **OLD BUSINESS :**
1. (6:20 P.M.) **CSCD OPERATIONS REPORT:** Nick Johann provided progress reports on myriad projects of interest to ECOLOGY including:
- a. The annual **Deer Reduction Hunt** is being organized, once again, by Rusty Fields. A mandatory hunter orientation and qualification session is set for Friday, 14 October. The 2 hunt windows in CSCD are: 1-16 November and again on 1-8 January, 2023. Hunt hours in the CSCD will coincide with Indiana legal hunting hours (i.e. ½ hour before sunrise until ½ hour after sunset). Indiana “Deer Reduction Hunt” bag limits apply.
 - b. We are still awaiting the final design product for the Rebuild of the **Cordry Lake Spillway Project**. The 1.6 million dollar spillway rebuild project is still on track for construction to begin in the Fall of next year (2023). Core samples taken from the Cordry Dam in September, are still being analyzed as part of the process.
 - c. For interested boaters CSCD will keep the **“Hotsy” decontamination site** in operation until mid-November, after which it will be relocated to the CSCD maintenance shed. As a reminder, boats and/or trailers that have been in other bodies of water within the previous 5 days must be decontaminated before entering our lakes. Freeholders who hire someone to remove their boat for winterization must ensure the trailer used has been properly dried (5+ days) or decontaminated before entering our waters.
 - d. There has been good feedback this year about our **lake-weed abatement** program.
 - e. It is recommended we begin to look into developing a lake **dredging philosophy** for future years.
 - f. The topic of weeds and shrubs growing in the rip rap on the lake-side of our dams was raised. Nick and Randy Brumfield agreed to look into safe **shoreline weed abatement** options we might want to pursue next year.
2. (6:20 P.M.) **IU Clean Lakes Program:** Jim Donnells updated the commission on the status of the re-sampling of the lake-water in both CSCD lakes by scientists from the Indiana University Limnology (Clean Lakes) community. IU Professor Melissa Laney spent the afternoon of 11 September on our 2 lakes, sampling a total of 28 coves to test the waters of the same coves sampled last March (plus 11 more potential “hot spots”). Jim, and board member Aaron Paris provided pontoon boat transport support to her for this lake water sampling event. The results of these late-summer water test results will be compared to the results of last spring’s water test results to determine the impact on our lakes of high residential and high recreational use in the summer months. Results will be made available to CSCD in a formal report from the IU lab and Limnology Class next spring. No preliminary reports have been received to date.

In a related matter, Jim will represent CSCD at a “ Lake Monroe Watershed Summit” on 22 October, in Nashville, IN.

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3. (6:35 P.M.) **ZEBRA MUSSEL PREVENTION PROGRAM:** It was noted that some members of the Board are still wanting to spend approximately \$40,000 to install electronic gates (either key-pad or RFID-activated) at both of our lake boat ramps. After lengthy discussion, it was the consensus of the entire ECOLOGY Commission that the already-installed cable and code-lock barriers are effectively keeping zebra mussel-contaminated boats and/or trailers out of our lakes and that spending \$ 40K would be a waste of freeholders' money that could be better used elsewhere (e.g. General Fund or Rainy Day Fund for costly, upcoming dam repairs). The Commission fully supports the status quo; it's working.

4. (6:40 P.M.) **SOUTHERN INDIANA SENTINEL LANDSCAPES PROGRAM (SISL):** Nick Johann informed the Commission that an attorney for the SISL Program in Bloomington (IU Law Center) has agreed to draft a proposed Resolution for the CSCD to consider that would clearly outline the Terrestrial Invasive Species that pose a threat to lands around Camp Atterbury, and details both freeholder and CSCD responsibilities toward mitigating that threat.

Katie Star and Jim Donnell's will attend an upcoming SISL workshop in Bloomington on 18 October to represent CSCD interests.

5. (6:45 P.M.) **JOINT PROJECT w/CSLOA: EDUCATIONAL PAMPHLET FOR CSCD FREEHOLDERS:** Brenda Maulden is now pursuing CSLOA involvement in creating a comprehensive "Newcomer's Pamphlet" that will detail in one document, useful information in how the CSCD operates and how to contact various resources that a new arrival to our community would find useful. She has already begun to create an outline of such a resource.

6. (6:45 P.M.) **POLLINATOR HABITAT INITIATIVE UPDATE:** Katie Starr reports that she is working with NRCS representative, Allison Shoaf, for funding support through the Indiana "Clean Water Grant," to help pay for land prep and seeding of the designated pollinator habitat area across from Sweetwater beach. The current plan is to prep the land this winter and plant pollinator seeds in the Feb.-Mar. timeframe.

I. **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. (6:50 P.M.) **DREDGING APPLICATIONS:** After discussion, *Randy Brumfield moved to APPROVE the Dredging Application submitted by Karl & Bonnie Kern at lot WS523 (6240 Cardinal Drive) as submitted. Sunny Leerkamp seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*

2. **FREEHOLDER CONCERNS:** None

3. (7:00 P.M.) **COMMISSION MEMBER CONCERNS:**

a. A member inquired about the status of the striping of the new Pickleball courts onto the fire station parking lot; Nick Johann reports that the company to do the work has been notified of our need and has not yet set a date for the work to be done.

b. Another member inquired about the dredging company known as J. Rollins and their lack of responsiveness to requests for already-approved dredging projects. Unofficially, it was speculated that the company has taken on extensive work on other lakes and no longer views CSCD dredging work to be a priority for their business. Other dredging companies in the area will be publicized by the CSCD for freeholders to choose from.

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

I. **ADJOURNMENT:** *Shena Johnson moved to adjourn the 6 October, meeting of the Ecology Commission. Randy Brumfield seconded. The motion passed.* The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Commission Recorder
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