

DRAFT
MINUTES
ECOLOGY COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING
Cordry Sweetwater Conservancy District
2 May, 2024

- A. The monthly meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission was called to order by Commission Chair, Randy Brumfield, at 6:00 P.M., in the CSCD conference room.
- B. Members Present: Randy Brumfield, Shena Johnson, Brenda Maulden, Charlie Tinkle, Matt Murtha,
and Jim Donnell (Recorder)
- C. Members Absent: Ty Cooper
- D. Others In Attendance: Nick Johann (CSCD Operations) + 1 Guest
- E. (6:05 P.M.) *Brenda Maulden moved to approve the Minutes of the 4 April, 2024 meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission; Charlie Hinkle seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*

F. (6:05 P. M.) **FREEHOLDER CONCERNS:**

a. Although not present, freeholder Dave Jarret left a note for the ECOLOGY Commission asking if anything can be done for **muskrat (control)** this time of year. In addition, he had left copies of the “2023 Indiana Clean Lakes Report” for commission members to review. The reports reflect, once again, that Cordry and Sweetwater lakes appear to be in the top 4 lakes in all of Indiana for clarity, based on monthly Secchi Disk measurements.

b. Randy Brumfield reported that he received an email inquiry from freeholder Sue Chavette (Adler Drive, Lot G 61), regarding **aquatic weeds** already growing in her cove. Randy responded that he would report back to her on the scheduled date for our annual aquatic weed control treatments by Aquatic Control (which is usually in June).

G. (6:25 P. M.) **OLD BUSINESS:**

a. **CSCD “RULES” REVIEW**: The second session of the joint Security Commission/Ecology Commission “Rules Re-write Workshop,” commenced. Tonight’s session focused on consolidating all the “Rules-related Resolutions” that have been passed over the last 20-ish years. Also, there was a robust discussion around the minimal “Enforcement Mechanisms,” that exist in the CSCD, now that there is no law enforcement resource in the District dedicated to the enforcement of CSCD rules and resolutions. **It is recommended that the CSCD Board look at this now-absent enforcement mechanism and address its reinstatement by some means.**

b. **CSCD OPERATIONS REPORT**: Nick Johann provided updates on myriad projects of interest to ECOLOGY including:

1. **Parks Improvements**: The new ADA (American Disabilities Act) mat is on hand and soon will be installed at the beach, enabling better handicap access at the beach from the parking lot to water’s edge. In addition, 2 vinyl marina covers at the fuel pump docks are being replaced. Replacement dock bumpers for the marinas are also being looked into.
2. **Cordry Lake Spillway**: The Indiana DNR is still processing our permit application, the last step before the spillway reconstruction project can go out to bid. It appears that the earliest that this project can be put out for bid is this summer with work to, hopefully, be completed by the end of 2024.

c. **POLLINATOR HABITAT UPDATE** (Brenda): Once the soil dries out from recent rains, the 3-acre pollinator site will be mowed and herbicide will be applied as needed to eradicate all vegetative growth. A second application will likely be needed after which the area should be ready for pollinator seeding, hopefully this fall/winter.

OVER >>>

H. **NEW BUSINESS:**

a. (7:15 P. M.) **DREDGING APPLICATIONS:** None

b. (7:15 P. M.) **COMMISSION MEMBER CONCERNS:**

1. Randy Brumfield outlined for the commission, the proposed “**SHORELINE EROSION STUDY,**” proposed by Doctor Sweeten of Ecosystems Connections Institute, LLC in Denver, Indiana. Although a very expensive proposition, their proposed study of our lakes would provide all the scientific data needed to defend a decision, one way or the other, over the use of big wake boats on our small lakes. After lengthy discussion: “***Brenda Maulden moved to recommend that the CSCD Board approve the proposal to perform Dr. Sweeten’s scientific study of our lakes to determine the impact of big wake boats on our lakes. Shena Johnson seconded. This motion passed unanimously.***”

2. Brenda Maulden expressed concern over the location of the porta-potty at Centerlake Park (near the wood line). She urged its relocation on behalf of the Garden Club, Pickleball Club, and families that take their children to the park to play. Nick and Brenda worked out a better location near the garden plot parking lot. It will be moved.

3. Brenda also reported on the major renovation of the CSCD garden plots. The Garden Club has completely replaced all wooden raised plots with galvanized steel encasements and have taken measures to greatly reduce weed growth in the walkways between the individual plots. Last Saturdays Garden Club workday was a huge success.

4. Brenda also reported that last week’s roadside cleanup along Nineveh Road was a remarkable success with a large freeholder turnout. The cleanup covered the roadside from the clubhouse to the Dollar Store in Nineveh. It also included a thorough cleanup of our Recycle Facility at the CSCD office area. Another success story!

5. Matt Murtha briefed the commission on the current status of the 60 bluebird boxes located in the CSCD. He and two other freeholder volunteers maintain those birdboxes, inventorying occupants and cleaning the boxes each off-season. The teams have found occupants to include bluebirds, tree swallows, and chickadees raising families in our 60 dispersed birdboxes. Another success story in our endeavor to control biting insects in CSCD!

c. (7:55 P.M.) **FREEHOLDER CONCERNS:** NONE

I. (8:00 P.M.) **STRATEGIC PLANNING/BUDGET PLANNING :** Jim Donnellis facilitated the second budget planning workshop in the development of the ECOLOGY budget proposal for FY 2025. The Commission reviewed the results of the “**WHAT’S GOING WELL IN CSCD?**” questionnaire. Additionally, they began the problem-solving process to address the list of **WHAT’S GOING NOT-SO WELL?**” in CSCD, as a preliminary step to prioritizing an Action Plan for budgeting purposes.

J. **ADJOURNMENT:** *Shena Johnson moved to adjourn the 2 May, meeting of the Ecology Commission. Brenda Maulden seconded. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M.*

Respectfully Submitted:

JIM DONNELLS
Commission Recorder
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