

**CORRECTED COPY**

**MINUTES**

**ECOLOGY COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING**

Cordry Sweetwater Conservancy District

**7 April, 2022**

- A. The monthly meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission was called to order by Commission Chairman, Rick Normington, at 6:00 P.M. on 3 March, 2022, in the CSLOA Clubhouse.
- B. Members Present: Rick Normington, Josh Edwards (Board), Brenda Maulden, Sunny Leerkamp (CSLOA), Randy Brumfield, Ty Cooper, and Jim Donnell (Recorder).
- C. Members Absent: None
- D. Others in Attendance: Nick Johann (CSCD Operations Manager) + 3 freeholders
- E. *Josh Edwards moved to approve the Minutes of the 3 March, 2022, meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission; Ty Cooper seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*
- F. **FREEHOLDER CONCERNS:** The location of bluebird and purple martin houses at the Sweetwater Beach Recreational Area was raised as a concern. Reportedly, wedding parties who rent the beach pavilion and desire to be photographed on the “point” north of the beach requested that the birdhouses on the point be removed. Similarly, there was reportedly a concern over the location of birdhouses in the designated “Pollinator Habitat” area in the field across from the beach.
- Several highly qualified and very knowledgeable wildlife specialists, including Neil Crum, Katie Starr, and Brenda Maulden were in attendance to lend their expertise to the discussion. After lengthy discussion, it was unanimously concluded by the ECOLOGY Commission that all bluebird and purple martin houses in the SW Beach Recreational Area not be disturbed and not be removed or moved from where they currently are located. One of the many reasons cited for this conclusion is that bluebirds and purple martins are already nesting in these houses and federal law prohibits disturbing these species while nesting is underway. As flying insect eating birds, these birdhouses were purchased over the last 3 years through the ECOLOGY budgeting process and positioned by Neil Crum in current locations to address the multitude of freeholder complaints over the last 5 years about too many biting insects located in the CSCD recreational areas. Commission Chair, Rick Normington will present the position of the ECOLOGY Commission on this matter to the CSCD Board of Directors at the next Board meeting.
- G. **OLD BUSINESS :**
1. (6:45 P.M.) **CSCD OPERATIONS REPORT:** Nick Johann provided an update that covered progress reports on projects of interest to ECOLOGY including: The Sweetwater Beach Shelter House & restrooms will open next week ( week of 11-18 April ); “Grooming” of the beach sand will be performed; the shelter house for the newly purchased “Hotsy” boat/trailer decontamination equipment will be constructed at the west end of the Bob Wright pavilion in Centerlake Park for zebra mussel decontamination; and the finalized Rebuild Plan for the Cordry Lake Spillway is on hand from Burke Engineering. In summary, the plan calls for contract bidding in FY 2022; reconstruction work beginning in late fall of FY 2023; and work completion in early FY 2024 (early spring ). During the reconstruction of the Cordry Spillway, it is anticipated that the lake level will be lowered by up to 10’ for the 3-4 (fall/winter) month duration of the project. Cost estimate for the Cordry Spillway project is \$1.6 million. A bid for aquatic weed control in our lakes from our lake vegetation management contractor, **Aquatic Control Inc.**, was reviewed:
- “Jim Donnell moved to accept the bid of Aquatic Control, Inc. of \$ 69,949 for the treatment of Eurasian Milfoil and American Pondweed in both of our CSCD lakes this summer. Randy Brumfield seconded. The motion passed unanimously.”*
2. (6:55 P.M.) **ZEBRA MUSSEL PREVENTION INITIATIVE UPDATE.** Jim Donnell reported that:
- a. He was informed by Ted Adolay that the Board of Directors are currently meeting at the CSCD conference room to decide on barriers for each of our lakeside boat launch ramps as called for in the ZM ACTION PLAN. ( *It was later learned that the ongoing Board meeting dealt with personnel issues and not boat launch ramp barriers*).
- b. The planned-for “Hotsy,” high pressure, hot water decontamination device has been procured for the upcoming boating season and is currently on hand at the CSCD Maintenance shed. A boat/trailer decon site has been selected in Centerlake Park, at the west end of the Bob Wright Pavilion, near the water tower.
- c. Security cameras for each boat launch ramp have been ordered, as called for in the ZM ACTION PLAN. Once procured, they will be emplaced in locations to ensure boater compliance with zebra mussel prevention procedures.
- ( OVER >>> )
- d. Although the “Boat Steward” position job opening has been posted on the CSCD website since 1 March, no one has yet applied for this position. It was suggested that CSCD expand its search to include a posting in the

**Brown County Democrat** newspaper, and Jim Donnellis agreed to offer the position to one of the IU graduate students who are currently supporting us in a comprehensive lake water quality study from the Indiana Clean Lakes Program.

e. It was further reported that over 200 freeholders have completed and passed the required “Zebra Mussel Prevention Online Course and Test,” to date.

f. A \$ 4,000-\$ 10,000 Grant opportunity has been made available to CSCD from Eric Fisher of the Indiana DNR office for any CSCD organization to conduct “Boat/trailer inspection workshops” on our lakes this summer, especially in the timeframe of 1-10 July. Without a “Boat Steward” on board yet, interest in this Grant is doubtful.

g. Cordry Lake water temperature was recently measured at over 55 degrees. That means any boat and/or trailer that enters our lake, having recently been in Geist Reservoir, Brookfield Reservoir, or any other zebra-mussel-infested lake will introduce zebra mussels into our lake, unless it is detected first, and decontaminated. Time is running out to get boat-launch control and inspection measures in place if we want to avoid a permanent zebra mussel infestation in our CSCD lakes this year.

2. (7:15 P.M.) **INDIANA “SENTINAL LANDSCAPE PROGRAM” OPPORTUNITY:** Jim Donnellis reported that he has made official contact with **Andrea Lutz** at the IU Law School, the interim coordinator for this federal grant program that is designed to offer significant grant opportunities to private landowners ( e.g. CSCD ) that surround military installations ( e.g. Camp Atterbury ) in Indiana for myriad water and terrestrial conservation measures.
3. (7:20 P.M.) **IU CLEAN LAKES WATER TESTING INITIATIVE:** An interim report from the IU Limnology class studying our CSCD lake water quality was received last week. Due to time constraints, the Commission will review results of their work during the May meeting, after their final report is received. Initial good news is that absolutely no eColi was detected in any of the coves of either lake. Over 20 coves were sampled. More testing results for other possible biological and/or chemical contaminants are due to be learned from the final report in May.
4. (7:25 P.M.) **POLLINATOR HABITAT UPDATE:** Brenda Maulden introduced freeholder Katie Starr who is taking over the lead in creating the “Pollinator Habitat” in the field across from the Sweetwater Beach on behalf of the Ecology Commission. Brenda also stated that she and her husband are, once again, volunteering to clear the CSCD “Nature Trails” of all downed trees and obstructions that have fallen over the winter months.

#### H. **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. (7:30 P.M. ) **DREDGING APPLICATIONS:** *Sunny Leerkamp moved to APPROVE the Dredging Application submitted by Jeremy Gardner at lot SW443 ( 6472 Cougar Drive ) as submitted. Ty Cooper seconded. The Commission stipulates that, in the interest of fish spawning season, this dredging operation must not be performed until 15 June or thereafter. This motion, with stipulation, was unanimously approved.*

#### 2. (7:35 P.M. ) **COMMISSION MEMBER CONCERNS:**

a. Jim Donnellis expressed concern over the number of fallen trees in Cordry Lake. Nick Johann reports that actions have been undertaken to have responsible freeholders remove their fallen trees from CSCD lakes.

b. Randy Brumfield reiterated his concern over the number of freeholders who are installing underwater lighting around their docks in the lakes. Nick Johann reports that measures are being taken to ensure only low voltage lighting is installed in these situations and educational information will be in the next newsletter to that effect.

3. Due to time constraints, work on the FY2023 ECOLOGY Commission Budget Proposal was postponed to next month.

4. The next meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission is scheduled for Thursday, **5 May**, 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 3 March, meeting of the Ecology Commission. Rick Normington seconded. The motion passed.* The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

**JIM DONNELLS**

Commission Recorder

[opajimd@gmail.com](mailto:opajimd@gmail.com)