

DRAFT

MINUTES

ECOLOGY COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING

Cordry Sweetwater Conservancy District

4 August, 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 4 August, 2022, in the CSCD conference room.
- B. Members Present: Josh Edwards (Board), Ty Cooper, Brenda Maulden, Randy Brumfield,  
and Jim Donnell (Recorder).
- C. Members Absent: Sunny Leerkamp (CSLOA)
- D. Others in Attendance: 3 guest freeholders
- E. *Ty Cooper moved to approve the Minutes of the 7 July, 2022 meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission; Jim Donnell seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*
- F. **FREEHOLDER CONCERNS:** 2 Freeholders appeared before the commission to urge action to stop big-wake boats from further damaging their shoreline and docked property. These 31-year residents have observed and even video-recorded wake boarders and wake surfers behind big-wake-producing boats in an effort to convince CSCD decision-makers to end this erosion causing and damaging practice that has been on the increase in recent years. They pointed out (accurately), that many states require a 200' distance between shoreline and big-wake-producing boats, and yet we allow them to operate as close as 50' from our shorelines on CSCD lakes. They urge action ASAP to eliminate this ever-growing problem to homeowners on the lakefronts. As a result of this appearance and recent similar complaints from a multitude of freeholders:  
*“Jim Donnell moved to urge the CSCD Board to form a JOINT Committee of Security Commission members, Ecology Commission members, and volunteer Freeholders to analyze this issue, develop options to address this problem, and recommend to the CSCD Board corrective action to solve this serious and growing shoreline erosion problem. Ty Cooper seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.”*
- G. **OLD BUSINESS :**
1. (6:20 P.M. ) **CSCD OPERATIONS REPORT:** Nick Johann provided progress reports on myriad projects of interest to ECOLOGY including:
- A study of the **Sweetwater Outflow Remediation** problem, recommended by freeholder Sharon Grimm in June, resulted in a recommended corrective action: CSCD will remove all current, dislodged rip rap around the SW spillway intake grate and replace it with gabion basket intake bank protection.
  - The core samples required for the Rebuild of the **Cordry Lake Spillway Project** have been completed. The 1.6 million dollar spillway rebuild project is still on track for construction to begin in the Fall of next year ( 2023 ).
  - It has been learned from DNR that a \$100,000 grant to help pay for the **Sweetwater Spillway Rebuild Project** has been approved, but due to lack of DNR staffing, the grant has not yet been processed in the direction of CSCD. This project is on hold until after the completion of the Cordry Dam Spillway Rebuild Project in 2023-2024.
  - Due to weathering, rusting and chronic vandalism at the **SW beach**, the damaged **playground equipment** is going to be replaced. A \$ 22,000 quote has been received and will be implemented this year from existing funds to begin to replace the damaged items.
  - The status of this year's **ECOLOGY Budget Proposal** is that, at this time, all proposals, except the proposed construction of upgraded restroom facilities at Center Lake Park, are still in the CSCD budget proposal. Plans are being pursued to reposition the 1 porta-potty currently on location to give better access to the joggers, gardeners, golfers, Pickleball players, fishing tournament participants, and families who regularly use the Centerlake Park facilities.
  - Nick Johann ( and Jim Donnell by phone conferencing ) met with the new director of the **Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscapes Program**, Michael Spalding, last week to learn of opportunities for federal grant funding in support of the many ecological programs that CSCD pursues that also benefit our nearby military facility, Camp Atterbury. The meeting was very informative and hopefully, the initial first step toward securing financial support from state and federal sources for the many environmental-enhancing projects we in CSCD pursue. Follow-on discussions are planned.

( OVER >>>> )

g. A \$ 9,700 quote from the **IU Clean Lakes Program** is being finalized between IU and CSCD. Once completed, this contract will pay for a critical, one-day re-sampling of the lake-water in both CSCD lakes in a total of **28 coves**, plus our lake inflows and our outflows to determine the impact of high freeholder usage associated with the summer months. This late-summer sampling will add 11 more coves to the 17 coves originally sampled in March of this year, to assess the condition of water in coves surrounded by concentrations of known 30+ year-old septic systems as identified by Brown County records. Comparison of sampling results from March 2022 to results of this upcoming late summer sampling will give us a true picture of the sanitation level of our lakes. ***“Jim Donnell’s moved to recommend approval of this, not more than \$9,900, contract with Indiana University for the purpose of a one-day water sampling test of 28+ coves in our CSCD lakes as recommended by the IU Clean Lakes Program. Brenda Maulden seconded. This motion passed unanimously.”***

h. The **Zebra Mussel Prevention Program** “ACTION PLAN” is in near full implementation: Boat ramp barricades are in place with authorized access only by boat-stickered freeholders and authorized contractors, a paid “boat steward” is hired and managing the program, and the “Hotsy” decontamination site is established and fully functional. It has been suggested that workshops be scheduled to train as many transient boaters as possible in the procedures to use the “Hotsy” decontamination equipment to ensure ease of use and to preclude damage to this expensive equipment through misuse. Discussions with the Anglers’ Club and the OX Roast Committee of CSLOA are ongoing to set up those demonstration workshops. Also under consideration is a training video to help educate freeholders who cannot make one of the workshops. It was noted that **Volunteer Boat Stewards** are needed to augment the small team already functioning, especially for next spring, when many boats are delivered out of storage with trailers used by storage businesses that serve many Indiana waterways already infested with zebra mussels ( e.g. Geist Reservoir ). An off season recruitment effort for volunteer boat stewards is planned.

2. (7:05 P.M.) **JOINT PROJECT w/CSLOA: EDUCATIONAL PAMPHLET FOR CSCD FREEHOLDERS:**  
This project is on hold until after the OX Roast.

3. **POLLINATOR HABITAT INITIATIVE UPDATE:** No Report as Katie Starr was not in attendance.

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

1. (7:10 P.M.) **FREEHOLDER CONCERNS:** None

2. (7:10 P.M.) **DREDGING APPLICATION:** ***Randy Brumfield moved to APPROVE the Dredging Application submitted by Michael & Lyn Jones at lots SW412 – SW412A & SW414 ( 6223 Heron Dr.) as submitted. Ty Cooper seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.***

3. ( 7:20 P.M. ) **COMMISSION MEMBER CONCERNS:** Jim Donnell’s commented on the recently apparent spread of poison ivy throughout the CSCD. Much more poison ivy is present along the many trails of the CSCD Nature Trails Recreation Area, along the roadside of Centerlake Road ( vines climbing trees with berries ) between Grouper and Halibut Drives, and now, for the first time, in over a dozen locations on his private property. He feels that not dealing with the many neglected vines growing up trees throughout the District and allowing them to produce fall berries, is contributing to the growing spread of this pernicious poisonous plant as birds spread the berries, producing new plants.

4. The next meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission is scheduled for Thursday, **8 September**, at 6:00 P.M. in the CSCD conference room. A draft Agenda for that meeting was developed

I. **ADJOURNMENT:** ***Josh Edwards moved to adjourn the 4 August, meeting of the Ecology Commission. Brenda Maulden seconded. The motion passed.*** The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

**JIM DONNELLS**  
Commission Recorder  
(801) 361-8791  
[opajimd@gmail.com](mailto:opajimd@gmail.com)