

**DRAFT**  
**MINUTES**  
**ECOLOGY COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING**  
Cordry Sweetwater Conservancy District  
1 Aug, 2024

- A. The monthly meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission was called to order by Randy Brumfield at 6:00 P.M., in the CSCD conference room.
- B. Members Present: Randy Brumfield, Shena Johnson, Brenda Maulden, Ty Cooper, Charlie Tinkle, Matt Murtha, and Jim Donnells (Recorder)
- C. Members Absent: None
- D. Others In Attendance: Nick Johann (CSCD Operations) + 4 Guests
- E. (6:05 P.M.) *Shena Johnson moved to approve the Minutes of the 11 July, 2024 meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission; Brenda Maulden seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*
- F. (6:05 P.M.) **FREEHOLDER CONCERNS:**
1. Jim Maulden inquired about **ADA (handicap) parking** locations at the beach and marina. After discussion, he agreed to bring this topic up at their next SECURITY Commission meeting.
  2. Charlie Tinkle raised the issue of **poor largemouth bass fishing in CSCD lakes**, and especially bad in Cordry Lake. He suggested a monthly bass-culling tournament for the Anglers Club, whereby the Club would take and remove as many small (12" and under) largemouth bass from our lakes as possible, to work to improve the quality (size) of remaining largemouth bass. He did acknowledge that panfish (e.g. bluegill, crappie, etc.) fishing is still good in both lakes. Nick Johann agreed to contact a DNR conservation officer to check on the legality of such a move.
- G. (6:30 P.M.) **OLD BUSINESS:**
1. **CSCD OPERATIONS REPORT:** Nick Johann provided updates on myriad projects of interest to ECOLOGY including:
    - a. Aquatic Control completed its second **aquatic weed survey** of the year to identify where American Pondweed is thriving in coves and swimming areas of our CSCD lakes. They will be applying weed control herbicides on Monday, 5 August, to eliminate pondweed in those areas deemed problematic to freeholders, boaters, and swimmers.
    - b. A freeholder had contacted Nick about a problematic leech infestation in their cove (between Alder & Aspen Drives). Brenda Maulden located, online, a very informative essay written by a biologist, that deals with this issue, and emailed it to the freeholder in question. It can be located at: <https://nhlakes.org/wp-content/uploads/4-Lake-Ecology-Native-Species-Leeches-NH-LAKES.pdf>. Perhaps the most important takeaway from this essay is "... *The easiest and safest way to reduce leech populations is to make sure you and your neighbors do not rake leaves, grass clippings, or other organic debris into the lake.*"
    - c. **Cordry Lake Spillway:** The long-awaited bidding process for this \$ 2.3 million (+/-) project has begun. Bids by contractors to perform this spillway rebuild project are due no later than 7 August. The Board will consider all bids and select one on 14 August, with work to begin (if all goes well) the second week of September. The project specs dictate that Cordry Lake, if lowered to perform this work, will not be dropped more than 2 feet from normal pool. Nick Johann will alert all freeholders of the potential impact on boating and driving (closed road over the dam) as this project progresses. The CSCD Board is exploring funding options. The goal is to have Cordry Lake Spillway rebuild work finished this fall/winter, after boating season, and if nature cooperates, the lake raised to normal pool height by spring.
    - d. **Status of ECOLOGY Commission Budget Proposals for FY 2025:** At the last Board meeting, all budget proposals from the various commissions were read for the first time. At this point, no cuts to those proposals have been suggested or made. Due to the proposed expansion of the CSCD "salt barn," it is probable that the recycle bins will have to be relocated
  2. (6:45 P.M.) **CSCD RULES REVIEW PROJECT** (*Shena*): The joint effort of the SECURITY Commission and ECOLOGY Commission to update and consolidate into one, online, easily accessible Rule Book, all the "rules" in effect in the CSCD continues. This month's task is to review all the CSCD Board MINUTES from the last 15 years to identify and pull out "rules decisions" made by the various CSCD Boards in meetings through the years for incorporation into the updated, new Rule Book. Each member present was given a paper copy of one year's Board MINUTES, with instructions to comb them for any/all rules decisions that need to be incorporated into the finished product. Results are due back to the CSCD office by our next monthly commission meeting.
  3. (6:50 P.M.) **POLLINATOR HABITAT UPDATE** (*Brenda*): The 3-acre pollinator site has been mowed and herbicide has been applied to eradicate all vegetative growth. A second application will be needed to completely kill all

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unwanted vegetation, after which the area should be ready for pollinator seeding, hopefully this fall/winter. The committee is looking into designating a parking area at the north end of the pollinator site. Brenda has begun to look into appropriate seeds to purchase based on the recommendations of Emily Jacob, a biologist with “Quails Forever & Pheasants Forever.” The committee continues to develop a comprehensive plan for the creation of this Pollinator Habitat resource.

4. ( 6:55 P. M. ) The special funding of the “**SHORELINE EROSION STUDY**,” proposed by Doctor Sweeten of Ecosystems Connections Institute, LLC in Denver, Indiana has been tentatively approved by the CSCD Board. Several specific details of the techniques used to collect this environmental study are being worked out before the contract is signed.

5. ( 7:00 P. M. ) **ANIMAL CONTROL MEASURES**: Shena reports that “Rusty” ( owner of Rusty’s Animal Control ( RAC ) has agreed to oversee the annual “Deer Reduction Hunt,” in CSCD again this fall/winter. The proposed dates for this archery-only reduction hunt are 1-17 November, 2024 and 4-12 January, 2025. A required archery hunter qualification date of 21 September ( 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 noon ) was also proposed. All dates were approved by the ECOLOGY Commission, pending the final approval by the CSCD Board. Planning for this hunt is underway.

6. ( 7:00 P. M. ) **SUMMARY OF BOAT STEWARD BOAT/TRAILER INSPECTION FINDINGS** : ( *Jim* ) Jim Donnell's handed out a 1-page sheet that summarizes all the results of boat and trailer inspections conducted thus far in 2024 by the boat stewards, hired to help keep zebra mussels out of our lakes. He requested that commission members review the data presented and email him comments and observations gleaned from the data that will be useful to the Zebra Mussel Prevention Committee when they next meet to review the overall effectiveness of the ZM Prevention Program

H. ( 7:05 P. M. ) **NEW BUSINESS** :

1. **DREDGING APPLICATIONS**:

a. *Shena Johnson moved to APPROVE dredging application D24-10 submitted by Berris Properties / Kara Paris on lots WS 176 & 177 ( 7052 Eagle Dr. ), as submitted. Charlie Tinkle seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*

b. *Shena Johnson moved to APPROVE dredging application D24-11 submitted by Lisa Michaelis on lot I 49 ( 8156 Bass Dr. ), as submitted. Charlie Tinkle seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*

c. *Shena Johnson moved to APPROVE dredging application D24-12 submitted by Jeff Haynes on lot WS 531 ( 6233 Bobwhite Dr. ), as submitted. Charlie Tinkle seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*

2. ( 7:10 P. M. ) **COMMISSION MEMBER CONCERNS**:

a. Brenda Maulden offered compliments to CSCD for the new signage located around the CSCD. Nick reported that the new signs are the work of **Jeff Dollens**, a CSCD employee.

b. Brenda Maulden also updated the commission on the recent approval by the Brown County Commissioners for Off Road Vehicles ( ORVs ) to be operated on county roads, including in CSCD. Stipulations for this ORV authorization can be found at the Brown County Government website.

I. **ADJOURNMENT**: Shena Johnson moved to adjourn the 1 August, meeting of the Ecology Commission. Matt Murtha seconded. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

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