

DRAFT
MINUTES
ECOLOGY COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING
Cordry Sweetwater Conservancy District
March 6, 2025

- A. The monthly meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission was called to order by Shena Johnson at 6:05 P.M., in the CSCD conference room.
- B. Members Present: Shena Johnson, Charlie Tinkle, Harold Crooks, Tom Golias, Matt Rotelli, and Brenda Maulden as interim Recorder
- C. Members Absent: Randy Brumfield
- D. Others In Attendance: 2 Guests; Sharon van Kooten, Jim Donnellis, Nick Johann (Director of Operations)
- E. **ELECTION OF NEW COMMISSION LEADERSHIP**
-Commission Chairperson- Randy Brumfield
-Commission Vice-Chair- Shena Johnson
-Recorder- Brenda Maulden as interim/Matt Rotelli when he gets settled into the commission
Brenda Maulden made a motion to approve the leadership positions of the commission members. Charlie Tinkle Seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.
- F. ***Brenda Maulden moved to approve the Minutes of the February 6, 2025 meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission; Charlie Tinkle seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.***
- G. **FREEHOLDER CONCERNS:** No concerns or comments presented.
- H. **OLD BUSINESS:**
1. **CSCD OPERATIONS REPORT:** Nick Johann provided updates on myriad projects of interest to ECOLOGY including:
- a. One Boat Steward hired thus far; plans to begin end of March.
 - b. Aquatic Control contract approved for the season by CSCD Board for 76K.
 - c. **Cordry Lake Spillway:** Work to rebuild the Cordry Dam Spillway continues. Project running a bit behind and looks to be completed hopefully by the end of April; status updates are on the CSCD website.
****Spillway contractors have concern with pedestrians on the dam and in the work-zone during working hours. Nick was notified of a recent near-miss between a heavy equipment operator and unauthorized pedestrian in the work zone. *No unauthorized persons are to be beyond or between the barricades in the construction zone for safety and liability reasons.***
 - e. DNR is currently attempting to locate a turkey vulture around the Cordry dip water tower that was equipped with a tracking device. The turkey vulture was being tracked and studied by the DNR and during some point a couple of weeks ago the signal was lost and last pinged in the area. Anyone who locates the bird and/or tracking device is advised to contact Indiana DNR.
2. **DISCUSSION OF CSCD RULEBOOK REVISION** (Shena). Lengthy discussion for clarification of Fishing Rules regarding slot limits and daily bag limits. Charlie Tinkle presented a sign template for review; signs will be ordered and posted at Cordry and Sweetwater boat ramps, Nuthatch Park, and at Sweetwater Point. Shena will be attending the upcoming Security Commission meeting to tie up loose ends on the rule book before submitting it to Roger Young.
3. **POLLINATOR HABITAT UPDATE** (Brenda Maulden):
- a. No current updates.
 - b. America The Beautiful Grant: We are hopefully optimistic that there will not be a potential federal grant freeze on funds that we are anticipating; although, information is changing frequently due to the political climate and we will stay updated. Commission member Harold Crooks said that he would help with organizing Weed Wrangles for the target areas. Brenda and Harold exchanged contact information and will work on selecting some dates in the near future to hold the Wrangles
- I. **NEW BUSINESS:**
1. (Brenda) **2025 CSCD GARDEN CLUB:**
 - a. Committee members: Libby Saunders-Chair, Jayme Golias, Ellie Conwell, Jess Hostetler, and Dale Hatfield.
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 - b. Everyone who was on waiting list for a bed last year was able to secure a bed for the 2025 growing season. There are currently 4 new freeholders interested and on a waiting list.
 - c. Thanks to CSCD Maintenance for repairing the leaky faucet at the gardens last fall.

- d. Short term goal is painting the garden shed.
- e. Long term goal is fence improvements.

- 2. **DREDGING APPLICATIONS:** *Charlie Tinkle moved to APPROVE the dredging application (stump removal) submitted by Steve Cobb on lot WS 90-93 aka 6435 Pheasant Drive with work performed by ABG Property Services as submitted. Shena Johnson seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*
- 3. **FY 2026 STRATEGIC PLAN & BUDGET DEVELOPMENT PLAN-** Jim Donnell's handed out the Fiscal Year 2026 proposed Strategic Planning Plan target date outline, and the workshop Action Plan for member review. Jim gave a summarized explanation for the benefit of our new commission members, of the months-long process and responsibility the commission members have in creating and planning for the 2026 Ecology Budget. Jim will help transition the planning during the next few months so the current commission members learn the budget planning process.

J. **COMMISSION MEMBER CONCERNS:**

- 1. Brenda Maulden reminded the commission of the upcoming **Indiana Lakes Management Society's (ILMS) Annual Conference** scheduled for March 20th&21st in Noblesville. There are a variety of pertinent sessions and topics during the 2-day event that she will attend. Previously, CSCD was chosen as 2023 Outstanding Lake Association of the Year with Nick Johann's 2024 video presentation shown during the award showcase, and also in 2023 Jim Donnell's was a key presenter on the topic of *Zebra Mussel Prevention Measures* with his excellent power-point presentation.
- 2. **Brown County Soil & Water Conservation District has their 2025 Annual Meeting and Dinner** on Monday, March 24 at 6pm in the lower level of the Brown County Public Library. CSCD was awarded the Clean Water Indiana Grant from BCSWCD last year. Anyone is welcome to attend but must RSVP to 812-988-2211 by March 14th.
- 3. Brenda also reminded everyone of the annual "**Bluebird & Purple Martin Seminar,**" at the CSCD Fire Station March 29th from 10 A.M. to noon. Several notices have been published online and in the Brown County Democrat newspaper.
- 4. **CSCD Annual Road Cleanup** has been scheduled for Saturday, April 19th at 8am. Breakfast will be provided to volunteers at 7:30am with cleanup to commence promptly at 8am. Carrie Vavul with Carpenter Realtor is helping organize the event. Dave Jarrett with Sweetwater Realty will be shuttling volunteers to cleanup sites along the route from the CSLOA Clubhouse to the Dollar General. Brown County Sheriff's Department will provide road safety and security, and CSCD Maintenance will haul the trash collected. We have also coordinated efforts with Andy Tanner (Eddie's Pizza) at Princes Lakes and they are scheduling their volunteers to cleanup Nineveh Road from the Dollar General to the 4-way stop in Nineveh on the same day.

K. **ADJOURNMENT:** Shena Johnson moved to adjourn the March 6, 2025, meeting of the Ecology Commission. Charlie Tinkle seconded. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

Brenda Maulden
Interim Commission Recorder
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