

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

- 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, Ty Cooper, Brenda Maulden, Shena Johnson, Charlie Tinkle, Matt Murtha, and Jim Donnells (Recorder)
- C. Members Absent: None
- D. Others In Attendance: 5 Guests + Nick Johann (Director of Operations)
- E. (6:05 P.M.) *Shena Johnson moved to approve the Minutes of the 5 December, 2024 meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission; Charlie Tinkle seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*
- F. (6:05 P. M.) **FREEHOLDER CONCERNS:**
1. Brenda Maulden asked on behalf of a freeholder who had contacted her: “When was the septic cleanout resolution passed?” No one had a specific date of when that resolution was passed, but all agreed it has been in effect for years.
 2. Jim Maulden inquired on the status of the ECOLOGY review of the CSCD Rule Book. Shena responded that our commission’s portion is completed. Security Commission changes were added on 5 February. Shena agrees to send out the final draft of the revised rule book to all commission members for final review this month with the plan to gain commission approval of the revised Rule Book at our next meeting in March. Then it goes to the Board for their review and approval process.
- G. (6:10 P. M.) **OLD BUSINESS:**
1. **CSCD OPERATIONS REPORT:** Nick Johann provided updates on myriad projects of interest to ECOLOGY including:
 - a. New marina vinyl covers are being procured for this year.
 - b. Nick is participating in certification classes to be professionally trained to apply herbicides, as needed, in the CSCD.
 - c. **Cordry Lake Spillway:** Work to rebuild the Cordry Dam Spillway continues. The “porta-dam” to hold back lake water from the shore-side construction site is in place. A 100’ water main in the construction site is being replaced. Concrete work begins soon. Plans still call for the project to be completed on time, before the end of April.
 2. (6:20 P. M.) **ANIMAL CONTROL MEASURES:** The annual CSCD **Deer Reduction Hunt** is completed. A total of 32 deer were harvested by archery hunters.

Randy’s Animal Control (RAC) also conducted major **muskrat control** measures on our lakes during the deer hunt. At last count, a total of 88 muskrats were trapped and removed from both Sweetwater and Cordry Lakes.
 3. (6:25 P. M.) **POLLINATOR HABITAT UPDATE** (Brenda Maulden):
 - a. The Pollinator Habitat project is in full swing. Seeds were planted on 26 December, qualifying us for the \$ 7,500 reimbursement check from the “Clean Water Indiana” (CWI) Grant program, made available through the Brown County Soil & Water Conservation District office. Brenda is looking to add up to 200 milkweed plugs to the seeded area. She advises that the pollinator habitat area will take up to 3 years to begin to “look good” as it normally takes that long for pollinators to mature and invasives to be completely eradicated.
 - b. Katie Star, in attendance, outlined for the commission the contents of the contract, ready to be signed tonight, between the CSCD and the State of Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management (SICIM) non-profit organization. This “America the Beautiful Grant,” has 3 main stipulations that CSCD must meet in order to qualify for this \$ 52,455 grant:
 - (1) Removal of invasive species in the 269 acres of CSCD property identified in the attached site survey map by May, 2025, and replace them with native plants.
 - (2) Prepare a Plan, in conjunction with the CSCD Volunteer Fire Department, for controlled burns along the nature trails in the 200+ acre wooded area east of the beach and south of Centerlake Park. The Plan must be finalized by May 2025, and the controlled burns must be completed by the spring of 2026.
 - (3) Host one or two “Weed Wrangles” annually to educate freeholders about invasive species and sound landscaping measures promoting native species on private lands. The dates must be scheduled and publicized by May, 2025, in order to qualify for the \$ 195/acre reimbursement grant.
- OVER >>>**
- c. After brief discussion and a Q&A period, **Randy Brumfield signed the contract on behalf of the CSCD Board.**

H. (6:45P. M.) **NEW BUSINESS :**

1. Randy Brumfield led a discussion about the three (3) ECOLOGY Commission members resigning their positions in 2025: Ty Cooper– immediately; Matt Murda- immediately, and Jim Donnell's-date TBD in 2025 after the FY 2026 budget planning process.

There are already 3 applicants for these vacancies and the commission agreed to recommend approval of their addition to the ECOLOGY Commission at the next Board meeting in February. Randy will bring that motion to the CSCD Board at their next meeting.

2. In a related action, Randy Brumfield volunteered to take over the role of “Facilitator” for the commission for ECOLOGY Budget Planning purposes as Jim Donnell's transitions out this year. Jim will serve as a “consultant” to Randy and the commission through the budget submission date in July.
3. Who will perform the duties of commission RECORDER with Jim Donnell's' departure will be determined at our next meeting in March.
4. **DREDGING APPLICATIONS:** *Charlie Tinkle moved to APPROVE the dredging applications submitted by both Jerrod Ehrghott and Bill Blake at lots SW76, SW77, OES 207, OES 212, OES 213, SW 79 & SW80 (7037 Opposum Dr. & 7027 Opposum Dr.), as submitted. Shena Johnson seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*

I (7:05 P. M.) **COMMISSION MEMBER CONCERNS:**

1. Charlie Hinkle asked that the CSCD post signs at the boat ramps of each lake to announce the new fishing slot rules established by the commission late last year. Nick agreed to arrange for those signs, once the Board approves the new CSCD Rulebook.
2. Brenda Maulden reminded the commission of the upcoming Indiana Lakes Management Society's (ILMS) annual conference scheduled for 20-21 March, 2026, in Noblesville. She will attend.
3. Brenda also announced the plan to conduct an annual “Bluebird & Purple Martin Seminar,” at the CSCD Fire Station on 29 March from 10 A.M. to noon.
4. The subject of Porta-potty “Surrounds” was raised. Nick agreed to look into what can be done to get those surrounds built and emplaced.
5. Brenda also requested that CSCD remind all persons who rent the beach shelter to NOT spray for insects any more, now that the Pollinator Habitat is planted and soon to be functioning to attract flying pollinator insects.

J. **ADJOURNMENT:** Shena Johnson moved to adjourn the 6 February, meeting of the Ecology Commission. Charlie Tinkle seconded. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

JIM DONNELLS

Commission Recorder

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