

Cordry-Sweetwater Conservancy District
Board of Directors Special Meeting
July 15th, 2025

1. **Board Members Present:** Mike Leavitt, Randy Brumfield, Ted Adolay, Greg Harper, Jim Maulden, and Mark Rasdall
2. **Board Members Absent:** Aaron Parris
3. **Also, Present:**
 - a. **Staff:** Brittany Bay
 - b. 3 Freeholders in attendance
4. **Call to order at 6:02 PM**
5. **Budget Workshop:**
 - a. Mr. Leavitt opened discussion about the preliminary 2026 budget. Mr. Leavitt suggested going line by line like they had done in the past. Mr. Leavitt noted looking at the total line items it's about half a million more than the current year's budget.
 - b. Mrs. Bay noted that the 2026 budget also included the bond principal and interest payment for the spillway repairs. Mrs. Bay noted that the commission's budget breakdowns were included in the packets along with the compilation.
 - c. Mr. Maulden asked if under road maintenance the beach shelter parking lot paving was included. Mrs. Bay noted that it was included in the road paving line item.
 - d. Mr. Adolay asked where the \$48k for the drain culvert was at. Mrs. Bay noted it was for the culvert that failed on Sweetwater. Mr. Leavitt confirmed it was for the one that failed due to all the flooding. Mr. Leavitt discussed that there had been potential for FEMA funding to replace it but all the work had to be completed to be reimbursed but the timeframe was not reasonable.
 - e. Mr. Adolay noted he believed on Nuthatch there was work that needed to be finished and asked of the monies allocated for Nuthatch was to complete this. Mr. Brumfield noted that it was not, the money allocated for Nuthatch is to put in a dock to allow kayak launching there. Mr. Adolay discussed the current condition of the area. Mr. Brumfield noted that what Mr. Adolay was discussing was installed for drainage and what is there now is complete and how it is supposed to be.
 - f. Mr. Brumfield noted that the terrestrial line item #359 the ecology commission normally budgets about \$10k for tree removal but there are a lot of dead trees, and a lot of work is needed for trees, so they proposed \$15k.
 - g. Mr. Brumfield asked Mr. Maulden if the security commission was looking at a different boat besides the rhib boats because he believes they are not lasting long. It was asked how long they last. Mrs. Bay noted that their life expectancy is 10 years and noted that they are not looking to replace the current rhib, this would be in addition to the current rhib on Sweetwater and replacing the pontoon. Mrs. Bay discussed the issues with the pontoon boat patrolling. There was discussion over the difficulty maneuvering the pontoon. Mr. Brumfield noted the rhib boats are a good concept but believes they are not lasting, and they could get a different style of boat. Mr. Leavitt noted that the Fire Department has looked at a plastic boat the past few years, there are various sizes and could be an option. Tom Quill, a freeholder, asked if he could ask a question. Mr. Quill asked about the Sweetwater rhib having a puncture in it and it

needing to be taken off the lake to repair the puncture. Mr. Quill noted that the inflatable portion could be patched and functionable again and as far as the mechanics of the boat it is functionable and fine. Mr. Brumfield noted that if they want to purchase a new boat in that same price range, they could get a Boston Whaler for the same amount of money. Mrs. Bay noted that she believed the security commission was wanting a boat that would bounce off another watercraft. Mr. Quill noted that was the original idea with the rhib boat and as far as a Boston Whaler he did not know what their hull was made from. Mr. Quill discussed the rhib boat being repaired and repaired effectively. Mr. Brumfield noted he believed they were not lasting long enough for the investment. Mr. Brumfield noted if they last 10 years and they are spending \$55k on them, he doesn't believe that is a good investment. Mr. Quill noted that the \$55k was to cover the boat, the lights, sirens and modifications to the pontoon lift. Mr. Quill noted the rhib itself was \$44,900. Mr. Maulden noted that even if they recommended life expectancy of the rhib boat is 10 years, that doesn't mean that they cannot last longer than 10 years. Mr. Maulden noted that to his knowledge the only thing wrong with the boat currently is it has a leak that needs to be repaired but they are still using it currently. Mr. Leavitt noted that the only watercraft he saw that is comparable would be the plastic boats. Mr. Maulden asked about that type of boat. Mr. Leavitt noted that he could look for the research he had on them. Mr. Maulden noted they are open to a different type of boat if they will last better and do just as good of a job. Mr. Maulden asked Mr. Leavitt to send some information to the security commission.

- h. Mr. Adolay discussed a handout he presented to the Board Members discussing water clarity. Mr. Adolay noted the water clarity in the last few years is not where it used to be. Mr. Adolay noted that Dave Jarrett has done clarity testing over the years of the lakes. Mr. Adolay noted based on these tests the lakes used to average about 24 feet and now average about 19 feet. Mr. Adolay discussed Mr. Rasdall's cove, and mentioned the whole cove is not as clear as it used to be. Mr. Adolay noted they needed to investigate something because something needed to be done. Mr. Leavitt noted they needed to look at sedimentation. Mr. Adolay noted he would like to see them budget to hire someone to investigate the issue to see what they need to do. Mr. Brumfield discussed the last survey he suggested and noted he would let Mr. Adolay bring this one up. Mr. Rasdall agreed something needed to be done. Mr. Rasdall noted that anytime a watercraft comes down and makes a circle in front of his house it turns to mud. Mr. Rasdall suggested adding \$25 to find a specialist to address this and that way the money is there, and they can always cut it back. There was discussion over the culvert and the sediment building up. Mr. Adolay asked for \$25k to be added to the preliminary budget for this.
- i. Mr. Adolay asked what kind of fish ecology wanted to buy for \$8k. Mr. Brumfield noted that this was for Aquatic Control to come in and shock the lake. Mr. Brumfield noted that Aquatic Control would shock the lake and anything under 13 inches for largemouth bass would come out.
- j. Mr. Leavitt asked if the money allocated for the skid steer would replace the existing skid steer. Mrs. Bay noted that it was.
- k. Mr. Rasdall asked if there was \$60k in the budget for dredging. Mr. Leavitt noted that most of that money is for the culvert replacement.
- l. Mr. Maulden asked what the \$250k dam repairs were budgeted for. Mrs. Bay noted that it was to start the engineering for the Sweetwater spillway.
- m. Mr. Rasdall asked if there was money leftover from the bonds. Mr. Leavitt noted that they went over on the bonds. Mrs. Bay noted that there wasn't and that is why they had to apply for additional appropriations. Mr. Rasdall asked if that came out of the Rainy-Day fund. Mrs. Bay noted that it came out of the General Fund. Mr. Adolay asked what work needed to be done on the dam. Mr. Leavitt noted it was actually the spillway needing repaired. Mr. Rasdall noted that the spillway was too small and that is why Sweetwater goes red, and Cordry stays

yellow, because it can't dump enough water out. Mrs. Bay noted that this amount was just to cover the initial engineering, and the Board would have to discuss how they are going to finance to pay for the spillway repairs. There was discussion over both Sweetwater and Cordry being rated as high hazard. Mr. Leavitt noted they did the geotech on Cordry with the core samples, but they have not yet done that on Sweetwater. Mr. Leavitt noted after Cordry was completed that the rating would be better, but Sweetwater wouldn't be until its repaired. There was discussion on what had been previously done on Sweetwater. Mr. Leavitt discussed the capacity. Mr. Leavitt noted both dams were listed as unsatisfactory, partly due to changes in how they are evaluated and partly because of the lack of geotechnical information to support their construction. Mr. Rasdall asked if there was a valve that could lower the lake. Mr. Leavitt noted there was not one on Sweetwater but there is now one on Cordry. Mr. Rasdall noted that they could not drop the lake level.

- n. Mr. Leavitt noted besides those items he just saw incremental increases due to cost increases in the preliminary budget.

6. Adjourn (6:43 PM)

MOTION: Mr. Harper moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Adolay. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Ted Adolay, Board Secretary
Date Submitted: