DRAFT

MINUTES
ECOLOGY COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
Cordry Sweetwater Conservancy District
June 4, 2026

The June meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission was called to order by Randy Brumfield at 6:15 P.M.

Members Present: Randy Brumfield, Matt Rotelli, Harold Crooks, Shawn Rexroth.

Members Absent: Tom Golias.

Freeholders in Attendance: None.

REVIEW AND REVISION OF DRAFT AGENDA: The **draft agenda was reviewed and approved** in the order presented. Motion by Randy. Second, by Shawn. All in favor.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The May meeting minutes were tabled until a member could review the minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

Summary Review of CSCD Water/Grounds Superintendent's Report: Mr. Brumfield reported that in-house aquatic weed treatment was completed successfully by Mr. Johann. The treatment cost $361.49 in product, with approximately three hours of labor per lake, compared to the typical contracted cost of approximately $25,000. Ongoing monitoring will continue for weed regrowth, water quality, and any signs of fish stress or mortality. Mr. Brumfield noted that Mr. Johann will resume oversight when available.

Pollinator Habitat Report: Mr. Rotelli reported on the condition and needs of the pollinator habitat areas. The Commission agreed that the pollinator areas should be mowed down to approximately 10 inches above ground to reset growth, and that the designated habitat walking trail 5 foot wide should be mowed short and treated. Mowing and mulch will be applied to the habitat walking trail before July 4 to support habitat health and appearance. Coordination between Mr. Brumfield and Mr. Johann will be needed for equipment and scheduling. The Commission reaffirmed the ecological importance of maintaining these areas.

Weed Wrangle and Invasive Plant Management: Mr. Crooks provided an update on volunteer efforts and invasive species removal through the Weed Wrangle program. He reported good turnout for our May Weed Wrangle. The next Weed Wrangle is scheduled for

June 6, with volunteers meeting at the fire station at 9:00 A.M. Discussion included long-term strategies for invasive plant control. Mr. Brumfield proposed hiring Austin Dinhart with Midwest Spray Team to supplement volunteer efforts, with an allocation of $10,000 ($195 per acre) annually from the $53,000 ecology budget/Make America Beautiful Grant as part of a five-year plan. Randy stated that this year there would be $15,000 from the budget, due to purchases of 20 gallons of stump treatment and 2 sprayers for the CSCD. The Commission discussed volunteer limitations and size of area, the need for professional application in difficult areas, and long-term ecological benefits. General support was expressed pending final budget review. Randy is suggesting to board to hire a compliance person to help Nick with budget savings on in-house aquatic spraying.

Dredging and Silt Survey Planning: The Commission discussed dredging needs and plans to conduct sediment probing surveys using available boats near the end of June (the 27th or 28th), date to be determined. Priority areas include both lakes and all coves, with the worst areas to be addressed first. The goals of the surveys are to determine silt depth, identify areas requiring immediate dredging, support future dredging and budgeting, and establish a yearly plan for CSCD dredging projects. Additional discussion included pending dredging applications, future survey results, and long-term sediment management strategies.

Garden Club: Nothing to report. They will be managing their own affairs and should be removed from agenda.

Deer Hunt: Tom absent, sent email with info on deer reduction zone and how the state DNR determines and sets the criteria. The plan will be to hunt the trails next season with handpicked skilled archery hunters.

Fish Population Management: Mr. Brumfield provided an update on fish removal efforts. Approximately 550 to 600 fish have been removed to date by the Anglers Club. The target remains 20 to 30 pounds per acre prior to spawning season. Fishing has been less productive recently due to post-spawn behavior and weather fluctuations. Continued removal was noted as important for maintaining balanced fish populations. Future fish surveys may be needed to assess results. Mrs. Rexroth will reach out to Mike regarding the fish donation freezer for the communitywide initiative.

NEW BUSINESS

Dredging Applications: 8263 Aspen Drive, 7324 Cordry Drive and 6569 Sweetwater Drive with the latter being questioned for its purpose. Commission concerns discussed about the approval process. Mr. Brumfield motioned to approve with conditions, not to go any further than the lakebed and not to change the shoreline. Second Mrs. Rexroth. All three approved with conditions.

Budgeting Process: Ecology Mission Statement "To PROTECT, MONITOR, PRESERVE, AND ENHANCE THE ECOSYSTEMS, OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, AND AESTHETIC VALUES OF CORDRY - SWEETWATER LAKES." Commission members were asked to assess CSCD needs across key ecology areas, including the aquatic environment, terrestrial environment, and parks and recreation, to support future budgeting. Members were also asked to identify what is working well, what should be addressed in the future, and what requires immediate attention. Randy preparing 5-year plan.

Commission Concerns: The Commission reviewed a freeholder email regarding the relocation of buoys on Sweetwater Lake due to safety, security, and ecological concerns. After an extensive discussion and review of DNR recommendations, the Commission agreed that the request was reasonable and that the buoys should be moved farther from the gas dock and beach area. Randy to prepare a proposed new buoy placement plan with input from the Commission.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting concluded following completion of all agenda items at 8:20pm.

Submitted by Shawn Rexroth