

MINUTES

ECOLOGY COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING

Cordry Sweetwater Conservancy District

2 March, 2023

- A. The monthly meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission was called to order by, Randy Brumfield, at 6:00 P.M. on 2 March, 2023, in the CSCD conference room.
- B. Members Present: Randy Brumfield, Brenda Maulden, Ty Cooper, Shena Johnson, and Jim Donnell (Recorder).
- C. Members Absent: Herb Benshoof (Board) & Sunny Leerkamp (CSLOA)
- D. Others in Attendance: Nick Johann (Director of CSCD Operations) + 2 Guests
- E. (6:05 P.M.) *Shena Johnson moved to approve the Minutes of the 2 February, 2023 meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission; Ty Cooper seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*
- F. (6:10 P.M.) **FREEHOLDER CONCERNS:**
1. Katie Starr, the Director of the Brown County Soil & Water Conservation District (BCSWCD), briefed the Commission on a newly activated program to reimburse up to \$200, *to all CSCD freeholders within the Lake Monroe watershed* (Sweetwater Lake drainage only), who pay for any septic maintenance service (pumping, inspection, and/or riser installation) performed in 2023. The contractor has to be a certified/licensed contractor listed on the BC Health Department's septic contractor list. Details on this new “SEPTIC COST-SHARE PROGRAM” can be learned by picking up a brochure at the CSCD office or by emailing Katie Starr at brown@iaswcd.org or by calling (812) 988-2211.
 2. In addition, Ms. Starr invited all interested parties to attend an upcoming “70th Annual Soil & Water Conservation District Annual Meeting” on Saturday, March 25th in Nashville, IN.
- G. **OLD BUSINESS :**
1. (6:15 P.M.) **CSCD OPERATIONS REPORT (Nick):** Nick Johann provided progress reports on myriad projects of interest to ECOLOGY including:
 - a. **New Playground Equipment** intended for the SW beach area is on hand and will soon be assembled for use.
 - b. **Cordry Lake Spillway Repair** - More engineering refinements are pending before the project goes out to bid. To date, no Grant funding has been located to help pay for this \$ 1.6 million 2023 project.
 - c. **Marina** prep is underway in anticipation of the upcoming boating season.
 - d. The **Nature Trails** have recently been cleared of debris.
 - e. Budget money from FY 2022 has been brought forward to 2023 for the purpose of **Dredging the North End of Sweetwater Lake**, a long delayed priority of the commission.
 2. (6:20 P.M.) **DEER HUNT UPDATE:** Shena Johnson briefed that the post-card-to-freeholder mailout, to determine which properties are cleared for hunting and game retrieval for the 2023-2024 hunt, is nearly ready to mail to all freeholders. The desired “return date” for all freeholders to indicate their desires is 31 May. She will work with Rusty Fields to coordinate the plan for hunting next winter.
 3. **JOINT (Ecology/Security) WAKE BOAT STUDY COMMITTEE UPDATE:** No update available.
 4. (6:25 P.M.) **ZEBRA MUSSEL PREVENTION PROGRAM:** Nick Johann briefed the commission that he has advertised the paid, part-time position for a CSCD Boat Steward on the CSCD website, with no applicants to date. The importance of having a Boat Steward hired and in place **BEFORE** the spring boat-delivery season begins, was discussed. Once the lake water temperature reaches 55 degrees, zebra mussels begin their reproduction cycle and translocation of zebra mussels and their microscopic veligers is possible through both boats and trailers that have been in infested waters and not decontaminated. A functioning Boat Steward Program is viewed as an essential aspect of our CSCD ZM Prevention Program.

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5. (6:30 P.M.) **JOINT PROJECT w/CSLOA EDUCATIONAL PAMPHLET FOR CSCD FREEHOLDERS:** Brenda Maulden briefed the Commission on the progress of this project to date.

6. (6:35 P.M.) **POLLINATOR HABITAT INITIATIVE:** Brenda Maulden updated the Commission on this project too. She learned that SCI-REMC is soon going to mulch the designated land across from the beach in preparation for pollinator seeding. 2023 is the “Prep Year,” with winter 2023 planned for pollinator seeding. Katie Starr of the Brown County Soil & Water Conservation District reiterated her willingness to help with grant money for this CSCD environmental project.

7. (6:40 P.M.) **EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT- PURPLE MARTIN HOUSING:** Randy Brumfield updated the commission on the progress of the Eagle Scout project to install a new Purple Martin Housing pole with houses at the Sweetwater boat ramp area. The approval of this project was handled by email among the commission members over the last month.

Additionally, it was announced that freeholder Neil Crum will once again present a free workshop at the CSLOA clubhouse on 18 March for all interested in learning about bluebird and purple martin husbandry. After discussion:

“Randy Brumfield moved to provide \$ 200 annually to freeholder Neil Crum to reimburse him for the out-of-pockets costs of maintenance and repair of the many bluebird and purple martin houses he has emplaced throughout the CSCD over the last few years. Jim Donnell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.”

H. **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. (6:45 P.M.) **DREDGING APPLICATIONS:** None

2. (6:45 P.M.) **FREEHOLDER CONCERNS:** None

3. (6:45 P.M.) **COMMISSION MEMBER CONCERNS:** Randy Brumfield briefed the commission on two Anglers Club initiatives:

(a) A Cordry Sweetwater Anglers Club Tagged Fish Event. This is an event where the anglers club would tag 2 fish in each lake (One Bass and one Pan fish) and any paid member (membership covers the immediate family) of the Cordry Sweetwater Anglers Club that catches a tagged fish would win a cash prize. This would be an annual event. This is an incentive to get more people interested in the sport of fishing. ***“Randy Brumfield moved to approve this “Tagged Fish” tournament concept. Ty Cooper seconded. The motion passed.”***

(b) Another Anglers Club tournament to promote the recommended removal of many of the (overpopulated) less-than-13 inch bass from our lakes. Tournament dates and details are yet to be determined.

4. The next meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission is scheduled for Thursday, **6 April**, at 6:00 P.M. in the CSCD conference room. A draft Agenda for that meeting was developed.

5. **STRATEGIC PLANNING/BUDGETING WORKSHOP:** Jim Donnell facilitated a review of the ECOLOGY Commission’s annual budget proposals over the last 5 years as a springboard for next month’s Strategic Planning/Budgeting workshop.

I. **ADJOURNMENT:** *Ty Cooper moved to adjourn the 2 February, meeting of the Ecology Commission. Shena Johnson seconded. The motion passed.* The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Commission Recorder
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