

DRAFT

MINUTES

ECOLOGY COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING

Cordry Sweetwater Conservancy District

7 March, 2024

- A. The monthly meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission was called to order by Commission Chair, Randy Brumfield, at 6:00 P.M., in the CSCD conference room.
- B. Members Present: Randy Brumfield, Shena Johnson, Brenda Maulden, Charlie Tinkle, and Jim Donnells (Recorder)
- C. Members Absent: Ty Cooper
- D. Others In Attendance: Nick Johann (CSCD Operations) + 4 Guests
- E. (6:05 P.M.) Brenda Maulden ***moved to approve the Minutes of the 1 February, 2024 meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission; Shena Johnson seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.***
- F. (6:05 P. M.) **FREEHOLDER CONCERNS:**

1. Freeholder Todd Robinson was granted 45 minutes to present (remotely from Cincinnati) a Power point presentation on a proposed installation of an **Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Station** somewhere in the CSCD. His presentation was well researched and professionally presented. After posing multiple questions, Commission members agreed to conduct a survey of CSCD freeholders to assess the number of residents who could potentially benefit, now and in the future, from such an initiative. A decision to move forward on such a major undertaking will be delayed until after results of said survey are reviewed and Board members agree. ***Randy Brumfield will inform the CSCD Board of this freeholder proposal.***

2. Freeholder (and CSCD Board member) Jim Maulden inquired on the subject of **campers and RVs parked on vacant lots**, a subject raised by a freeholder at the last CSCD Board meeting. The Commission responded that this is a rule in the current (and allegedly under revision) CSCD RULE BOOK. No one on the Commission knew of the origin of the rule and only speculated that it was the intent of the original founders to not allow the CSCD to become a “camp ground” or RV park.

- G. (6:50 P. M.) **CSCD OPERATIONS REPORT** : Nick Johann provided updates on myriad projects of interest to ECOLOGY including:
1. **Zebra Mussel Prevention Program (ZMPP)**: A **Boat Steward** has been hired to oversee the 2024 ZMPP at the lakes. Also, an **improved** (telescopic and swinging) **locked, gate system** is being procured for each boat ramp to make access to the water easier for authorized boaters.
 2. **Cordry Lake Spillway**: The Indiana DNR is still processing our permit application, the last step before the spillway reconstruction project can go out to bid. It appears that the earliest that this project can be put out for bid is this summer with work to, hopefully, be completed by the end of 2024.

H. (7:00 P. M.) **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **POLLINATOR HABITAT UPDATE** (Brenda): No Update
2. **AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL GRANT - \$\$\$ For Invasive Species Removal in CSCD** : No Update
3. **CSCD “RULES” REVIEW** : The ECOLOGY Commission’s proposal to form a “CSCD Rules Revision Committee,” comprised of one member of each of the 5 commissions, for the purpose of conducting a comprehensive review of all current (and recently revised) rules throughout the CSCD community, was not favorably received by the CSCD Board of Directors. They refused to form a standing committee for this purpose. As a result, the SECURITY Commission has agreed to work with the ECOLOGY Commission to at least work to collaborate on some of the many “Rules” that appear to have dual interest to our 2 commissions. The piecemeal, slow-moving Rules Review/Revision process will continue. No target date for completion was proposed.

(OVER >>>)

I. **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. (7:15 P. M.) **DREDGING APPLICATIONS:** None

2. **COMMISSION MEMBER CONCERNS:**

- a. Concern over items from the annual “**Haunted Trail**” remaining on/near the Nature Trails was expressed. Nick Johann agreed to remind the volunteer fire department of this concern with hopes of clearing those materials from the trail area soon.
- b. Brenda updated the Commission on the current status of the **CSCD Garden Club**. A new Garden Club Steering Committee has been formed and it is believed that Libby Saunders has assumed leadership of the Club. It was suggested that the Garden Club provide an annual report to the ECOLOGY Commission, just as it used to do in the early years of its existence.
- c. Jim Donnell presented a proposed revision to the “**Boat Launch Inspection Form**,” for use by boat stewards at the boat ramps to inspect boats and trailers for AIS contamination (e.g. zebra mussels) prior to launch. The Commission agreed to the revision and the new form format was provided to Nick Johann for implementation this spring.
- d. Jim Donnell also provided copies of emails he received from 2 highly respected real estate agents from two different real estate firms doing business in the CSCD. These 2 emails expressed agreement with the position of the Zebra Mussel Prevention Committee (duly constituted in 2018), that an infestation of **zebra mussels** in the CSCD, if it should occur, would put **downward pressure on property values** of freeholders in the CSCD over time. There had been questions by a few commission members about the premise of the last question on the Zebra Mussel Prevention Test that describes the probable lowering of property values in the CSCD if we were to suffer a zebra mussel infestation. These emails lend local support for that premise.
- e. The ECOLOGY Commission still has one member vacancy. A guest at tonight’s meeting is considering an application for that vacant position.

3. (7:30 P.M.) **FREEHOLDER CONCERNS:**

- a. Carrie Vavul announced the date of the annual **Nineveh Road Trash Cleanup Event** on **April 20th**. Free Breakfast for all volunteers will be in the CSLOA Clubhouse at 7:00 A.M. and the volunteer litter cleanup event will occur between 8-10 A.M.
- b. One freeholder inquired about the status of the CSCD position on the sport of wake surfing on CSCD lakes this year. Randy Brumfield responded that the Board is pursuing a comprehensive scientific study of the impact of wake boats, on our small lakes, from an outside, objective and impartial agency.

4. **STRATEGIC PLANNING/BUDGET PLANNING** : Jim Donnell handed out a proposed Budget Planning Workshop Calendar for use by commission members to plan for FY 2025 budget planning work , at the end of each commission meeting, over the next 4 months. The proposed schedule was agreed to.

Next month’s workshop: “**WHAT’S GOING WELL? ; WHAT’S GOING NOT SO WELL? (in CSCD),**” from an ecological point of view.

J. **ADJOURNMENT:** *Shena Johnson moved to adjourn the 7 March, meeting of the Ecology Commission. Jim Donnell seconded. The motion passed.* The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

JIM DONNELLS

Commission Recorder

opajimd@gmail.com

(801) 361-8791