

DRAFT
MINUTES
ECOLOGY COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING
Cordry Sweetwater Conservancy District
5 Sep, 2024

- 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, Shena Johnson, Brenda Maulden, Charlie Tinkle, Matt Murtha,
and Jim Donnells (Recorder)
- C. Members Absent: Ty Cooper
- D. Others In Attendance: 8 Guests
- E. (6:05 P.M.) *Shena Johnson moved to approve the Minutes of the 1 August, 2024 meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission; Charlie Tinkle seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*
- F. (6:05 P. M.) **FREEHOLDER CONCERNS:**
1. A freeholder inquired about the reported 2' drop in Cordry Lake level in conjunction with the upcoming rebuild of the Cordry dam spillway and wanted to know when the lake level will be restored. The commission responded that the contract calls for "not more than 2' drop in lake level," and that it is up to nature and spring rains as to when the lake level will be restored. There is no plan to "add" water to the lake once construction is complete.
 2. Freeholder Tom Quill commented on his continued concern for proper maintenance of the Sweetwater dam shoreline, especially near Warbler Drive. He inquired as to whether more rip rap might be required along the dam. The commission responded that there have been no recommendations from dam inspectors (done every 2 years) to that effect. He also commented that he would like the CSCD Board to be more visibly supportive of efforts to protect and enhance the ecological health of the lakes.
 3. A freeholder inquired as to whether some buoys are too close to the shoreline in some areas. She was referred to the Security Commission for an answer.
 4. Freeholder Brenda Green expressed major concern over the status of "holding tanks" in the CSCD, used instead of septic tanks, now that Brown County has legalized their use. After discussion, it was agreed to investigate this issue over the next month and provide recommendations to the CSCD Board, next month, for any new policy regarding holding tank use in the CSCD. The topic was added to next month's AGENDA.
- G. (6:30 P. M.) **OLD BUSINESS:**
1. **CSCD OPERATIONS REPORT:** In Nick Johann's absence, Randy Brumfield provided updates on myriad projects of interest to ECOLOGY including:
 - a. CSCD has initiated a Hazardous Tree Inventory in the CSCD to prioritize removals before they cause damage.
 - b. CSCD is also looking into fabricating a new gate for the boat ramps to replace the locked cables.
 - c. This fall, extensive mowing and vegetation removal efforts will be taken around all dam abutments in CSCD.
 - d. Nick and Randy Brumfield have worked out a contract with Randy's Animal Control (RAC) for major muskrat control measures to be taken on our lakes this fall/winter in conjunction with the der hunt. More details to follow...

c. **Cordry Lake Spillway:** The long-awaited contract for rebuilding the Cordry Dam Spillway has been awarded. The \$ 1.2 million project will commence soon and once begun, will be completed within 180 days. Funding for the project has been approved by the CSCD Board to be done through a bonding issue, supported by Brown County property taxes assessed on CSCD freeholders. More funding details from the CSCD Board to follow...

d. **Status of ECOLOGY Commission Budget Proposals for FY 2025:** At this point, no cuts to ECOLOGY Commission budget proposals have been made.
 2. (6:40 P. M.) **CSCD RULES REVIEW PROJECT (Shena):** The joint effort of the SECURITY Commission and ECOLOGY Commission to update and consolidate into one, online, and easily accessible Rule Book, all the "rules" in effect in the CSCD, continues. Shena reports that a DRAFT Rule Book has been totally re-created in an editable document, incorporating both the old Green Book plus all Resolutions and Board decisions located in CSCD documents over the last few months. Beginning next month, the Joint SECURITY Commission and ECOLOGY Commission team will review this newly created document (5 pages at a time) at commission meetings, to recommend revisions of CSCD "Rules" to the CSCD Board for revision with the ultimate goal to create an online, totally revised "CSCD Rule Book."
- OVER >>>**
3. (6:45 P. M.) **POLLINATOR HABITAT UPDATE (Brenda):** Thanks to 4 volunteers with backpack herbicide sprayers working with Brenda, the 3-acre pollinator site has been cleared of all vegetative growth. The designated Pollinator Habitat is nearly ready for seeding. Brenda is working with Katie Starr to select the correct seed mixture from the 15 quotes she has received from several suppliers. Brenda requested permission from the Commission to solicit donations to support

the establishment of the “CSCD Pollinator Habitat.” The Commission approved this initiative. The committee continues to develop a comprehensive plan for the creation of this Pollinator Habitat resource.

Katie Starr, in attendance, introduced Sonia Scott, the new Director of the Brown County Soil and Water Conservancy District. Katie also reported that the initial survey to determine the presence and density of invasive (plant) species on CSCD land has been completed in pursuit of the “America the Beautiful Grant.” 2 more site visits are required, as is a full-day training session for CSCD employees and freeholders as a prerequisite for grant funding. The **training session** was calendared for **Saturday, 16 November**. More details to follow.

4. (7:10 P. M.) **BLUEBIRD CENSUS REPORT:** (*Matt*): Matt Murda, one of three “managers” of the CSCD Bluebird Habitat Program, reports that for his area of responsibility of 24 bird boxes, he documented 40 nests this year that produced 176 births and 153 fledglings. Other volunteer bluebird program managers are Dale Onken and Quinn Hetherington.

5. (7:15 P. M.) **SHORELINE EROSION STUDY:** (*Randy*) Randy reports that the special funding of the “Shoreline Erosion Study,” outlined by Doctor Sweeten of Ecosystems Connections Institute, has been cancelled at this time due to CSCD budget concerns.

6. (7:20 P. M.) **ANIMAL CONTROL MEASURES:** (*Shena*) The approved dates for the annual “Deer Reduction Archery Hunt,” in CSCD are 1-17 November, 2024 and 4-12 January, 2025. A required archery hunter qualification date of 21 September (10:00 A.M. – 12:00 noon) was also approved. Rusty’s Animal Control (RAC) has also been contracted to conduct Muskrat control measures in our lakes during the same timeframe as the deer hunt. Freeholders are encouraged to send photos of active muskrat dens (tunnels burrowed into lakeside banks) to Nick Johann at CSCD and urged to mark the locations using driveway markers stuck in the water where tunnels exist.

H. (7:05 P. M.) **NEW BUSINESS** : NONE

I (7:10 P. M.) **COMMISSION MEMBER CONCERNS:** NONE

J. **ADJOURNMENT:** Shena Johnson moved to adjourn the 1 August, meeting of the Ecology Commission. Charlie Tinkle seconded. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

JIM DONNELLS

Commission Recorder

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