

DRAFT
MINUTES
ECOLOGY COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING
Cordry Sweetwater Conservancy District
4 April, 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, Ty Cooper, Shena Johnson, Brenda Maulden, Charlie Tinkle, Matt Murtha, and Jim Donnells (Recorder)
- C. Members Absent: None
- D. Others In Attendance: Nick Johann (CSCD Operations) + 3 Guests
- E. (6:00 P.M.) Randy introduced our newest commission member, Matt Murtha, who provided a brief summary of his background.
- F. (6:05 P.M.) ***Shena Johnson moved to approve the Minutes of the 7 March, 2024 meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission; Brenda Maulden seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.***
- G. (6:05 P. M.) **FREEHOLDER CONCERNS**: Freeholder Tom Quill inquired about commission awareness of unfavorable trends in past dam inspection reports, including the most recent ones, in the CSCD. Nick Johann assured Mr. Quill and the commission that the downward trends in dam ratings in these past inspection reports do not indicate a serious concern regarding dam integrity. Both 2023 dam reports (Cordry & Sweetwater) can be found online in the ECOLOGY Commission link. The inspection ratings of “Conditionally Poor,” for both dams are due, primarily, to the known deterioration of both spillways. The risk of dam failure itself is considered to be “Low” and dam ratings will revert to higher ratings once the scheduled spillway rebuild projects are completed. Cordry spillway will be rebuilt this fall/winter and Sweetwater is scheduled to be addressed in the not too distant future.
- H. (6:15 P. M.) **CSCD OPERATIONS REPORT** : Nick Johann provided updates on myriad projects of interest to ECOLOGY including:
1. **Parks Improvements**: New mulch is on hand to spread under the park swing sets; crushed limestone gravel is on hand for spreading on the ballfield in Centerlake Park; finer sand is being explored for the volleyball court at the beach; and a new ADA (American Disabilities Act) mat is on hand soon to be installed at the beach, enabling better handicap access to the beach from the parking lot to water’s edge.
 2. **EV Vehicle Charger Initiative**: A short questionnaire survey has been designed and will soon be sent out to all freeholders to determine the current and/or future need for a CSCD-provided electric vehicle (EV) charging station in the CSCD.
 3. **Solar Eclipse (8 April) Preparations**: Nick reports that, in anticipation of large crowds in CSCD as a result of Monday’s solar eclipse: Lake Patrol will be activated on both lakes to ensure only authorized boats are on our lakes for eclipse viewing, and the Beach Attendant will be on station that day to maintain appropriate use of our beach facilities by all eclipse viewers. Due to the below-55 degree water temperature of CSCD lakes and surrounding lakes, it was agreed that zebra mussel prevention measures (i.e. boat/trailer inspections and decontaminations) are not necessary on Monday, 8 April.
 4. **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. ***An unfortunate update from engineers at Christopher Burke Engineering is that the estimated cost of the Cordry Spillway project has increased from \$ 1.6 million to a range of \$ 2.0 - \$ 2.5 million, primarily due to the increase in cost of materials, especially concrete.***
- I. (6:30 P. M.) **OLD BUSINESS**:
1. **CSCD “RULES” REVIEW** : The first session of the joint Security Commission/Ecology Commission “Rules Rewrite Workshop,” commenced. It is agreed that these 2 Commissions will dedicate 30 minutes of each monthly meeting to review all “CSCD Rules” documents for feasibility, enforceability, and editing for the express purpose of creating an updated, comprehensive set of CSCD Rules for CSCD Board consideration. Tonight’s session established the following agreements and goals:

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- a. Each commission will dedicate 30 minutes of each respective monthly meeting to work on this project until completion.
- b. Shena Johnson (Ecology) agreed to work with a Security Commission rep. to serve as joint-RECORDERS to document the work of this joint-commission initiative.
- c. The final product will incorporate all the various historical “Resolutions” currently in effect in the CSCD and will electronically link freeholders to “substantiating references,” for those who want to read why a rule is written the way it is (including federal, state, and county laws and ordinances).
- d. The goal of this joint-commission initiative is to create and publish **online**, a COMPREHENSIVE, SINGLE, WELL-ORGANIZED and SIMPLE “CSCD RULES” DOCUMENT that freeholders can access in the CSCD website that will be the updated and approved “Rule Book,” encompassing all aspects of residency in the CSCD.

2. **REVIEW OF CAMPER/RV RULE IN CSCD**: Based on recent communication with the Brown County Health Department, the following clarification is provided regarding parked campers and RVs in CSCD:

The current rule regarding CAMPING in the CSCD (page 6 of CSCD Rulebook) is still in force:

- Campers &/or RVs on residential lots are OK as long as septic systems are in place and in use.
- Campers &/or RVs on vacant lots can ONLY be present if the owner has received either a 72-hour permit or a 2-week permit from the CSCD office, after which the Camper/RV must be removed from the premises.

3. **POLLINATOR HABITAT UPDATE** (Brenda): Once the soil dries out from recent rains, herbicide will be applied to the designated Pollinator Habitat area. A second application will likely be needed after which, the area should be ready for pollinator seeding, hopefully this fall/winter.

J. NEW BUSINESS:

1. (7:15 P. M.) **DREDGING APPLICATIONS**: The Commission reviewed 1 dredging application and after review and discussion:

Randy Brumfield moved to APPROVE dredging application D24-002 submitted by Colin Forsberg on lot K -1A (7599 Centerlake Road), as submitted. Shena Johnson seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.

2. **COMMISSION MEMBER CONCERNS:**

- a. Continued concern was expressed over items from the annual “**Haunted Trail**” remaining on/near the Nature Trails. The volunteer fire department was reminded of this concern and agrees to deal with it soon.
- b. REMINDER: The **Nineveh Road Trash Cleanup Event - 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.
- c. The CSLOA representative, Brenda Maulden, brought a priority request from the CSLOA. At their last meeting, planning for the upcoming **OX ROAST** (on 6 July in conjunction with fireworks) raised the issue of overflow parking at the fire station and Centerlake Park. Although planning for shuttle service, CSLOA anticipates many participants walking to and from the Ox Roast by way of Sunset Drive. This creates a dangerous pedestrian situation. Brenda outlined for CSLOA the 5-year failed attempt by the ECOLOGY Commission to get a **walking trail** created in the wide grassy area, east of Sunset Drive between the Beach and the Access Road leading out from the cell phone tower (.4 mile)
After hearing of that failed proposal, **CSLOA unanimously requested that ECOLOGY renew its effort to get that walking trail in place ASAP** as they plan to conduct the Ox Roast at the beach every year from now on.

3. (7:30 P.M.) **FREEHOLDER CONCERNS:** NONE

4. **STRATEGIC PLANNING/BUDGET PLANNING** : Jim Donnell's facilitated the first budget planning workshop for development of the ECOLOGY budget proposal for FY 2025. The Commission brainstormed “**WHAT’S GOING WELL? ; WHAT’S GOING NOT SO WELL? (in CSCD),**” from an ecological point of view.

- K. **ADJOURNMENT:** **It was agreed that the regularly scheduled ECOLOGY meeting on July 4th should be rescheduled to July 11th.** *Shena Johnson moved to adjourn the 4 April, meeting of the Ecology Commission. Brenda Maulden seconded. The motion passed.* The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

JIM DONNELLS

Commission Recorder

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