

DRAFT
MINUTES
ECOLOGY COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING
Cordry Sweetwater Conservancy District
3 August, 2023

- A. The monthly meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission was called to order by Commission chair, Herb Benshoof, at 6:00 P.M. on 3 August, 2023 in the CSCD conference room.
- B. Members Present: Herb Benshoof (Board), Sunny Leerkamp (CSLOA), Ty Cooper, Randy Brumfield, Brenda Maulden, Sheena Johnson, and Jim Donnell (Recorder).
- C. Members Absent: None
- D. Others In Attendance: Nick Johann (CSCD) plus 5 Guests
- E. (6:05 P.M.) *Shena Johnson moved to approve the Minutes of the 6 July, 2023 meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission; Randy Brumfield seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*
- F. (6:10 P. M.) **FREEHOLDER CONCERNS**:
1. Tom Quill inquired about the location of recent dam inspection reports for Sweetwater Dam. Nick Johann assured him that he will make all recent biannual dam inspection reports available for review. He also pointed out that vegetation growing in the rip rap of the dams is an issue and Nick pointed out that the vegetation growing in the rip rap of both dams is already scheduled for elimination treatments.
 2. Mark Rasdall expressed concern over the excess debris and silt in the north end of Sweetwater Lake. The Commission pointed out to him that monies have been budgeted for the last 3 years to dredge the north end of SW lake and to deal with the poor drainage system there contributing to the problem but for the last 3 years, CSCD Board action has denied money for those proposals. Once again, dredging of the north end of SW lake and repair to the drainage system is proposed by the ECOLOGY Commission and with Board approval this year, the project can move forward.
Mark Rasdall also recommends serious consideration be given to creating a “catch basin” or “holding pond” on the north end of the road in that location to better control the flows into SW lake and mitigate the chronic erosion problems experienced there. The Commission agreed to add this project to its 5-year Plan.
 3. A third issue called in by freeholder Rick Normington concerns the perceived poor fishing experience on Cordry Lake and its relationship to aquatic weed control measures taken this, and each year by the Commission. It was noted by several Anglers’ Club members in attendance that fishing on Cordry has been rated poor now for the last 4 years, not just this year. Nick Johann agreed to share the proposed maps of weed treatment plans each year (provided by Aquatic Control, Inc. after their annual surveys) with the Anglers’ Club for their review and input before annual treatments. Randy Brumfield, a member of the ECOLOGY Commission, is also a member of the Anglers’ Club and in position to conduct those reviews.
- G. (6:20 P. M.) **OLD BUSINESS**:
1. **CSCD OPERATIONS REPORT** (Nick): Nick Johann provided reports on myriad projects of interest to ECOLOGY including:
 - a. **Aquatic Weed Treatments**: Aquatic Control Inc. is scheduled to treat the rip rap on the dams of both lakes soon.
 - b. **Cordry Lake Spillway**: We are close to the permitting process which will then lead to bidding.
 - c. **Bollards**: Nick provided a map showing the proposed bollard emplacement locations near the SW beach for Commission approval. He will now seek Board approval for his proposal. Randy Brumfield is assisting with the delivery of obsolete used utility poles from JC-REMC for use as bollard barricade materials.
- H. (6:30 P. M.) **DEER HUNT 2023-24 UPDATE** (Shena): No new update. Hunt Plan to be discussed next month.
- I. (6:35 P. M.) **WAKE BOAT STUDY COMMITTEE** (Sunny): The joint ECOLOGY/SECURITY Wake-boat Study Committee has sent out a survey questionnaire to all freeholders to get their input on this issue. A meeting next Wednesday, 9 August, will review all freeholder responses and begin to develop their recommendations to the CSCD Board regarding the future of wake-enhancing boats on CSCD lakes.
- J. (6:40 P. M.) **POLLINATOR HABITAT UPDATE** (Brenda): This fall, Randy Brumfield plans to spray herbicide on the 3-acre designated pollinator habitat area (across from the beach) in final preparation for seed planting.
In a related event, Brenda reported that she, Neil Crum, and Sunny Leerkamp, along with Katie Starr were participants in a most successful Brown County “Pollinator Fest,” on July 22nd in Nashville. An estimated 150-200 participants were in attendance. The aforementioned team represented CSCD Ecology interests well.

(OVER >>>)

K. NEW BUSINESS:

1. (6:50 P. M.) **DREDGING APPLICATIONS:** The Commission reviewed 4 dredging applications and after review and discussion:
 - a. *Randy Brumfield moved to APPROVE dredging application D23-005 submitted by Kevin Bridgewater on lot SW 379 (6714 Fox Drive) stipulating that SEDIMENT ONLY is to be removed as opposed to an 8' depth as requested. Shena Johnson seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*
 - b. *Randy Brumfield moved to APPROVE dredging application D23-006 submitted by Donna Chrobot-Mason & Dave Mason on lot SW 390 & 391 (6535 Chipmunk Drive) stipulating that SEDIMENT ONLY is to be removed as opposed to an 8' depth as requested. Shena Johnson seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*
 - c. *Randy Brumfield moved to APPROVE dredging application D23-007 submitted by Ryan Samuelson on lot SW 380 (6726 Fox Drive) stipulating that SEDIMENT ONLY is to be removed as opposed to an 8' depth as requested. Shena Johnson seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*
 - d. *Jim Donnell's moved to APPROVE dredging application D23-008 submitted by Colleen Kenney on lot SW 47 (6844 Sunset Drive) as submitted. Sunny Leerkamp seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*
2. **FREEHOLDER CONCERNS:** David Wallace raised the question of better lighting at the boat ramps for improved visibility for night boat launching and retrieval. The commission agreed to look into this suggestion.
3. **COMMISSION MEMBER CONCERNS:**
 - a. Randy Brumfield expressed concern over an apparent attempt by a freeholder on Sweetwater Lake to kill aquatic weeds with some unknown chemical treatment on a self-help DIY basis in front of their shoreline. In that DIY chemical treatment of weeds in CSCD lakes is specifically prohibited by CSCD Lake Rules, this is of grave concern to the ECOLOGY Commission. After discussion, it was agreed that the CSCD Operations Manager should send out an alert to all freeholders reminding them of this rule. Furthermore:
"Jim Donnell's moved to recommend to the CSCD Board that a new 'Application For Localized Weed Treatment,' be created by the Operations Manager for freeholder use to request approval for professionally contracted weed treatment at their lake frontage. If approved by CSCD, the treatment will need to be performed by the only CSCD approved vendor, Aquatic Control, Inc., with the total cost being borne by the requesting freeholder. Sunny Leerkamp seconded. This motion passed unanimously."
 - b. Brenda Maulden offered, on behalf of the CSCD "Craft Club," to artistically paint murals on the various portalet surrounds located at various locations around the CSCD. She indicated that Nick Johann has agreed to repair the wood surrounds before mural painting begins. The Commission agreed to this "Craft Club" project proposal by consensus.
 - c. Herb Benshoof asked the Commission to consider the ramifications of increasing the authorized motor horsepower for pontoon boats on CSCD lakes at levels above the current 100 HP limitation. 150 HP and even 200 HP have been discussed in other forums. He asked commission members to bring their concerns with this proposal to some future meeting.
4. **STRATEGIC PLANNING NON-\$\$\$ ISSUE DISCUSSIONS:**
 - # 1: **"Beach Access Control"** - Jim Donnell's introduced a document outlining the many concerns expressed by our hired Beach Attendants regarding access control measures at the beach. It was agreed that many of the issues pertain to the SECURITY Commission's area of responsibility and Jim was asked to carry those concerns to the SECURITY Commission meeting next Tuesday.
 - # 2: **"Unauthorized Access To CSCD Lakes"** -This issue relates to the several boat launch ramps located on private freeholder owned lots from which boats can (and have been) launched into our lakes. This is in contradiction to specific rules prohibiting boat launches into our lakes from any location not a "CSCD owned boat ramp." It was suggested that rip rap be dropped along the shoreline, in the water, at any location that appears to be a privately owned boat-launch ramp around our lakes to prevent its use.
 - # 3: **"New Rules For Centerlake Park"** - Although raised as a potential issue earlier this year during the Strategic Planning workshops, it was determined that new rules are not actually needed at this time.

- L. **ADJOURNMENT:** *Sheena Johnson moved to adjourn the 3 August, meeting of the Ecology Commission. Jim Donnell's seconded. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 P.M.*

Respectfully Submitted:
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Commission Recorder
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“SWEETWATER BEACH ACCESS ISSUES”

Input provided by Beach Attendants: Amy Sherman and Valerie Workman on 2 August, 2023:

- *People who were once guests of freeholders (even from previous years) attempt to use the beach even though they are not currently guests of a current freeholder.*
- *No longer deputy sheriffs to call to quickly deal with unruly & threatening people turned away,*
- *Significant increase in disrespect and strong sense of “entitlement” this year.*
- *Not using a sign-in sheet (insisting on visible beach pass) caused great consternation.*
- *As soon as beach attendants leave for the day (7 or 8 P.M.) large # of people from Brown County and Nineveh arrive to use our beach after hours*
- *Large Hispanic group from Brown & Johnson County often use our beach after hours.*
- *Guests staying at a couple of air B & Bs out back gate often use our beach after hours.*
- *Beach attendants turn away 5 to 6 groups of people every day for lack of freehold beach pass.*
- *Some hired beach attendants fail to check for beach passes consistently making it harder on those who try to check everyone for their pass.*
- *SAFETY of beach attendants is of utmost concern. Reports of upset “turn-aways” following beach attendant to their homes.*

RECOMMENDATIONS TO DEAL WITH SOME OF THE ABOVE:

1. *Provide body camera to each beach attendant on duty (seems to calm disrespectful behavior)*
2. *Provide area cameras to cover the entire beach area for both daytime observation as well as after hours.*
3. *Install multiple “PRIVATE BEACH – NO TRESSPASSING” signs all around the beach*

ALSO: *Strongly recommend that handicap access from parking lot to the beach shoreline be provided.*