

DRAFT

MINUTES

ECOLOGY COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING

Cordry Sweetwater Conservancy District

2 November, 2023

- A. The monthly meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission was called to order by Commission Chair, Herb Benshoof, at 6:00 P.M., in the CSCD conference room.
- B. Members Present: Herb Benshoof (Board), Sunny Leerkamp (CSLOA), Shena Johnson, Brenda Maulden, Ty Cooper, Randy Brumfield and Jim Donnells (Recorder).
- C. Members Absent: None
- D. Others In Attendance: Nick Johann (CSCD Operations) + 2 Guests
- E. (6:05 P.M.) *Brenda Maulden moved to approve the Minutes of the 5 October, 2023 meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission; Shena Johnson seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*
- F. (6:05 P. M.) **FREEHOLDER CONCERNS:** None
- G. (6:50 P. M.) **CSCD OPERATIONS REPORT** : Nick Johann provided updates on myriad projects of interest to ECOLOGY including:
1. **SW Beach Facilities:** The pavilions and restrooms at the SW beach have been winterized. Restrooms are closed.
 2. **SW Boat Ramp:** It appears, with the low water level, that the boat ramp at Sweetwater is failing. An assessment will be made this off-season to determine what should be done to correct this problem.
 3. **Cordry Lake Spillway:** IDEM has approved our plans for reconstructing the Cordry spillway **however**, the office of Indiana DNR is 6 months behind in permit processing. It appears that the earliest that this project can be put out for bid is next summer with work to, hopefully, be completed by the end of 2024.
 4. **Dredging Applications:** The Commission reviewed 2 dredging applications and after review and discussion:
 - a. *Shena Johnson moved to APPROVE the JOINT dredging application submitted by Douglas & Kathy Kuhn, Scott Casey, Gary Shepard, John Carver, and Jeff Clark on lots SW 201, SW 196, SW 195, SW 197, and SW 199 (various Lynx Drive addresses) with the following stipulation: “all lot owners are to sign indemnification contracts with CSCD and each lot owner is to pay the individual permit fee.” Randy Brumfield seconded. This motion was unanimously approved as stipulated.*
 - b. *Shena Johnson moved to APPROVE the dredging application submitted by Michael & Anita Sale on lot SW 202 (6876 Lynx Drive) as submitted. Sunny Leerkamp seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*
 5. **DIY Marina Fuel Pumping:** In that Nick has to leave the meeting early, the subject of freeholder DIY boat refueling at the Sweetwater Marina gas pumps was discussed early. At the last CSCD Board meeting, the ECOLOGY Commission first became aware of the board-approved inclusion of a \$ 38,000 credit card reader in the FY 2024 budget to make it “*more convenient for CSCD boaters to pump gas whenever they need it, and to sell more gas.*” After lengthy discussion and review of factual data from surrounding marinas in central Indiana it was the **unanimous position**, once again, of the ECOLOGY Commission that allowing freeholders to pump their own gas, on a 24/7 no-attendant-present basis, was a bad idea. The suggestion that all freeholders are always responsible enough to pump gas without spillage is unrealistic. The ECOLOGY Commission will go on record at the next CSCD Board meeting on 21 November as being completely opposed to this idea and commission members agree to attend in person to make that point clear and to work to have that budgeted item for next year eliminated.
- H. (6:25 P. M.) **OLD BUSINESS:**
1. **DEER HUNT 2023-24 UPDATE** (Shena): To date, 9 female deer have been taken by CSCD hunters in the annual “Deer Reduction Hunt.” Hunting continues thru 12 November 2023, this year and reconvenes 6 - 14 January, 2024.

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2. **WAKE BOAT STUDY COMMITTEE** (Sunny): The joint ECOLOGY/SECURITY Wake-boat Study Committee has presented their recommendations to the CSCD Board regarding the future of wake-enhancing boats on CSCD lakes. The CSCD Board members are considering those recommendations and the related committee member clarifications & enhancements offered at the last Board meeting.
 3. **POLLINATOR HABITAT UPDATE** (Brenda): Brenda reports that the committee formed to further direct and manage the creation of the “CSCD Pollinator Habitat,” in the spoils area across from the SW beach met, onsite, for the first time on Monday. The committee assessed the condition of the tract of land earmarked for pollinator seeding and determined there is still more clearing and herbicide work to do prior to seeding. In order to qualify for grant funding, seeding must occur prior to December, 2024 and the committee feels they are on track to make that happen.
- I. **NEW BUSINESS:**
1. (6:40 P. M.) **DREDGING APPLICATIONS:** (*Approvals performed earlier in the meeting*)
 2. **FREEHOLDER CONCERNS:** NONE
 3. **COMMISSION MEMBER CONCERNS:**
 - a.. Randy Brumfield expressed concern that review and publication of the new “RULES” for CSCD is progressing without an opportunity for an ECOLOGY Commission review. Herb Benshoof (Board member) agreed to cause the proposed “New Rules,” to be made available to the ECOLOGY Commission at our next (December) meeting so that they can be reviewed for any/all ecological impacts before implementation.
 - b. Although not a freeholder or Commission member, Katie Starr, the Director of the Brown County Soil and Water Conservation District, offered several topics of importance to CSCD:
 - (1) **Fireside Chat: Monday, 4 Dec. (1-3 P.M.) @ Brown County Library** (*Discussion of funding availability for septic system maintenance, soil testing, and soil/water conservation practices*)
 - (2) **Winter Workshop: Wednesday, 13 Dec. (10 AM – 3 PM) @ BCSWCD Community Room (802 Memorial Drive, Nashville)** (*Conservation Planning Workshop for Landowners*) - individualized land management planning **REGISTRATION Required:** <http://tiny.cc/winterworkshop2023>
 - (3) **AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL GRANT - \$\$\$ For Invasive Species Removal in CSCD:** As part of a \$ 500,000 grant application for Invasive Species Removal at Camp Atterbury, CSCD is programmed to receive (if approved) \$ 58,000 for invasive species removal on CSCD. This \$ 58K can be used for CSCD property or private freeholder property (it’s up to us). While the grant isn't a typical cost-share where there needs to be a cash match, all funds will be given as a reimbursement for invasive species removal, half payment at the 6-month mark, and the remainder at the 1-year mark (which is also when all invasive species need to be completely removed from the enrolled acres). Anticipate a November 2023 approval decision and a December workshop to plan implementation.
- J. **STRATEGIC PLANNING:** Jim Donnell's handed out homework papers to review so that in December’s ECOLOGY meeting, a 5-Year (Strategic) Plan can be finalized for the ECOLOGY Commission.
- K. **ADJOURNMENT:** *Shena Johnson moved to adjourn the 2 November, meeting of the Ecology Commission. Brenda Maulden seconded. The motion passed.* The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

JIM DONNELLS
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