

DRAFT
MINUTES
ECOLOGY COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING
Cordry Sweetwater Conservancy District
April 3, 2025

- A. The monthly meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission was called to order by Shena Johnson at 6:02 P.M., in the CSCD conference room.
- B. Members Present: Randy Brumfield, Shena Johnson, Charlie Tinkle, Harold Crooks, Matt Rotelli, and Brenda Maulden as interim Recorder
- C. Members Absent: Tom Golias
- D. Others In Attendance: 2 Guests: Jim Maulden, Jim Donnell, Nick Johann (Director of Operations)
- E. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES** *Shena Johnson moved to approve the Minutes of the March 6, 2025 meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission; Matt Rotelli seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*
- F. **FREEHOLDER CONCERNS:** Jim Maulden inquired about the presence of construction equipment and material at Nuthatch Park. Nick Johann advised that a coffer dam was being constructed.
- G. **OLD BUSINESS:**
1. **CSCD OPERATIONS REPORT:** Nick Johann provided updates regarding:
 - a. TWO Boat Stewards have been hired which will take care of Cordry and Sweetwater respectively.
 - b. As of this meeting date, due to the weather, Sweetwater is currently on RED ALERT; notifications have been made and updates will be posted to inform freeholders of the lake status and restrictions.
 - c. **Cordry Lake Spillway:** Work to rebuild the Cordry Dam Spillway continues. As of this meeting, no definitive date of completing has been set. However, CSCD is CERTAIN the project will not be completed in April. Updated notifications will be posted as information is received by CSCD.
 2. **POLLINATOR HABITAT UPDATE** (*Brenda Maulden*):
 - a. **A grant was awarded to CSCD from Monarch Watch** for free milkweed plugs of various species. There are a total of 228 plugs which are valued at \$895. The terms are that CSCD pays the \$117 shipping fee. Shipment will begin in April/May and Ecology will utilize interested volunteers to plant the plugs in groupings throughout the Pollinator Habitat.
 - b. **America The Beautiful Grant:** Brenda Maulden learned through some professional contacts, that the ATB grant funds have been suspended due to the federal government grant freezes. No one can say when the funds will become available, however this freeze *DOES NOT* extend the completion date deadline of May 31, 2025 for the task list of the invasive plant removal from the areas of the CSCD landscaping identified in the grant survey. Weed Wrangles will be scheduled and we will proceed with the removal of invasive plant species in the surveyed areas.
 - c. CSCD hosted a well-attended, community wide **Bluebird and Purple Martin seminar** on March 29th at the fire station training room. There were approximately 35 guests who attended this annual seminar conducted by freeholder Neil Crum. The open spot created due to Quinn Heatherington moving out of the district for a nest watch trail monitor was filled by volunteer Lauren Pennington.
- H. **NEW BUSINESS:**
1. **DREDGING APPLICATIONS:** *Brenda Maulden moved to APPROVE the dredging applications D25-004(Burgman), D25-005(Gray), D25-006(Mallory), and D25-007(Durham) seconded by Harold Crooks. This motion was unanimously approved.*
 2. **Weed Wrangle** organized by ecology commission member Harold Crooks has been rescheduled due to forecasted inclement weather to Saturday, April 12, 9am-12noon. Meeting at the shelter house behind the fire station.
 3. **CSCD Annual Volunteer Nineveh Road Clean-up** scheduled for Saturday, April 19th 8am. Meet up at the Cordry Sweetwater Lot Owners Association Clubhouse at 7:30am for hot breakfast.

4. **FY 2026 STRATEGIC PLAN & BUDGET DEVELOPMENT PLAN-** Jim Donnell's conducted the first planning Workshop to review Strengths, Weaknesses, and Recommended Corrective Actions. Homework and New Draft handout packets were given to commission members to review. Commission members should be prepared to bring ideas and suggestions to the May meeting.

I. **COMMISSION MEMBER CONCERNS:**

1. Brenda Maulden attended the **Indiana Lakes Management Society's (ILMS) Annual Conference** on March 20th&21st in Noblesville. During one of the key note speaker programs, our Cordry Sweetwater lakes were mentioned with several slide-show photos of our district, and lauded for CSCD's commitment and continued success of our Zebra Mussel Prevention education program. Several attendees in the audience which consisted of many other Indiana lake community representatives, applauded our perseverance of educating our freeholders about the devastating effects these invasive species would have on our beautiful lakes.
2. Charlie Tinkle inquired about the nesting towers that SCIREMC had installed years ago near the edge of lakes, and if these unused towers could be used to hang bat houses. Brenda Maulden informed that there are several new bat houses that were stored in the CSCD maintenance barn, and with some planning, those could be hung on the tower poles. There is a possibility that SCIREMC could use an arial lift truck to install the houses once constructed. Randy Brumfield said he may have some connections with SCIREMC for the proposed installation. Charlie Tinkle will investigate and follow up with this project.

K. **ADJOURNMENT:** Shena Johnson moved to adjourn the April 3, 2025, meeting of the Ecology Commission. Charlie Tinkle seconded. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

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