

MINUTES

ECOLOGY COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING

Cordry Sweetwater Conservancy District

1 February, 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, and Jim Donnell ( Recorder )
- C. Members Absent: None
- D. Others In Attendance: Nick Johann ( CSCD Operations ) + 5 Guests
- E. ( 6:05 P.M. ) *Shena Johnson moved to approve the Minutes of the 7 December, 2023 meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission; Ty Cooper seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*
- F. ( 6:05 P. M. ) **FREEHOLDER CONCERNS:** None
- G. ( 6:10 P. M. ) **INTRODUCTION OF NEW (Potential) MEMBER:** The chairman introduced a potential new member to the commission, Charlie Tinkle, who informed us of his credentials. He will submit his formal application to the CSCD Board this week for consideration. Additionally, Brenda Maulden reported that she will ask CSLOA to select her to be the designated CSLOA representative to the ECOLOGY Commission effective immediately. Consequently, *Jim Donnell moved to forward our Commission approval of these two membership actions to the CSCD Board for their consideration at their next meeting. Shena Johnson seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*
- H. ( 6:15 P. M. ) **CSCD OPERATIONS REPORT :** Nick Johann provided updates on myriad projects of interest to ECOLOGY including:
1. **Sweetwater Dredging:** At long last, the North End of Sweetwater Lake has been dredged.
  2. **Aquatic Control Weed Treatment Bid:** Aquatic Control provided their annual bid to do aquatic weed control treatments in our lakes this summer. Their bid of \$92,968 exceeds our budgeted amount for the year and is explained by the significant increase in the cost of herbicide product used to control curly leaf pondweed, one of our two most prevalent undesirable aquatic weeds in our lakes. After discussion *“Randy Brumfield moved to forward our Commission approval to expense the originally budgeted \$ 65,000 weed control estimate to the CSCD Board for their consideration at their next meeting. Jim Donnell seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.”* If Aquatic Control finds that \$ 65 K is not enough to satisfy our aquatic weed control needs this summer, we shall find a way to cross level money from other areas of the budget.
  3. **Freeholder Weed Control Measures:** In a related matter, Aquatic Control has agreed to respond to individual freeholder requests for close-in weed control in/around their docks/swimming areas. The stipulation for this service ( costing \$ 513 per freeholder ) is that 20 freeholders at a time must request this individualized treatment and that the group request must be submitted through CSCD to their business for consideration.
  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.
  5. **Dam Inspections:** The biennial inspections of our dams have been completed, with no changes to the previous inspections ( e.g. rated “Fair” due to the need to repair/replace spillways on both dams. )
- I. ( 6:20 P. M. ) **OLD BUSINESS:**
1. **DEER HUNT 2023-24 UPDATE** ( Shena ): 33 deer have been taken by CSCD hunters in the annual “Deer Reduction Hunt.” The total includes 29 does and 4 bucks.
  2. **POLLINATOR HABITAT UPDATE** ( Brenda): No Update
  3. **AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL GRANT - \$\$\$ For Invasive Species Removal in CSCD** ( Katie Starr ): As part of a \$ 500,000 grant **recently approved** for Invasive Species Removal at Camp Atterbury, CSCD is programmed to receive up to \$ 58,000 for invasive species removal on CSCD. We have learned that this grant has attached two stipulations that may slow down the processing of this invasives removal project: A “Cultural Check,” and a “Rare and Endangered Species Check.” These 2 federally-mandated checks will take time and the removal of invasives under this grant must wait until the “checks” are complete.

( OVER >>> )

J. **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. ( 6:40 P. M. ) **DREDGING APPLICATIONS:** The Commission reviewed 1 dredging application and after review and discussion:

*Ty Cooper moved to APPROVE dredging application D24-001 submitted by Jonathan Jones on lot WS 362 ( 7322 Sweetwater Drive ) as submitted. Shena Johnson seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*

2. **COMMISSION MEMBER CONCERNS:**

a. The Commission continued its discussion on the status of the review and publication of the new “RULES” for CSCD. Our assessment is that the review process is disorganized, not comprehensive, and lacking “enforceability teeth.” After lengthy discussion, *Jim Donnell*s recommended that the CSCD Board commission a joint committee comprised of one member from every CSCD commission to conduct a comprehensive review, and if necessary, a total rewrite of all CSCD “Rules” to finally bring to fruition, in one document, the CSCD Rules we are to govern ourselves by. The recommendation to add a “legal advisor” to this “Rules Committee” was made and agreed to. The Commission agreed with this recommendation by consensus and asked Randy Brumfield to suggest it to the CSCD Board at the next Board meeting.

b. A member brought to light some needed repairs to the playground equipment in Centerlake Park. Nick Johann agreed to add it to the work order list for his maintainers to address.

c. With regards to the 8 recommendations from the Zebra Mussel Prevention Committee produced in their 27 September, 2023 meeting for implementation during the 2024-2025 boating season, the following were adopted ( as changed ) by the ECOLOGY Commission: ( *changes are in italics* ):

1. Continue with the annual hire of “Boat Stewards,” to enforce ZM Prevention Rules at our boat ramps.
2. Strategize a method of Boat Steward employment to maximize coverage during the high risk (> 55° water temp ) boating season.
3. ~~Update and~~ Improve the reliability of the locks used at each boat ramp to keep unauthorized boaters out.
4. Change the lock codes (*on 16 June 2024*) of locked barrier cables at the ramps and communicate them to eligible freeholders for the 2024-2025 boating season
5. Better Enforcement of Contractor Barge Rules
6. Implement a monthly “Zebra Mussel Educational Alert” program at CSCD to provide monthly reminders of the dangers and the rules.
7. *Revise & Simplify the Online ZM Prevention Test and Require all freeholders, who have previously possessed boat stickers, to take and pass an online, revised “Refresher” Test each time they apply for new Boat Stickers. All NEW FREEHOLDERS applying for their first set of boat stickers, will still be required to take and pass the full Online ZM Prevention Course and Test before they can receive boat stickers.*
8. Revise and Refine the Boat/Trailer Inspection Forms used by the Boat Stewards to better gather data.

3. **FREEHOLDER CONCERNS:** Neil Crum briefed the Commission on his 5-year effort to enhance the wild bird population in CSCD. In these 5 years his efforts have produced the following documented fledglings: Purple Martin (301); Bluebirds (181); Tree Swallows (160); Chickadees (28); Wrens (18)e

He will conduct his next “**BLUEBIRD & PURPLE MARTIN SEMINAR**” for CSCD freeholders on March 9<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 – noon, in the CSLOA clubhouse. Neil requested \$ 312 from the already approved ECOLOGY Budget for “Insect Control,” to purchase 12 more purple martin gourd houses.

- K. **ADJOURNMENT:** *Shena Johnson moved to adjourn the 1 February, 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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