

DRAFT
MINUTES
ECOLOGY COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING
Cordry Sweetwater Conservancy District
6 July, 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 6 July, 2023 in the CSCD conference room.
- B. Members Present: Herb Benshoof (Board), Sunny Leerkamp (CSLOA), Ty Cooper, Randy Brumfield, Sheena Johnson, and Jim Donnell (Recorder).
- C. Members Absent: Brenda Maulden
- D. Others In Attendance: Nick Johann (CSCD) & Katie Starr
- E. (6:05 P.M.) *Shena Johnson moved to approve the Minutes of the 1 June, 2023 meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission; Ty Cooper seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*
- F. (6:10 P. M.) **FREEHOLDER CONCERNS**: None
- G. (6:10 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. will treat both lakes to control Eurasian Milfoil on 12 July.
 - b. **Cordry Lake Spillway**: We are close to the permitting process which will then lead to bidding.
 - c. **Zebra Mussel Prevention**: 2 CSCD boat steward employees plus one volunteer boat steward are providing extensive coverage of both lake boat ramps to inspect boats and trailers for “clean” status before launch.
 - d. **Bollards**: Nick will map out the proposed bollard emplacement locations near the SW beach and seek Board approval for their location. Randy Brumfield is assisting with the delivery of obsolete used utility poles from JC-REMC for use as bollard barricade materials.
- H. (6:15 P. M.) **DEER HUNT 23-24 UPDATE** (Shena): Over 400 deer hunt postcard responses have been received (25% response rate) and approximately one-third of those responses agree to allow hunting on their property. Many more allow game retrieval on their property.
- I. (6:20 P. M.) **WAKE BOAT STUDY COMMITTEE** (Sunny): The joint ECOLOGY/SECURITY WB Study Committee is working to develop pertinent questions to pose to all freeholders to solicit their input into the committee study of the impact of big-wake boating on CSCD lakes. Once the survey questions are finalized, they will be offered to the CSCD Board for approval before being sent out to all freeholders for response. Freeholder input through these survey questions will be considered in the final recommendations given to the Board regarding the future of big-wake boating on our lakes.
- J. (6:25 P. M.) **POLLINATOR HABITAT UPDATE** (Randy & Katie Starr): 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. Katie reports that the grant application to fund the pollinator seeds is still on track for approval through her Brown County Soil & Water Conservation District. She reports that there is state-level interest in the success of this project and will soon invite the state biologist to visit to assist in appropriate seed selection.

(OVER >>>)

K. NEW BUSINESS:

1. (6:30 P. M.) **DREDGING APPLICATIONS:** The Commission reviewed 3 dredging applications and after review and discussion:
 - a. *Jim Donnell's moved to APPROVE the dredging application submitted by Doug & Carol Collins on lot CF36A (7920 Ebony Drive) as submitted. Ty Cooper seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*
 - b. *Sunny Leerkamp moved to APPROVE the dredging application submitted by Brian & Erin Bognar on lot SW 334 (6602 Groundhog Drive) as submitted. Randy Brumfield seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*
 - c. *Jim Donnell's moved to APPROVE the dredging application submitted by Brent & Kristen Chitty on lot DS1 (7801 Sweetwater Drive) as submitted. Randy Brumfield seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*
 2. **FREEHOLDER CONCERNS:** None
 3. **COMMISSION MEMBER CONCERNS:**
 - a. Jim Donnell's expressed frustration and concern over the recent Board approval of a Security Commission proposal to purchase a new boat and motor for the CSCD Boat Patrol as introduced for the 1st time at the last CSCD Board meeting on June 20th. This rushed purchase decision has not been fully vetted by the CSCD Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) and is being expedited at the expense of higher priority ECOLOGY Commission budget requests that have been denied/deferred in recent years. Commission members agreed with this concern.
 - b. Randy Brumfield expressed concern over encroaching vegetation around the edges of the dam mowing areas and recommends we look into removal of these encroachments soon before they become too large to do so.
 4. **OTHER:** Katie Starr, The Brown County Soil and Water Conservation Director, briefed the Commission on 2 Grant Opportunities that might be available to CSCD for various soil and water conservation projects: The Nature Conservancy Program (TNC) and the Clean Water-Indiana Program. Jim Donnell's agreed to look into these two programs and their grant opportunities with Nick Johann & Katie to see what might be possible.
- L. **ADJOURNMENT:** *Randy Brumfield moved to adjourn the 6 July, meeting of the Ecology Commission. Sheena Johnson seconded. The motion passed.* The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

JIM DONNELLS
Commission Recorder
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