

DRAFT
MINUTES
ECOLOGY COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING
Cordry Sweetwater Conservancy District
11 July, 2024

- A. The monthly meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission was called to order by Randy Brumfield at 6:00 P.M., in the CSCD conference room.
- B. Members Present: Randy Brumfield, Shena Johnson, Brenda Maulden, Ty Cooper, Charlie Tinkle, Matt Murtha, and Jim Donnell (Recorder)
- C. Members Absent: None
- D. Others In Attendance: Nick Johann (CSCD Operations) + 10 Guests
- E. (6:05 P.M.) ***Brenda Maulden moved to approve the Minutes of the 6 June, 2024 meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission; Shena Johnson seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.***
- F. (6:05 P. M.) **FREEHOLDER CONCERNS:**
1. Aaron Parris inquired about the status of **lake water testing** for contaminants in light of known aging septic tanks within the CSCD. CSCD does have baseline figures from the IU Graduate Limnology Class study in 2022. After discussion, the Commission agreed to identify, this year, a dependable, professional agency to perform comprehensive water sample testing from around both lakes for incorporation in FY 2026 budget planning.
 2. Tom Quill inquired about **Dam Maintenance Concerns** and the status of the planned **“Shoreline Erosion Study,”** to be performed by Dr. Sweeten. Nick Johann assured Mr. Quill of the ongoing maintenance efforts at the dams and Randy Brumfield will address the status of the “Shoreline Erosion Study,” later in this meeting.
 3. A freeholder inquired as to whether the ongoing project to update and organize all CSCD “Rules” into a single **“Rulebook,”** would be presented to the Brown County District Court. Shena Johnson stated that it is too soon to tell whether that step would be necessary, as the updating & reorganization process is barely underway. Once completed, the product will be presented to the CSCD Board who will determine whether a court action is needed.
 4. Katie Starr reported that CSCD has been approved to receive up to \$ 58,000 from the **“America The Beautiful Grant,”** she helped make possible through her Brown County Soil & Water District office. A survey is being conducted at our 200 +/- acre Pollinator Habitat site and other CSCD properties to determine what can be done to eradicate invasive species and upgrade those lands with the grant award money. Up to \$197 per acre reimbursement funding is available from this grant.
 5. Brenda Green, Quinn Hetherington, and several other members of the local **Pickleball Club** appeared to express concerns over the recent conflict between several youth of our community and pickleball club members during authorized hours for pickleball play on the multi-use court in Centerlake Park. After lengthy discussion, it was determined that an intervention with those youth and their parents is necessary and after CSCD Board consideration of these events, an appropriate intervention directed by them will take place. A new, more visible sign posting the authorized pickleball play dates and hours will be posted by Nick Johann to help clarify the court usage rules.
 6. Brenda Green also brought up the 1 July 2023 state regulation authorizing **“holding tanks for septic use,”** on unbuildable lots within CSCD. Nick Johann agreed to research this new authorization with the Brown County Health Department and IDEM and he will provide guidance to freeholders once he learns the requirements.
 7. A freeholder expressed concern over the foul odor from an allegedly **unpumped septic holding tank** on Birch Drive. Nick Johann agreed to look into this report and take appropriate action.
 8. A freeholder inquired as to who is responsible for a **failing coffer dam** on the Birch Dr./Aspen Dr. cove. Nick Johann agreed to look into this report and take appropriate action, if the coffer dam is in fact on CSCD property.
 9. Susie Cowen suggested CSCD look into an appropriate location for a **permanently installed Pickleball Court** should the Pickleball Club decide to raise the funds to construct one. Randy Brumfield responded that if the Pickleball Club offered a plan to do so, both the ECOLOGY Commission and CSCD Board would consider it.
- G. (7:00 P. M.) **OLD BUSINESS:**
1. **CSCD OPERATIONS REPORT:** Nick Johann provided updates on myriad projects of interest to ECOLOGY including: **Cordry Lake Spillway:** The long-awaited bidding process for this \$ 2.3 million (+/-) project has begun. A pre-bid information meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday (17 July). The CSCD Board is exploring funding options. The goal is to have Cordry Lake Spillway Rebuild Work started and finished this fall, after boating season.

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2. (7:15 P. M.) **CSCD “RULES” REVIEW** : The fourth session of the joint Security Commission/Ecology Commission “Rules Re-write Workshop,” commenced. The committee “Recorder,” Shena Johnson, reported that she has retyped all the current rules (found on the CSCD website as a PDF document) into an editable Word document for use by the joint re-write committee to make proposed changes more easily presented. Similarly, all available, approved “Resolutions,” created since publication of the last printing of the “CSCD Rulebook,” are being converted (re-typed) into an editable Word document and organized into subject-matter format. An effort to “discover” approved actions of the CSCD Board by researching all available Board meeting Minutes will soon commence. Once all rules/resolutions/decisions are located, converted into an editable (Word document) format and organized by subject matter, Shena suggests a series of workshops be scheduled. The workshops would serve to review all the data collected and their reduction into a simple, well-organized, comprehensive “Digital Rulebook” format by a joint committee. The Committee would review the re-organized product for accuracy, relevance, substantiation, and enforceability before offering it to the CSCD Board for approval.

It was pointed out that there clearly are Ecology-related matters in the Building Rulebook of CSCD and therefore, a review of that re-written Building Commission Rulebook is warranted by the ECOLOGY Commission.

3. (7:30 P. M.) **POLLINATOR HABITAT UPDATE** (Brenda): The 3-acre pollinator site has been mowed and herbicide has been applied to eradicate all vegetative growth. A second application will be needed to completely kill all unwanted vegetation, after which the area should be ready for pollinator seeding, hopefully this fall/winter. Brenda briefed the commission on the results of her committee’s walk-thru of the pollinator site on 1 July. A \$ 7,500 Grant for seeds from the Brown County Soil & Water District is pending the appropriate seeding of the Pollinator Habitat site by the end of this year. The committee continues to develop a comprehensive plan for the creation of this Pollinator Habitat resource.

4. (7:45 P. M.) The special funding of the **“SHORELINE EROSION STUDY,”** proposed by Doctor Sweeten of Ecosystems Connections Institute, LLC in Denver, Indiana has been tentatively approved by the CSCD Board. Several specific details of the techniques used to collect this environmental study are being worked out before the contract is signed.

5. (7:55 P. M.) **ANIMAL CONTROL MEASURES**: Shena reports that “Rusty” (owner of Rusty’s Animal Control (RAC) has agreed to oversee the annual “Deer Reduction Hunt,” in CSCD again this fall/winter. Planning for this hunt will soon begin. Nick Johaan reports that there have been no meaningful muskrat/beaver control measures taken this year. He is looking to find someone willing to better handle muskrat/beaver control for us in the CSCD as many freeholders complain of damage from these nuisance creatures.

H. (8:00 P. M.) **NEW BUSINESS** :

1. **DREDGING APPLICATIONS**:

a. *Shena Johnson moved to APPROVE the dredging application submitted by Blair Austin & Harold Sheldon on lots SW 443 & 444 (6472 & 6482 Cougar Dr.), as submitted. Charlie Tinkle seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*

b. *Shena Johnson moved to APPROVE the dredging application submitted by Jeremy Garner on lots SW 197 & 197A (6871 Lynx Dr. & 6898 Lemur Dr.), as submitted. Charlie Tinkle seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*

2. (8:10 P. M.) **COMMISSION MEMBER CONCERNS**:

a. Jim Donnell suggested that CSCD contract with a local tree-service company to periodically come to a designated CSCD location to use their wood chipper equipment to shred limbs and branches from freeholders which, too often, wind up in the leaf compost pile (despite restrictions). The suggestion was not favorably entertained.

b. Matt Murda expressed concern over a damaged bat box near the Nature Trail entrance. It was deemed out of use and not worth remounting.

c. Matt Murda also questioned the design of the designated “Wake Surfing Couse,” on Cordry Lake which, at one point is only 250’ from shore. Security Commission member Jim Maulden responded that there was no other option.

I. (8:20 P.M.) **STRATEGIC PLANNING/BUDGET PLANNING** : The final presentation of the Proposed ECOLOGY Budget for FY 2025, with \$\$\$ figures affixed was reviewed and refined. The Commission approved the budget for submission to the Board for consideration and approval.

J. **ADJOURNMENT**: Shena Johnson moved to adjourn the 11 July, meeting of the Ecology Commission. Matt Murtha seconded. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

JIM DONNELLS
Commission Recorder
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