

**Cordry-Sweetwater Conservancy District**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023

1. **Board Members Present:** Josh Edwards, Pat Sherman, Herb Benshoof, Aaron Parris, Mark Rasdall, Ted Adolay, and Mike Leavitt
2. **Board Members Absent:** Herb Benshoof
3. **Also, Present:**
  - a. **Staff:** Brittany Bay, Nick Johann, & Josh Bryant
  - b. **CSCD Attorney:** Roger Young
  - c. Approximately 25 freeholders in attendance & numerous online viewers
4. **Welcome:** Mr. Edwards called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.
5. **Approval of Minutes:**

**MOTION: Mr. Parris motioned to approve the September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes, seconded by Mr. Sherman. Motion passed unanimously.**

6. **Wate Rate Study**
  - a. Mr. Scott Hadler with Baker Tilly reviewed the water rate study.
  - b. There was discussion amongst the board.
  - c. Mr. Young spoke about the 2020 water rate increase and noted that it did not result in any net additional operating revenue for the water utility, that increase was passed through from the increase cost of wholesale water. Mr. Young also believed that the 2017 increase was mostly used to service the debt on the water project.
7. **Freeholder Concerns:**
  - a. Shawn Rexroth (OES 260) asked if the water rate study would be posted to the website. Mr. Parris noted that it would be discussed at the water commission meeting and likely posted with the water commission meeting minutes.
  - b. Scott Casey (SW 199) noted that he has been part of the wake committee for 10 months. Mr. Casey then noted that the recommendations from the wake committee tonight came from what he believes is a biased committee; Mr. Casey then went over the compromised recommendations that he had made to the committee. Mr. Casey also went over the wake study that the committee performed on the lake. Mr. Casey provided photographs of wake surfing to the Board.
  - c. Brian Clancy (WS 375) noted that he also was part of the wake committee for the last 10 months. Mr. Clancy went over some of his recommendations he submitted to the wake committee and the Board. Mr. Clancy went over the results of the wake committee survey.

Mr. Clancy also spoke about the affidavit for wake enhancing devices and believed that the document should be updated. Lastly Mr. Clancy mentioned that other states are looking at this topic too.

- d. John Robinson (SW 435) discussed the sizes of the lakes and that both Sweetwater and Cordry are considered small lakes. Mr. Robinson went over scientific studies on how wake boats/surfing affects shorelines.
- e. Shawn Rexroth (OES 260) thanked everyone and their time on the wake committee. Mrs. Rexroth noted she hoped that the Board took into consideration the time the committee spent on these recommendations and that the Board listens to the community. Mrs. Rexroth asked about dam inspections, Mr. Johann noted that the dam inspections would be happening next week on the 24<sup>th</sup>.
- f. Barb Bowers noted based on scientific studies that the committee went over that the lakes were too small for wake surfing activity. Mrs. Bowers went over some of the survey results. Mrs. Bowers also mentioned that the Board should protect the dams, shorelines and lakes and look at what the majority of freeholders want when making decisions; not personal agenda items or what they would make a personal gain from.
- g. Marcia Harper noted that in 2015 rules regarding wake boats were supposed to be severe enough that no one would violate the rules, however these rules were never published or implemented. Mrs. Harper discussed the current ballast/wake enhancing/ weight pre-registration form. Mrs. Harper discussed the tickets that have been issued to freeholders in violation of wake enhancing device rules. Mrs. Harper discussed freeholder comments at wake committee meetings over the last 10 months. Mrs. Harper discussed the wake survey results. Mrs. Harper then gave a copy of the affidavit and a printed copy of her concern to the Board.
- h. Greg Harper noted that on the speedboat affidavit it states nine times permanently disabled regarding wake enhancing devices. Mr. Harper mentioned that at the time this was created it was to limit the number of boats on the lakes. Mr. Harper also mentioned he believed that Board members would later go on to justify why these boats were not permanently disabled.
- i. Tom Quill (WS 98) spoke about dam inspections and the past dam reports. Mr. Quill discussed the Sweetwater dam reports from 2015-2021 and noted that the majority of wake boats are on Sweetwater Lake. Mr. Quill went over dam ratings with satisfactory being best, fair being second best and conditionally poor being the third best of the 5 ratings; Mr. Quill noted that Sweetwater once had a satisfactory rating. Mr. Quill questioned the larger wakes and shoreline erosion and believed a professional should be consulted to make sure the larger wakes are not damaging the dams.
- j. Tony Spelde (SW 447) mentioned everyone kept speaking about 275 acres being considered a small lake and noted that skiing is not happening on all 275 acres of the lake. Mr. Spelde also noted he believed the wording of the wake survey was flawed. Mr. Spelde noted he read the entire survey including freeholder comments and reviewed the pie charts/graphs, and he hoped the Board had too.
- k. Sarah Robinson (SW 435) discussed the wake committee recommendations to the Board and noted that some may not be necessary. Mrs. Robinson then noted she believed most of the problems are from lack of enforcement. Mrs. Robinson then mentioned she hoped the Board would take into consideration getting rid of plowing and wake surfing activities.
- l. Nancy Quill (WS 98) wanted to know that since the Board has now received the recommendations from the wake committee what the next step would be. Mr. Edwards noted that a motion would have to be made by a Board member with a second and then it would be voted on and that happens at a public meeting.

- m. Cathie Brown (DF 51) noted she was not on the wake committee, but she does serve on the security commission. Mrs. Brown noted she had multiple people talk to her about the survey and how biased it was. Mrs. Brown noted she believed it was not just wake boats causing issues and discussed tubing behind pontoons and activity on the lake.
- n. Melissa Swineford (261/262) noted she did not have anything to say about wake boats. Mrs. Swineford wanted to remind everyone on the 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> the CSVFD would be having their haunted trails and needed a lot of volunteers still, if you can't volunteer bring your families all the proceeds go to the Fire Department.

## **8. Management Reports:**

### **a. Director of Finance & Administration:**

- 1. Mrs. Bay summarized the fund report. The current balance is \$2,995,749.67.

**MOTION: Mr. Sherman motioned to approve the financial report subject to audit, seconded by Mr. Rasdall. Motion passed unanimously.**

- 2. Mrs. Bay summarized the appropriation report and monthly claims list. The monthly claims total is \$168,515.11. The unexpended remaining balance is \$908,816.40 or 35.86% remaining.

**MOTION: Mr. Sherman motioned to approve the monthly claims subject to audit; seconded by Mr. Rasdall. Motion passed unanimously.**

- 3. Resolution 2023-14: Transfer of Funds w/in the Budget.

- i. Mrs. Bay discussed moving \$24 from line item 214 to line item 216 and moving \$600 from line item 383 to line item 344.

**MOTION: Mr. Sherman motioned to approve Resolution 2023-14: Transfer of Funds w/in the Budget, seconded by Mr. Rasdall. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **b. Director of Operations:**

- 1. Mr. Johann summarized his report.

## **9. Commission Reports:**

### **a. Building:**

- 1. Mr. Sherman reviewed the building applications.

**MOTION: Mr. Sherman motioned to approve building applications 23-076, 23-077, and 23-078 for approval from the**

**CSCD Board contingent upon lot owners obtaining all permits required by Brown County and meeting all conditions by the Building Commission, seconded by Mr. Parris. Motion passed unanimously.**

**b. Ecology:**

1. Mr. Johann summarized the Ecology Minutes.

**c. Roads:**

1. Meeting canceled due to lack of quorum.

**d. Security:**

1. Meeting canceled due to lack of quorum.

**e. Water:**

1. Meeting canceled due to lack of quorum.

**f. Financial Advisory Committee:**

1. Mr. Sherman noted that they did not have a quorum so there was no business conducted.

**g. Wake Committee**

1. Mr. Parris summarized the Wake Committee Minutes.
2. Mr. Parris wanted to thank everyone who came and spoke at the wake committee meetings and the 7 members of the wake committee for the time they spent on this topic.
3. Mr. Parris asked the Board Members to look over the recommendations that were submitted before any motions were made regarding the recommendations.
4. Mr. Parris noted that should there be a need for communication with CSCD attorney for affidavit revision the committee would ask to be a part of that.
5. Mr. Parris noted that the committee also would like to meet 1 year after the Board approved rules from the recommendations are implemented.
6. Mr. Parris then discussed disbanding the committee.
  - i. There was discussion amongst the Board.
  - ii. There was discussion amongst the Board and CSCD attorney Roger Young about the recommendations not conflicting with current CSCD rules.

**MOTION: Mr. Parris motioned to suspend the meeting of the wake committee until the Chairman deems it necessary to call another meeting, seconded by Mr. Adolay. Motion passed unanimously.**

**10. Old Business:**

- a. None

**11. New Business**

**a. Adoption of the 2024 Budget**

- 1. Mr. Edwards opened the Adoption of the 2024 budget at 8:44pm.**
- 2. Mrs. Bay read the proposed 2024 General Fund Budget Total of \$2,424,601 and Rainy-Day Fund Budget Total of \$250,000.**
- 3. Mr. Sherman discussed reducing from the general fund budget line item 360 road paving from \$319,258 to \$157,159, reducing line item 387 park improvements from \$49,000 to \$18,000, reducing line item 428 park outlays from \$80,000 to \$0, keeping line item 435 seasonal equipment at \$38,265, reducing line item 436 patrol boat from \$50,000 to \$0 and reducing line item 117 boat steward from \$42,300 to \$24,000 and from the rainy-day fund budget reducing line item 428 building repairs from \$250,000 to \$0; lastly moving line items from the general fund budget 503 loan principal in the amount of \$100,000 and 504 loan interest in the amount of \$5,000 into line item 427 dam repairs.**

**MOTION: Mr. Rasdall motioned to approve Resolution 2023-13 Adoption of the Budget with modifying the 2024 general fund and rainy fund budget with Mr. Sherman's modifications reducing the general fund budget from \$2,424,601 to \$2,083,202 and reducing the rainy-day fund budget from \$250,000 to \$0, seconded by Mr. Leavitt. Motion passed unanimously.**

**MOTION: Mr. Sherman motioned to approve moving line items 503 and 504 in the general fund budget into line item 427, seconded by Mr. Parris. Motion passed unanimously.**

**4. Mr. Edwards opened the floor to Public Comment:**

- i. Brian Clancy asked about approving wake committee meeting minutes from the last meeting. Mr. Young advised the committee chair to call a meeting of the wake committee solely to approve minutes from the last meeting. Mr. Parris then called a wake committee meeting for November 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:45pm to solely approve the October wake committee minutes.**
- ii. Marcia Harper read off a wake committee recommendation.**
- iii. Barb Bowers passed around to the Board what she earlier read during freeholder concerns.**
- iv. Carrie Vavul (OES 333) asked about boat stickers and how that affects the budget. Mr. Sherman explained boat decals affect the revenue side of the budget. Mr. Sherman explained tonight the Board was approving the expense side of the budget. Mrs. Vavul then asked about the whole freeholder packet being posted to the website so that freeholders at home could follow along as well.**

## **12. Board Members Concerns**

1. Mr. Rasdall thanked and appreciated everyone getting involved in the community and working on the wake committee meeting. Mr. Rasdall discussed the wake boat rules.
2. Mr. Leavitt noted he attended a few wake committee meetings and the experimental day on the lake and those people put in a lot of effort and he agrees with keeping them intact.
3. Mr. Adolay mentioned getting all of the commission member chairs together and getting the rulebook updated and changed.
4. Mr. Sherman noted he appreciated everyone being at the meeting and the wake committee. Mr. Sherman noted he had concerns, and everything had to be very definitive and take the subjectivity out for the wake rules. Mr. Sherman spoke about Senator Jack Sandlin, and he assisted the CSCD and Roger with the marshal amendment and he has passed away. Mr. Sherman then spoke about having the policies and procedures in place for CSCD marshals.

## **13. Adjourn (9:07 PM)**

**MOTION: Mr. Sherman moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Adolay. Motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,



, Board Secretary

Date Submitted: