

DRAFT

MINUTES

ECOLOGY COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING

Cordry Sweetwater Conservancy District

1 October, 2020

- A. The monthly meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission was called to order by Commission Chairman, Rick Normington, at 6:00 P.M. on 1 October, 2020, in the CSCD conference room.
- B. Members Present: Rick Normington, Josh Edwards (Board), Ty Cooper, Randy Brumfield, Brenda Maulden, & Jim Donnell (Recorder)
- C. Members Absent: Sunny Leerkamp (CSLOA)
- D. Others in Attendance: 3 guests
- E. *Ty Cooper moved to approve the Minutes of the 4 September, 2020, meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission; Randy Brumfield seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*
- F. (6:05 P.M.) FREEHOLDER CONCERNS : Freeholder Jonathan Petruch once again appeared before the commission to inquire what has been done to address the water quality of our lakes in the past, what is being done currently, and what the plans are for future testing of our lake water to ensure the sanitation of our water resources and the safety of all water sports enthusiasts in both lakes over the long term. He detailed the results of his unofficial investigations into what has been done to ensure the sanitation quality of our lakes and referenced his contacts with several outside agencies on the matter including: the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM); Indiana Health Dept.; the Lake Lemon Conservancy District Manager; the Indiana University Department of Environmental Affairs; the Brown County Regional Sewer District; and Commonwealth Engineers. As a result of his inquiries, he posed myriad questions to the Commission and made several comments:
- What is the status of the “Immediate Internal Study,” (relating to this matter), quoted in last month’s Ecology Minutes?
 - What are our documented processes and procedures regarding water testing at the beach?
 - Did we shut down the beach in 2019 after water testing showed a high e-coli count?
 - In his investigation, he (Jonathan) found no evidence of any Indiana “state mandated testing,” requirement for our lakes.
 - Lake Lemon reports using the IU Dept. of Environmental Affairs to test 12+ areas for e-coli and other contaminants on a quarterly basis, and would we (CSCD) be interested in partnering with them to do something similar for our lakes?
 - Regarding any future water testing of our lakes, where should we be testing? Would we be interested in utilizing John Kennard’s (Brown County Health Dept.) offer for “free water testing” of our lakes?
 - How often should we test?
 - If we test our waters and find issues, are we legally obligated to tell someone?
 - If we don’t have a plan in place (on what actions to take when issues are found), the CSCD could be shut down.
 - Do we want Commonwealth Engineers to come in next month to make a 10 minute presentation on what options are available to us to address these water sanitation issues?
 - What is CSCD’s role in its official Purpose Statement: “To provide for the collection, treatment, and disposal of sewage and other liquid waste produced in the District?”
 - With regards to wastewater management, what can we (CSCD) do that’s better than “just not address it?”
 - What is the next step?
- In that Josh Hawley, the newly appointed Conservancy Manager and longtime Water/Grounds Superintendent was not in attendance, these freeholder questions were documented for consideration and future responses. Two commission members offered insight into what is next on this issue: Josh Edwards (CSCD Board member) stated that these MINUTES (with freeholder questions) will go to the CSCD Board for review and consideration of these questions. Jim Donnell also offered that the normal ECOLOGY Budget Planning Cycle (as a subset of the CSCD Budget cycle) runs roughly from March-June each year so the next opportunity to financially deal with this issue is in 2021 strategic planning workshops.*
- G. OLD BUSINESS :
1. (6:15 P.M.) **REVIEW OF CSCD WATER/GROUNDS SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT (Rick)**: Josh’s update covered progress reports on projects of interest to ECOLOGY including: completion of work on the Antelope Drive coffer dam repair, plans for future coffer dam repairs, and an update on pending spillway repairs on Cordry Dam (on pause until 2021).
 2. (6:20 P.M.) **DEER CONSERVATION HUNT UPDATE (Rick)**: Rick Normington updated the Commission on the status of this year’s Fall/Winter Deer Reduction Hunt. The annual Deer Reduction Hunt in CSCD begins next Monday, 5 October. All seems to be on track for another successful Deer Conservation Hunt in the CSCD.
 3. (6:30 P.M.) **POLLINATOR HABITAT (Brenda)**: Volunteers are all signed up to help with the brush clearing work scheduled for this Saturday at a time TBD.

(OVER >>>)

4. (6:35 P.M.) **STATUS OF ECOLOGY BUDGET PROPOSAL ADOPTION:** In his absence, Josh Hawley had provided final figures for each of the ECOLOGY Commission's FY 2021 Budget Proposal Priority Actions developed back in June and near final adoption by the CSCD Board in October. Several questions were raised by commission members that were unanswered in Josh's absence:
 - a. Why was the "Dam Maintenance," (priority A2) reduced from \$15K to \$13K in light of the 3 year mowing contract we entered into 2 years ago?
 - b. Why was "Dredge North End of Sweetwater Lake," (priority A12) zeroed out from \$20K to \$ 0 ?
 - c. Why was "Construct New, Permanent Restrooms @ Centerlake Park," (Priority A13) reduced from \$30K to \$ 1.5K?
5. (6:45 P.M.) **ACTION PLANNING FOR NON-BUDGET ISSUES** (*Jim*):
 - a. Jim Donnell's handed out a document that captures all ecological issues/concerns in the CSCD, identified by commission members back in March of this year, that do not require money outlays to deal with. Inputs from commission members over the last month resulted in a total of six (6) issues deemed top priorities for the commission to work on over the next few months (35 lower priority issues were eliminated): The top 6 priorities for problem solving consideration include:
 - (1) Prevention of a Zebra Mussel Infestation (Work begins on 5 November)
 - (2) Dealing with various Boating Obstacles in both of our lakes (date: TBD)
 - (3) Dealing with Foreign Debris From Freeholders deposited in our lakes (date: TBD)
 - (4) Dealing with various Contractor Issues for work performed by them on our lakes (date: TBD)
 - (5) Providing for Contamination Protections for the water resources in our lakes (date: TBD)
 - (6) Providing for Contaminants Protections on the shoreline of our lakes (date: TBD)
 - b. *In a related comment, Brenda Maulden informed the commission that CSLOA leadership has indicated a strong interest in working with the ECOLOGY Commission and the SECURITY Commission to put together a jointly-developed Educational Pamphlet to be handed out to new residents of the CSCD to inform them of the many rules and guidelines expected of them while living & recreating in the CSCD. Commission Chairman Rick Normington asked Brenda to extend an invitation to the CSLOA leadership to attend our next meeting to begin work on such a favorably received suggestion.*

H. **NEW BUSINESS** (7:10 P.M.) :

1. **FREEHOLDER DREDGING APPLICATIONS:**

- a. Application # 1: Steven **BAINAKA** & Marilyn **HAAG** – 6792 Eagle Drive & 6772 Eagle Drive; *Jim Donnell's moved to approve the Bainaka & Haag application for dredging as submitted. Ty Cooper seconded. This motion passed unanimously.*
- b. Application # 2: Michael **GARDNER** – 7906 Maple Drive; *Ty Cooper moved to approve the Gardner application for dredging as submitted. Josh Edwards seconded. This motion passed unanimously.*
- c. Application # 3: Scott & Dawn **FOSTER** –7899 Laurel Dr.; *Ty Cooper moved to approve the FOSTER application for dredging as submitted. Josh Edwards seconded. This motion passed unanimously.*

2. **COMMISSION MEMBER CONCERNS** (7:00 P.M.): Commission members reflected on the earlier presentation of freeholder Jonathan Petruch regarding his concerns over the sanitary condition of our water resources in both of our lakes. After discussion:

Ty Cooper moved to incorporate the concerns of Jonathan Petruch into the already-identified ECOLOGY Commission concerns for "Contaminants Protective Measures for Water and Shorelines," (see paragraph G.5a - items (5)&(6) above) for this winter's Problem Solving Workshops. Josh Edwards seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission is scheduled for Thursday, 5 November, 2020, at 6:00 P.M. in the CSCD conference room. A draft Agenda for that meeting was developed.

- I. **ADJOURNMENT:** *Brenda Maulden moved to adjourn the October meeting of the Ecology Commission. Ty Cooper seconded. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 P.M.*

Respectfully Submitted:

JIM DONNELLS
 Commission Recorder
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