

# CORDRY- SWEETWATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT



Cordry-Sweetwater Conservancy District Newsletter

SUMMER 2020

## Stacy's Spotlight



By: Stacy  
Wethington

Conservancy  
Manager

Well 2020 hasn't been the year that we all expected; to say things have been different would be an understatement.

The CSCD Office has been closed to the public since the middle of March due to Covid19 concerns, but the District employees have continued to keep the CSCD running smoothly. Some office staff kept bills, payables, and other financial transactions rolling smoothly from home. Nick was able to accept and review building applications from home, then scheduled on-site visits. Jimmy and his officers worked extra shifts to pull together after one of the officers contracted the virus. Josh furloughed the majority of his crew during the heat of the pandemic and just got back to full staff about two weeks ago.

There was an influx of residents that came to the lakes during the "Hoosier Hunker Down" order from Governor Holcomb. It's great to

see everyone so early in the season and to see the increased activity.

Now that summer is here boat patrol, marina, and beach employees have been working extra hard. Please remember that one of the responsibilities of boat patrol is making sure that only boats registered to freeholders are on the lakes. They are also working hard to educate freeholders on all the lakes rules. Don't forget to let your younger boaters or guests that might use your boat what our rules are and to abide by them to keep everyone safe.

Also, please make sure you have your beach pass with you to show the attendant. This can not be a photo copy or picture on your phone, it needs to be the actual, physical beach pass. With so many public pools closed, people are looking for places to recreate in the water. The attendants have already told multiple people to leave because they were not residents. Please do your part in helping keep these lakes private.

Make sure you check out the article on boat decal renewal on page 5 of this newsletter for information on obtaining your 2020-2022 boat decals and beach passes. Have a safe and happy summer!

## A Letter to the Community

Thank-you, thank-you to my family and friends that attended my retirement party and to those that expressed well-wishes. Thanks for all the awesome gifts, hugs, kind words, and expressions of encouragement.

Thirty-seven years of serving and protecting this great community as a law enforcement officer has been a passion of caring and keeping the community safe. Now a new page in the book of life has begun.

Sincerely,

Bernie McGaha

**Note: Bernie is still  
volunteering for the  
Cordry-Sweetwater  
Volunteer Fire Department,  
no rest for the weary!**

## BUILDING CORNER



By: Nick Johann

*Building Compliance  
Officer*

I hope this finds everyone healthy and ready for another great lake season. It has already been a busy year with building applications. As of this writing I have received 54 applications!

If you have a project in mind and would like to discuss it, I'm happy to meet with you to go over the project if that would be helpful for planning purposes.

There are two topics I would like to bring into the spotlight, dredging and fences. If you would like to have an area dredged it will require an application and will be done at your expense. Once I receive the application the Building and Ecology Commissions will review it at their meetings and then go to the CSCD Board for final approval.

I wanted to highlight fences as some people are not aware that the covenants of the District only allow for a 42" height fence. Please refer to the building rules, it will outline the setbacks and requirements for fences. The Board has been very firm on upholding this covenant to preserve the look of the Conservancy.

If you have any building-related questions I'm always happy to help. Have a great and safe summer.

## Water Rate Increase from Supplier

After three years of static rates our potable water supplier, Prince's Lakes has increased water rates for all of its customers including its wholesale buyers, Cordry-Sweetwater and Trafalgar.

The significant water increase will cause rates for our customers to increase as well. However, we are working with Board members, Water Commission members, and a rate consultant to insure that our rates remain as low as possible while continuing to preserve the stability of our utility for future generations.

Prince's Lakes will be using the additional revenue to help offset the costs of a major project to their distribution system. This project will enhance the distribution system coming to Cordry-

Sweetwater including adding a 400,000 gallon storage tower, a new water main under US 31 and Young's Creek, upgrading their pumps, and a new transmission line from their water utility office to Nineveh.

While our utility isn't planning any major projects in the next five years, we are eying continual improvements and beginning to put together a plan to start replacing several of the near 50 year old 3/4" and 1.25" service lines in the District; which we believe to be the main culprit in our water loss.

There will be two public meetings to discuss our rate change. Those meeting dates, times, locations will be posted in the local newspaper as well as on our website and all the socials.

## Dredging Applications on the Rise

With an increased presence of local dredging companies, applications for personal dredging on both lakes has grown exponentially. In late 2019 the CSCD Board put Building Compliance Officer Nick Johann in charge of making sure dredging jobs are performed correctly and within CSCD rules.

Because the Lakes are owned by the Conservancy District an application to perform dredging must be received and approved by the Ecology Commission, Building Commission, and CSCD Board

before moving forward.

The Ecology Commission will need input on the type of dredging performed, making sure the lake contour is not changed, and where the spoils from the dredging will be dumped. The Building Commission will need input making sure the original bank of the lake is not disturbed and could possibly require a survey.

Try and be as specific as possible on the application including drawings, measurements, and pictures if possible. For an application email Nick at [bcocscd@gmail.com](mailto:bcocscd@gmail.com).

Please do not park anything on or near your meter. Crews will need access in case of leaks or other emergencies.

# Understanding Ecological Impacts on Our Lakes



By: **Josh Hawley**

*Superintendent*

**A** new year of fun, memory-making moments, and more on beautiful Cordry-Sweetwater Lakes. As residents and guests flocked and self-quarantined in their lake homes this spring, it was great to see so many people out enjoying our park system and the lakes.

There are also a lot of new homeowners to the area in 2020 and I wanted to take a moment to explain to everyone how important the Ecology of our unique lakes is to their longevity. Cordry and Sweetwater Lakes are two of the cleanest, clearest lakes in all of Indiana according to an annual volunteer monitoring system and keeping them this way is the responsibility of every lot owner in the District.

The list of potentially harmful situations in our lakes isn't very large, but they are very real possibilities unless we all do our part. Let's start with the obvious, our dams. The dams are the responsibility of the Conservancy District and while both dams remain structurally sound, repairs are needed on the outlets of both dams.

This year repairs will be made to the concrete chute on Cordry Dam and within the next five years a rather extensive repair will be made on the second spillway of Sweetwater that is located about 3/4 of the way down the dam. We

remain hopeful that the bulk of these repairs will come out of the rainy day fund, as opposed to a hike in taxes.

The next potential impact on our lakes falls mostly to lot owners that are on the water. Excessive nitrogen and, most importantly, phosphorous can lead to severe algae blooms and increased aquatic weeds.



We understand that many folks like to have dark, lush yards around the lakes. There are many ways to accomplish this that don't require the use of phosphorous and you should be asking your yard company what those options are. Also, make sure you have at least a 25' buffer zone between the water and where you stop applying any fertilizer. Plant some ornamentals or add rock to enhance the area down to the water. This helps prevent run-off of those nutrients into the lakes.

A final potential impact on our lakes will be much more difficult to control as it's not really visible. I'm talking about zebra mussels and they are closer than you think.

We recently installed signs at the office and both ramps informing residents about zebra mussels and the bodies of water in Indiana where they are currently known to infest including nearby Geist Reservoir.

A zebra mussel infestation would be devastating to the ecology and recreational aspects of our lakes. They would wreak havoc on the aquatic environment and species in the water, they would wreak havoc on boats that are stored in the water, and they would wreak havoc in our beach area. Imagine having to wear shoes in order to get in the water at the beach due to the razor-sharp mussels.

How can we prevent them? All boats that have come from a different water than Cordry or Sweetwater should be washed with hot water and allowed to dry in the sun for three days. This also includes the trailer. Ask any outside agencies that might be trailering your boat what waters they've been in for the last week and make sure they follow the same protocol.

It only takes a few invisible mussels to begin to take over an entire body of water and once they are in, there's no getting them out.

Help us help you maintain these lakes as two of the greatest, cleanest, most enjoyable gems in all of Indiana. If you have any questions regarding this information feel free to contact me at [jhawley@cscd-in.org](mailto:jhawley@cscd-in.org).

# Knowing & Abiding by Lake Rules Keeps Everyone Safe & Having Fun

It's almost 10pm on Saturday night and boat patrol is coming off the water after a long day of patrolling the lake. Little to their knowledge, about 5 or 6 coves up a boater decides to ignore the no-wake rule and fly up a cove. It happens nearly daily. Unfortunately the fact is that there is only one boat patrol per lake per day and it's impossible to keep tabs on the entire lake. Even if additional patrols were added you are going to have rule-breakers just as you do on the roads.

While Facebook certainly has its qualms, it can be used to judge what the perception is out there. While perception might not be the truth, perception is, often, reality. Perusing the local FB groups the top complaints include:

1. Running fast through coves
2. Wake-enhancing devices are being used despite rules against them
3. Tubers not using orange flags when stopped
4. Lack of proper boat lights being used at night

These are all valid concerns and can certainly be safety hazards. There

have already been reported close calls in the water this early season.

So what can be done? The first thing is education. It is imperative that anyone operating a boat, regardless of whether its motorized or not, knows and understands the rules. Home-owners need to educate their guests and anyone else that might be operating the boat. With one holiday weekend now over, boat patrol will be out enforcing rules via writing tickets. After three tickets lot owners lose their boat sticker for an entire year.

If you see someone breaking a rule, get it on video and get it to the office so that we can contact the lot owner. More often than not it's not the boat owner that was driving, so again education is paramount.

While posting to Facebook may help you feel better, it doesn't fix the problem. It has been the same set of gripes on FB for the last 10 years. The rule breakers obviously aren't on Facebook :)

But seriously, when you see violations, get video or call the non-emergency number at 812.988.6655 and ask for the Lakes officer.

## CSCD COMMISSION MEETING INFORMATION

<b>BUILDING</b>	<i>1st Tuesday</i>	<i>7pm</i>	<i>CSCD Office</i>
<b>ROADS</b>	<i>1st Thursday</i>	<i>5pm</i>	<i>CSCD Office</i>
<b>ECOLOGY</b>	<i>1st Thursday</i>	<i>6pm</i>	<i>CSCD Office</i>
<b>SECURITY</b>	<i>2nd Tuesday</i>	<i>7pm</i>	<i>CSCD Office</i>
<b>WATER</b>	<i>2nd Thursday</i>	<i>5pm</i>	<i>CSCD Office</i>
<b>CSCD BOARD</b>	<i>3rd Tuesday</i>	<i>7pm</i>	<i>Clubhouse</i>

## RULES REVIEW

### Top Ten Lake Safety Violations

1. You must follow a counter-clockwise direction during green light hours.
2. You must have a life jacket for each person on board and one throwable device.
3. Yellow light means IDLE-ONLY
4. The max number of people that can be towed behind a boat is TWO.
5. Red light means the lake is CLOSED to ALL boating.
6. Green light means the lakes are open to all boaters in a counter-clockwise direction.
7. It is a violation to have your feet hanging over the boat while the boat is in motion.
8. An orange flag must be used when a person is down in the water.
9. A wake of any kind can not be produced when in a No-Wake zone.
10. If you receive (3) warning tickets within a 365 day period on the lakes ALL of your boat decals may be revoked for up to ONE year.

\*\* If you see something life threatening, call 911

\*\* If you see a boater/swimmer committing a violation call 812-988-6655 and ask for a CSCD Officer to respond.



## **CSCD SUMMER HOURS**

### **Cordry Marina**

**Wed & Fri: 4pm-6pm**

**Saturday: 11am-7pm**

**Sun & Holidays:  
11am-5pm**

### **Sweetwater Marina**

**Wed & Fri: 6pm-8pm**

**Saturday: 11am-7pm**

**Sun & Holidays:  
11am-5pm**

### **After-Hours Water Emergency Numbers**

We have an employee on call 24/7/365 for drinking water emergencies. Josh Hawley and Josh Bryant are the employees responsible for those calls. Simply call one of the numbers below and they will take a message and get it to the appropriate on-call person. Please note that both Josh's live outside the District and it could take at least an hour before one of them can be present. This is why we require a shut off valve between the meter and your first connection in your house. We also recommend your own shut off valve right outside the meter pit.

**317.412.7025**

**317.306.8395**

## **New Procedure for Boat Stickers & Beach Passes Due to Coronavirus**

**B**oat decal renewal has been quite different this year. We are issuing 2020-2022 boat decals and beach passes by appointment only right now. This new process has gotten rave reviews and is making us more efficient than ever.

If you need to renew your decal, which expires on June 15th, simply call the office (317.933.2893) and schedule your pick-up appointment. The office staff will gather all the pertinent information from you and have everything ready for you at your appointment time.

You can pay with cash, check, or credit card at the time of pickup. We will bring your decals/ pass out to you, so please remain in your vehicle. If no one comes out after a minute, please dial the office from your cell phone. If it is raining there may be a sign directing you to pull on into to the maintenance garage.

The same procedure needs to be followed if you are just picking up a beach pass. If you have a new boat or a boat that needs measured, please alert us of that when you schedule your appointment so we can arrange to have the officer here at your appointment time.

This process has gone very well so far and we have actually been able to assist more customers daily because we are able to have

everything ready. The phones have been ringing off the hook, so if you get a busy signal or no one picks up, simply wait a few minutes and call again. Remember, office staff is here on Monday-Friday from 7:30am to 4:00pm and on Saturdays from 8am-noon.

Please remember that we are still in a pandemic, so our staff will be wearing a mask and will practice social distancing as much as possible. Please don't get out of your vehicle and please don't come into the office unless told to by a staff member.

### *History Lesson*

*While building the dams in the 1950's Howard Prince and his contractors ran into several issues. Both dams changed height during construction from original specs and several homes that had already been built had to be relocated; the concrete forms of some of these homes are visible in the lakes! There was also the issue of working with good ol' Brown County clay. Once it gets wet it can be as slick as ice and if it turns to mud it can sink an ant. In the woods between the leaf pile and the baseball diamond hiking down the valley you can find an old truck that was abandoned during dam construction!*

# Your CSCD Employees

Stacy Wethington, Conservancy Manager  
Brittany Bay, Financial Manager  
Nick Johann, Building Compliance Officer  
Judy Surface, Water Clerk

Josh Hawley, Water/Grounds Superintendent  
Josh Bryant, Water/Grounds Assistant Superintendent

Jimmy Green, Chief Deputy  
Mike Clark, Deputy  
Jeff Brahaum, Deputy  
Keith Lawson, Deputy

*There are about a dozen part-time/ seasonal employees without whom the District would not operate as smoothly as it does. Thank-you!*

## Contact Us

Cordry-Sweetwater  
Conservancy District  
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Nineveh, IN 46164

(317) 933-2893

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