

DRAFT

MINUTES

ECOLOGY COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING

Cordry Sweetwater Conservancy District

3 MAY, 2018

- A. The monthly meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission was called to order by Commission Chairman, Rick Normington, at 6:00 P.M. on 3 May, 2018, at the CSCD conference room.
- B. Members Present: Rick Normington, Josh Edwards (Board) Sunny Leerkamp (CSLOA), Randy Brumfield, Brenda Maulden & Jim Donnells (Recorder)
- C. Members Absent: Ty Cooper,
- D. Others in Attendance: Employee Josh Hawley; + 9 Freeholders
- E. *Josh Edwards moved to approve the Minutes of the 5 April, 2018 meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission; Randy Brumfield seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*

F. FREEHOLDER CONCERNS:

1. JIM RUSTER - Interested in deer reduction work of the Commission. Volunteered for the Deer Reduction Committee (DRC) to help develop rules for the hunt in CSCD and to help organize the hunt.
2. KEITH & ANITA MARTIN – Interested in information about the deer reduction efforts underway by the Commission.
3. GREG HANRAHAN – Interested in general information about what the ECLOGY Commission does in the CSCD and also volunteered for the Deer Reduction Committee (DRC).
4. PAT & FRITZ FEIGERT – Expressed her concern over what she has heard about deer hunting in residential areas of the CSCD and voiced concern that, based on what she has heard, only 20 freeholders “voted” for a deer hunt in the CSCD.
5. SHENA WHEELER – Here to volunteer for the Deer Reduction Committee (DRC).
6. JIM BAKER – New resident who is interested in what’s happening in the CSCD.
7. BRIAN FRANCO - Here to volunteer for the Deer Reduction Committee (DRC).

G. OLD BUSINESS :

1. (6:10 P.M.) **SUMMARY REVIEW OF CSCD WATER/GROUNDS SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT** (*Provided earlier by email*) (**Josh Hawley**): Josh’s update covered progress reports on projects of interest to ECOLOGY including: the Nature Trail # 5 Extension to Cordry Dam (90% complete); work will be done by Jerry Cleefman on the erosion control project at the north end of Sweetwater Lake in May (delayed by wet conditions); work to reconstruct the Grizzly Drive/Groundhog Drive coffer dam will be done by Jason Weddle Excavating in May (delayed by wet conditions); and Christopher Burke Engineering is working on preliminary design options for the needed repairs to Sweetwater Dam. Additionally, Josh updated the Commission and guests on topics ranging from the Garden Club gardens, to playground safety measures, and beach preparations for the summer season, etc.
2. (6:20 P.M.) **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENT INITIATIVE**: Jim Donnells reported that the Brown County Solid Waste Management Board (BCSWMB) met last month and voted to regard our request for funding support to conduct a “Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event,” here at the CSCD a worthy request, but not supportable for this year due to prior commitments of their limited funds. They agreed to consider it for next year, as will we.

(OVER >>>)

3. (6:25 P.M.) **RECLAMATION PLAN FOR THE DREDGING-SPOILS AREA** (*Rick Normington*):

The Commission continued its work to develop a comprehensive proposal for development of the newly-available acreage across from the beach. Brenda Maulden briefed the Commission on her extensive work to secure Financial Grants from local environmental protection agencies to create a “Pollinator Habitat,” in that 4-acre area where the lake-dredging spoils were dumped and leveled over the last 5 years. She has learned that grant money is available from Pheasants & Quail Forever and the Brown County Soil & Water Conservation District. Based on informal estimates it may take between \$ 5K – \$15K to fully convert that “Dredging Spoils Area” into a “Pollinator Habitat,” and the work can be phased-in, over time.

Jim Donnells moved to recommend to the CSCD Board that the “Dredging Spoils Area” across from the beach be designated as a “Pollinator Habitat,” at this time, and that the ECOLOGY Commission be granted permission to move forward with grant writing actions (*Brenda Maulden = lead grant-writer*) to secure funds for the soil sampling, soil preparation, and seed purchase/spreading work needed to be done in order to move forward with this environmental enhancement project. **Sunny Leerkamp** seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Commission.

4. (6:30 P.M.) **DEER HERD CONSERVATION INITIATIVE** : Rick Normington summarized, for all in attendance, the status of the “Deer Conservation Measures” to be taken in the CSCD, in upcoming years, based on DNR recommendations, several scheduled meetings with freeholders over the last 8 months, ECOLOGY Commission recommendations, and CSCD Board approvals of those recommendations. His summary addressed the majority of the questions posed by freeholders earlier tonight during the “Freeholders Concerns” portion of this meeting. He dispelled several erroneous rumors, fielded several further questions from freeholders and seemingly satisfied all remaining freeholder concerns.

The CSCD is officially recognized as a “Deer Reduction Zone,” by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and will be so designated until we request otherwise. Several freeholders in attendance volunteered to become members of the newly-formed “Deer Reduction Committee(DRC),” (and the committee was formed after this meeting adjourned). The DRC will meet to formulate appropriate “rules of the hunt,” for the first hunt this Fall/Winter, and will work as needed to ensure this first “CSCD Deer Reduction Zone Hunt,” is both safe and successful.

H. **NEW BUSINESS** :

1. (7:05 P.M.) Jim Donnell

s facilitated one of the monthly, 30-minute, “Strategic Planning Workshops” oriented on reviewing and updating the Commission’s 5-year Plan, and producing our FY 2019 ECOLOGY Commission Budget Proposal in June. This month’s workshop focused on Commission members’ perceptions of: “What’s Going Well; What’s Going Not-So-Well; and What Needs to be Fixed in the CSCD,” as regards to the ECOLOGY Commission’s areas of responsibility.

2. The next meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission is scheduled for Thursday, 7 June, 2018, at 6:00 P.M. in the CSCD conference room. A draft Agenda for that meeting was developed.

I. **ADJOURNMENT**: *Josh Edwards* moved to adjourn the May meeting of the Ecology Commission. *Sunny Leerkamp* seconded. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:
JIM DONNELLS
Commission Recorder
(801) 361-8791
opajimd@gmail.com