

DRAFT
MINUTES
ECOLOGY COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING
Cordry Sweetwater Conservancy District
1 August, 2019

- A. The monthly meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission was called to order by Commission Chairman, Rick Normington, at 6:10 P.M. on 1 August, 2019, at the CSCD conference room. .
- B. Members Present: Rick Normington, Josh Edwards (Board), Randy Brumfield, Brenda Maulden, Ty Cooper & Jim Donnell (Recorder)
- C. Members Absent: Sunny Leerkamp (CSLOA)
- D. Others in Attendance: 4 Guests
- E. ***Randy Brumfield moved to approve the Minutes of the 6 June, 2019 , meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission; Ty Cooper seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.***
- F. FREEHOLDER CONCERNS: (6:10 P.M.) 2 Freeholders residing on Centerlake Road, but having waterfront property (Lots I-51 / I-50C and Lots I-52 / I 52A), expressed concern over silt buildup in their cove. They requested to know the process for having their cove dredged and subsequently requested that a coffer dam be constructed in the ravine leading down to their cove waterline to prevent future runoffs of silt. It was pointed out to these 2 freeholders that CSCD dredging operations ended last year after 5 years of work on both lakes, and it was subsequently learned that the cove in question was one of the first coves dredged back in 2013, the first year of the 5-year dredging program, so further dredging of that cove (or any cove in CSCD) by CSCD is probably 5-10 years from now. If their cove is to be dredged as requested, it will have to be privately contracted for by the freeholders. Rick Normington also agreed to look into who owns the property above their cove, and if it is CSCD owned, we will determine if a coffer dam is appropriate, as requested.
- G. **OLD BUSINESS** :
1. (6:30 P.M.) **REVIEW OF CSCD WATER/GROUNDS SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Rick, in Josh H.'s absence)**: Josh's update covered progress reports on projects of interest to ECOLOGY including: finalized plans for coffer dam repairs on Antelope Drive (bid accepted...work begins soon); updates on a project to remedy problems with the coffer dam on Grizzly Drive; and an update to the major project to repair the drainage pipe leak and erosion on Sweetwater Dam. The engineers plan to provide cost estimates for the dam repairs soon for FY 2021 budget-planning purposes. Josh also reported that a water leak on Cordry Dam has been detected that will be dealt with, and that he is refining his plan to address the potential threat of an irreversible infestation of zebra mussels and/or quagga mussels in our lakes.
2. (6:20 P.M.) **POLLINATOR HABITAT (Brenda M.)**: Brenda updated the Commission on the status of the SCI-REMC project to assist us in installing a pollinator habitat in the Spoils Reclamation Area across from Sweetwater Beach. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the need for parking spaces to be reserved for CSLOA fireworks parking needs each July. ***Ty Cooper moved to reserve the front 100' of the Spoils Reclamation Area (adjacent to the Sunset Drive roadway) for annual fireworks parking, leaving the rest of the Spoils Reclamation Area for our desired "Pollinator Habitat." Brenda Maulden seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.***
3. (6:40 P.M.) **DEER HERD CONSERVATION INITIATIVE (Rick)**: The Deer Reduction Committee (DRC) plans to meet tonight, after this ECOLOGY Commission meeting, to finalize the details for this year's Community Hunt Access Program (CHAP) hunt.

(OVER >>>)

4. (6:45 P.M.) **BUDGET STATUS UPDATE:** There being no one present with knowledge of the progress by the CSCD Board on the FY 2020 proposal, no update was provided.
5. (6:45 P.M.) **REVIEW OF NON-BUDGET ACTION PLAN ACTIONS FROM STRATEGIC PLANNING:** (*Jim*) A review of the Non-budget Priority Action Plan list, developed from this year's Strategic Planning Workshops, identified a total of 8 actions that were detailed. Of those 8 actions, 3 require further "Study." The commission agreed to conduct each "Study" at 3 separate Commission meetings through the slow winter months.
6. (7:00 P.M.) **UPDATE ON "HYDRAULIC DREDGING" EXPERIMENT (*Rick*):** Rick Normington reported on his observations of the experimental "Hydraulic Dredging" project approved by the Commission some 3 months ago. If approved by the Commission and the CSCD Board for use in the CSCD, the "Rules" for dredging will have to be changed to allow this process.

H. **NEW BUSINESS** :

1. **COMMISSION MEMBER CONCERNS** : None
2. **FREEHOLDER CONCERNS**: Mr. Jim Ray, a highly respected, professional biologist, was in attendance and, in listening to the details of the "Hydraulic Dredging" Experiment (para G 6 above), he expressed significant concern with moving forward to allow this revolutionary dredging process on our lakes before the science of such a process can be validated. His primary point was that "The ecological impact of pushing the shore spoils out into deeper parts of the lake (rather than removing them) is unknown, and, until the science of such a procedure can be scientifically substantiated, this high-risk procedure should not be approved for use in the CSCD."
- As a result of Jim Ray's detailed explanation of concern, the ECOLOGY Commission decided to NOT recommend approval of this "Hydraulic Dredging" process until the Science is known. It was further decided that the contractor conducting the experiment, as well as the freeholder involved, are to be the ones to locate that science and provide it to the Commission before we give further consideration to their request to perform this style of dredging in the CSCD.*
- 3 The next meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission is scheduled for Thursday, 5 Sept., 2019, 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 August meeting of the Ecology Commission. Rick Normington seconded. The motion passed.* The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

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