

DRAFT
MINUTES
ECOLOGY COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING
Cordry Sweetwater Conservancy District
7 December, 2023

- A. The monthly meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission was called to order by Vice-Commission Chair, Randy Brumfield, at 6:00 P.M., in the CSCD conference room.
- B. Members Present: Randy Brumfield, Shena Johnson, Brenda Maulden, and Jim Donnell (Recorder)
- C. Members Absent: Herb Benshoof (Board), Ty Cooper, & Sunny Leerkamp (CSLOA),
- D. Others In Attendance: Nick Johann (CSCD Operations)
- E. (6:05 P.M.) ***Shena Johnson moved to approve the Minutes of the 2 November, 2023 meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission; Brenda Maulden seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.***
- F. (6:05 P.M.) **FREEHOLDER CONCERNS**: None
- G. (6:10 P.M.) **CSCD OPERATIONS REPORT** : Nick Johann provided updates on myriad projects of interest to ECOLOGY including:
1. **Sweetwater Dredging**: At long last, the North End of Sweetwater Lake is being dredged starting today.
 2. **Centerlake Park Stone Aggregate Storage**: The grounds around the stone aggregate storage area have been cleared of all debris and has been reorganized.
 3. **Cordry Lake Spillway**: The Indiana DNR is processing our permit application, the last step before the spillway reconstruction project can go out to bid. It appears that the earliest that this project can be put out for bid is next summer with work to, hopefully, be completed by the end of 2024.
Christopher Burke Engineering is handling all permit application procedures. In addition, they have mailed out to all CSCD freeholders in close proximity to the Cordry Spillway, an information letter to alert them as to what this project entails for planning purposes.
- H. (6:25 P.M.) **OLD BUSINESS**:
1. **DEER HUNT 2023-24 UPDATE** (Shena): To date, 29 deer have been taken by CSCD hunters in the annual “Deer Reduction Hunt.” Hunting reconvenes 6 - 14 January, 2024.
 2. **POLLINATOR HABITAT UPDATE** (Brenda): No Update
 3. **AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL GRANT - \$\$\$ For Invasive Species Removal in CSCD** (Katie Starr): As part of a \$ 500,000 grant **recently approved** for Invasive Species Removal at Camp Atterbury, CSCD is programmed to receive up to \$ 58,000 for invasive species removal on CSCD. This grant money will be used primarily for CSCD property and limited private property invasives removal. While the grant isn't a typical cost-share where there needs to be a cash match, all funds will be given as a reimbursement for invasive species removal, half payment at the 6-month mark, and the remainder at the 1-year mark (which is also when all invasive species need to be completely removed from the enrolled acres). For planning purposes, the grant allows reimbursement for up to \$ 197 per acre treated. Anticipate a Brown County workshop this month to finalize an implementation plan.
Nick Johann will create a map depicting CSCD owned property so as to plan where invasives will be removed by a contractor (that we must engage) to get the project started in early 2024.
 4. **DIY Marina Fuel Pumping**: The ECOLOGY Commission went on record at the last CSCD Board meeting (21 November) as being completely opposed to the idea of the planned installation of a \$ 38,000 card reader on the Sweetwater Marina gas pump, enabling boater DIY refueling, even when no attendant is present. Commission members attended, in person, to address the Board and have that budgeted item for next year eliminated. As a follow-up, the Commission Recorder was asked to write to the Board, urging them to make this an Agenda item for their next meeting on 19 December, for the purpose of a re-vote on this undesirable expenditure.

(OVER >>>)

I. **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. (6:40 P. M.) **DREDGING APPLICATIONS:** The Commission reviewed 1 dredging application and after review and discussion:

Shena Johnson moved to APPROVE the dredging application submitted by Mike & Annemarie Finnegan on lot SW 126 (7162 Sunset Drive) as submitted. Jim Donnell seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.

2. **FREEHOLDER CONCERNS:** NONE

3. **COMMISSION MEMBER CONCERNS:**

- a. Randy Brumfield expressed continued concern that review and publication of the new “RULES” for CSCD is progressing without an opportunity for an ECOLOGY Commission review. For lack of a “Draft Document” of proposed “New Rules,” the Commission agreed to review the current Rule Books located in the CSCD website, found under the “RESOURCES” link and further located under the “Rule Book” sub-link. The 3 “Rule Books” to be reviewed by the ECOLOGY Commission are the “Building Rules,” “Fishing Rules,” and “Lake Rules.” This topic will be further discussed at the February meeting.
- b. Randy also informed the commission that the contractor materials dumped at the SW boat launch parking area have been removed and the parking site has been returned to its desired condition. In the future, it was agreed that contractors who dump debris in this area or park their equipment over night without authorization, will be warned once (by letter) and a second offense could result in permit cancellation for that contractor.
- c. Brenda Maulden reports that the 4+ year-old garden beds in the CSCD Garden Park have begun to deteriorate and the wood surrounds will soon need to be replaced. It was unclear as to who the current head of the “CSCD Garden Club” is.
- d. Katie Starr reports that she is working on an abbreviated Zebra Mussel Boater Aware Test for use in the upcoming boat-sticker season.

- J. **STRATEGIC PLANNING:** Due to multiple absences of commission members tonight, and the expectation of having a new Commission head in the new year, work to finalize the ECOLOGY Commission’s 5-Year (Strategic) Plan has been delayed until the March 2024 meeting.

- K. **ADJOURNMENT:** ***Shena Johnson moved to adjourn the 7 December, meeting of the Ecology Commission. Brenda Maulden seconded. The motion passed.*** The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

JIM DONNELLS

Commission Recorder

opajimd@gmail.com

(801) 361-8791