

DRAFT
MINUTES
ECOLOGY COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
Cordry Sweetwater Conservancy District
April 2, 2026

1. The March meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission was called to order by Randy Brumfield at 6:05 P.M., in the CSCD conference room.

Members Present: Randy Brumfield, Tom Golias, Harold Crooks, Matt Rotelli

Members absent: Shawn Rexroth.

Others in Attendance: Jayme Golias, Katie Starr, Nick Johann

2. **REVIEW AND REVISION OF DRAFT AGENDA:** *Mr. Brumfield proposed adding an update from Katie Starr regarding the America the Beautiful grant. Mr. Rotelli moved to approve the revised Agenda; Mr. Crooks seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*
3. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** *Mr. Rotelli moved to approve the Minutes of March 5, 2026, meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission; Mr. Crooks seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*
4. **FREEHOLDER CONCERNS:** None.
5. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. **Summary Review of CSCD Water/Grounds Superintendent's Report:** Mr. Brumfield and Mr. Johann provided updates on several ongoing projects, including the Sweetwater boat ramp improvements starting Monday, April 6th, with work expected to take up to two weeks, and beach erosion mitigation efforts involving a new wooden boardwalk and sand delivery. Additionally, the Sweetwater beach rope will be put in place as well as buoys on the lakes. Mr. Johann noted the need for a boat steward, but that there have been no applicants for the job to date.
- b. **Pollinator Habitat Update:** The commission had a follow-up discussion from the last meeting regarding the management of the pollinator habitat area. Ms. Starr stated that mowing the area is important to continue the progress to date and that timing of the cut matters, ideally it is sometime between May and July. This is because 80% of the top area is ragweed which is a native species but will also crowd out other plants. Mowing before the ragweed goes to seed is important to control it, and then we can spot treat ragweed after that time. Mr. Johann noted that he could bushhog the area with a 10" lift and asked that he be informed before the ragweed matured.

The commission discussed plans for creating trails through pollinator area using existing mulch from REMC. They agreed to design a 5-6 foot wide trail through areas with heavy ragweed, starting by cutting down vegetation and then applying mulch. Mr. Rotelli and Mr. Crooks volunteered to consider trail placement. The team also addressed the removal of recently felled trees in the area, particularly those near the septic system of the shelter house, with plans to chip the brush and potentially use some wood for dividing areas or as barriers. They discussed using telephone poles to prevent vehicles from entering the area and agreed to coordinate the removal of chopped trees and brush. Mr. Rotelli noted that he would like to receive the pollinator habitat folder from Brenda Maudlin.

- c. **Weed Wrangle:** Mr. Crooks stated that the next Weed Wrangle would be held on April 4th, with participants meeting at the fire station shelter house.
- d. **Eagle Scout Project Update at Center Lake Park:** No update.

- e. **Dredging Discussion:** Mr. Johann noted that with the weather improving we will soon be able to probe some of the coves that were a concern to test for silt. Next steps are to determine the specific coves and date to start. This will be revisited after the Sweetwater beach work and buoy placement are completed, the specific date will be set in the May Ecology Commission meeting.
- f. **CSLOA Ox Roast/Fireworks Plan Update:** No update.
- g. **Garden Club Update:** Applications from freeholders for garden beds are being received. Mr. Brumfield stated that the CSCD board will review and decide how to best handle the Garden Club finances moving forward.
- h. **America the Beautiful Grant Update:** Ms. Starr informed the group that a federal audit of the America the Beautiful grant funding will occur this spring, requiring documentation of year one progress and future plans. She confirmed that the \$300,000 allocated for invasive species removal on 300 acres has already begun, including work around landscaping and the beach area. Don Slack, who wrote the original plan, offered to visit before leaving his position at the end of June to review progress and help with next steps.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Dredging Applications:** Two dredging applications were reviewed for approval. A motion for approval was made by Mr. Golias and seconded by Mr. Rotelli; the motion passed unanimously.
- b. **Barge Permits and Rules:** Mr. Brumfield noted that there was some minor damage done to the Cordry boat launch ramp by ABG Contractors (who have proactively offered to repair the ramp), as well as some rocks moved at the Sweetwater contractor ramp by a contractor. The Commission discussed updates to barge permit applications and processes and considered raising the permit fee from \$300 to \$500, with some suggesting an annual review process. The idea of implementing a bond requirement was proposed as a more significant protection measure, though current insurance requirements were noted. Mr. Rotelli expressed concern about potential additional costs to lake work projects and suggested reaching out to trusted contractors to gather more information about existing bonds and practices. The group considered contacting Avery, a contractor with experience on multiple lakes, to understand if contractors typically have surety bonds in addition to standard insurance. The discussion also covered rules about barge parking, particularly prohibiting parking at slips or on dock sides, with some flexibility for temporary parking in shallow areas. They agreed to present these requirements with a legal section for sign-off by the board.

The specific points for consideration:

- \$500 annual contractor permit fee
 - Bond requirement for each contractor at a suggested \$50,000 level
 - No contractor barge parking at community docks or ramps
 - No barge docking longer than 3 days unless approved separately by CSCD staff
 - Prominently display contractor name on barge
 - Clearly display CSCD issued permit on barge
 - Contractors will not modify any contractor ramps
 - Contractors will not use freeholder ramps
 - No metal to ramp concrete contact in the loading/unloading of barges
 - All contractors comply with section 2021-04 of CSCD guidelines
- c. **Commission Member Concerns:** The commission discussed infrastructure issues around Sweetwater Lake, including concerns about slow drainage and potential solutions like installing a 10-inch pump, with pump motor noise concerns noted. Regarding a timber/mulch operation on Center Lake Drive, Mr. Brumfield explained that while the operation appears unregulated, the commission lacks authority to address it unless it can be proven to affect the lake through sediment runoff.

d. **Freeholder After-Thoughts: None**

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Rotelli moved to adjourn the meeting of the Ecology Commission. Mr. Brumfield seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

Tom Golias
Secretary