

DRAFT
MINUTES
ECOLOGY COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING
Cordry Sweetwater Conservancy District
7 July 2022

- A. The monthly meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission was called to order by Commission Chairman, Rick Normington, at 6:00 PM on July 7th, 2022, in the CSCD Conference Room.
- B. Members Present: Rick Normington, Josh Edwards (Board), Ty Cooper, Sunny Leerkamp (CSLOA and acting Recorder) and Randy Brumfield
- C. Members Absent: Jim Donnellis (vacation) and Brenda Maulden (work obligations)
- D. Others in Attendance: Katie Starr, Boat Steward and Pollinator Habitat Intern (There were no guest freeholders in attendance.)
- E. ***Sunny Leerkamp moved to approve the Minutes of the June 2nd, 2022 meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission; Ty Cooper seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.***
- F. **FREEHOLDER CONCERNS:** None
- G. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - 1. **CSCD OPERATIONS REPORT:** Nick Johann was on vacation, but submitted a written report indicating: 1) The zebra mussel decontamination site is 100% operational; 2) Concerning the new gates at the boat ramps, some individuals have left the cable down and unlocked and one lock has been broken; and 3) Rip rap at the Florida Peninsula has been placed. There was no update on the Cordry spillway or the Sweetwater Outflow Expansion Project, as recommended by last month's Freeholder Recommendation.

Rick Normington reminded everyone that the Cordry dam will be blocked starting Monday, July 11th, and everyday after that for approximately one month. Residents may need to detour to accommodate the repairs that are going to be underway.
 - 2. **UPDATE ON IU CLEAN LAKES WATER TESTING INITIATIVE:** Due to Nick and Jim's absence, there is no additional information at this time. It is understood that IU will be conducting some additional testing at the end of August or September.
 - 3. **UPDATE ON ZEBRA MUSSEL PREVENTION INITIATIVE:** Katie Starr reported that so far everything seems to be going well, with few glitches or complaints. Katie expressed some concerns that freeholders may not be getting the point of the test that they are taking and translating it into an understanding of the threat that the zebra mussels pose and how important it is to try to prevent them. She suggested that now that the Hotsy is up and running, she may want to try some additional education. She did not make a specific proposal at this time.
 - 4. **INDIANA "SENTINAL LANDSCAPE PROGRAM" OPPORTUNITY AND JOINT**

PROJECT W/CSLOA-EDUCATIONAL PAMPHLET FOR CSCD FREEHOLDERS:

No updates due to Jim Donnellis and Brenda Maulden being absent.

5. **POLLINATOR HABITAT:** Katie Starr advised that through her new position with the Brown County Soil and Water Department, she has become aware of a grant opportunity. The grant is an 80-20% coverage for proposed work that is approved. She will work with Brenda and Soil and Water to make sure there is no conflict of interest issue with the application submission. She advised there may be additional mini grants available, as well.

H. NEW BUSINESS:

1. **DREDGING APPLICATIONS:** None

2. **COMMISSION MEMBER CONCERNS:**

(a) Randy Brumfield expressed concerns about erosion issues that continue to be exacerbated by large wakes and the increasing number of large boats creating those wakes. He observes the wakes going way back into the coves, washing soil away from the edges of the lake and from under trees. These large wakes are overwhelming smaller boaters indiscriminately, as well. He feels there needs to be increased awareness and a vehicle for freeholders to register complaints. Katie volunteered to invite freeholders to come to our next meeting and advise if they have noticed problems with these boats.

(b) Ty Cooper then voiced concerns about the recent action on the part of the CSCD Board where they voted to modify the Zebra Mussel Prevention Initiative by sua sponte adding a provision that requires all freeholders who want a beach pass to pass the zebra mussel prevention test. This issue was never brought up with the Zebra Mussel Prevention Study Committee or vetted with any of the individuals interested in this issue. The point was not necessarily that there was disagreement with this policy, but that freeholders should be able to rely on a process before new responsibilities are put upon them.

(c) Rick Normington brought up concerns about keeping non-freeholders off the Sweetwater Beach, particularly after events such as the 4th of July celebration coming up. There was some mention of a fence, however most of the members voiced that this seems like overkill in light of the few complaints received. Mention was also made of possible signage that could state that these are private lakes and announcements over loudspeakers at public events, such as the 4th of July, making sure people know these are private lakes.

(d) Rick also mentioned that he had an update from the goose round up this year and nine (9) geese were reportedly relocated.

3. **BUDGET PLANNING WORKSHOP:** The Commission reviewed the Ecology Budget Proposal - FY 2023 that would be submitted to the CSCD Board for approval. Josh Edwards tried to give feedback on the items that were likely to be approved and we might be prepared for disappointment. Randy Brumfield suggested that the monies currently allocated for Hazardous Dead Tree & Invasive Species Removal be used to hire a certified arborist to go through the Conservancy and make recommendations concerning the removal of dangerous trees before an accident occurs and someone is hurt or property is damaged. Based upon Josh Edwards prediction that the line item for Walking/Jogging Trails would again be cut, a motion was made by Josh Edwards that we submit the budget request for a total of \$197,400.00. The motion was seconded by Ty Cooper and passed unanimously.

4. The next meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission is scheduled for Thursday, August 4th, 2022, at 6:00 PM.

- I. **ADJOURNMENT:** Sunny Leerkamp moved to adjourn the July 7th meeting of the Ecology Commission; everyone seconded and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.