

DRAFT
MINUTES
ECOLOGY COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING
Cordry Sweetwater Conservancy District
5 May, 2022

- A. The monthly meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission was called to order by Commission Chairman, Rick Normington, at 6:00 P.M. on 5 May, 2022, in the CSCD conference room.
- B. Members Present: Rick Normington, Brenda Maulden, Sunny Leerkamp (CSLOA) and Jim Donnell (Recorder).
- C. Members Absent: Josh Edwards (Board), Ty Cooper & Randy Brumfield
- D. Others in Attendance: 2 freeholders
- E. *Jim Donnell pointed out the correction made to the 7 April Draft Minutes due to information learned after that meeting. Brenda Maulden moved to approve the CORRECTED Minutes of the 7 April, 2022 meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission; Sunny Leerkamp seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*
- F. FREEHOLDER CONCERNS: None
- G. OLD BUSINESS :
1. (6:10 P.M.) **CSCD OPERATIONS REPORT**: In Nick Johann's absence, Jim Donnell provided Nick's telephonic update that covered progress reports on projects of interest to ECOLOGY including: progress on the bidding process for the Rebuild of the Cordry Lake Spillway is on track for later this year; construction of the shelter house for the newly purchased "Hotsy" boat/trailer decontamination equipment is wrapping up with the water line being laid next week; and the final report from the IU Clean Lakes Program was presented to Nick and to Aaron Parris in attendance at IU and to Jim Donnell and Sunny Leerkamp by Zoom last Wednesday.
 2. (6:15 P.M.) **ZEBRA MUSSEL PREVENTION INITIATIVE UPDATE**.
 - a. Security cameras have been purchased, have been delivered, and are being installed next week in boat launch locations to ensure boater compliance with zebra mussel prevention procedures.
 - b. The "Boat Steward" position job opening has been posted on the CSCD website as of 1 March. The Boat Steward will oversee and manage the entire Zebra Mussel Prevention Program as created by the Zebra Mussel Prevention Committee, approved by the ECOLOGY Commission, and approved by the CSCD Board last year.
 - c. It was reported that 729 freeholders have completed and passed the required "Zebra Mussel Prevention Online Course and Test," to date. *All boat-owning freeholders are required to successfully complete this online course, and a score of 100% in the 20-question certification test will be required in order to be eligible to purchase boat stickers for the 2022/ 2023 boating seasons.*
 3. (6:25 P.M.) **SENTINEL LANDSCAPE PROGRAM INITIATIVE**: . Jim Donnell has made initial contact with IU Professor Christian Freitag's office at the IU Law Center. He is the designated Program Coordinator for this federal grant program. No program application information is available from his office yet, but his office has our number and knows of our interest in this new program.
 4. (6:30 P.M.) **IU CLEAN LAKES PROGRAM SUPPORT**: Jim Donnell provided each Commission member with a paper copy of the Power Point briefing slides used by the IU Clean Lakes Program students to report their findings in their extensive study of the water quality of both Sweetwater and Cordry Lakes earlier this year. In addition, the written report they used to brief us was also provided to each commission member to study and analyze over the next month. In summary, their study found that not only are our 2 lakes some of the clearest lakes in Indiana, but they are also 2 of the cleanest (contamination free) lakes in all of Indiana, based on their snapshot study performed in early March. A discussion regarding the importance of further water quality testing later in the year when the lakes' population triples and lake usage dramatically increases followed. As a result further water testing in August/September was advised. Therefore: (see next page >>>>)

(OVER >>>)

Jim Donnell's moved to recommend to the Board that they expend not more than \$ 8,000 of this year's budget money to conduct follow-up water quality testing utilizing the same process utilized by the IU Limnology Class in March and in the very same coves (plus additional coves recommended by the GIS team)later this summer (Aug/Sept timeframe) in order to see if our excellent lake water quality suffers from high density recreational and septic usage during high season. Sunny Leerkamp seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

5. (6:40 P.M.) **POLLINATOR HABITAT INITIATIVE UPDATE:** Katie Starr, in attendance, reported that she is pursuing grant money from various sources to breathe new life into this project this summer.

H. **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. (6:45 P.M.) **FREEHOLDER CONCERNS:** None

2. (6:50 P.M.) **COMMISSION MEMBER CONCERNS:** None

3. (6:55 P.M.) **BUDGET PLANNING WORKSHOP:** The Commission continued its FY 2023 budget planning process by conducting their annual "What's Going Well / Not-So-Well" workshop.

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

I. **ADJOURNMENT:** *Sunny Leerkamp moved to adjourn the 5 May, meeting of the Ecology Commission. Rick Normington seconded. The motion passed.* The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

JIM DONNELLS
Commission Recorder
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