

DRAFT
MINUTES
ECOLOGY COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING
Cordry Sweetwater Conservancy District
7 October, 2021

- A. The monthly meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission was called to order by Commission Chairman, Rick Normington, at 6:00 P.M. on 7 October, 2021, in the CSCD office.
- B. Members Present: Rick Normington, Ty Cooper, Randy Brumfield, Brenda Maulden & Jim Donnell (Recorder)
- C. Members Absent: Josh Edwards (in Executive Board meeting), Sunny Leerkamp (CSLOA),
- D. Others in Attendance: 1 guest
- E. *Jim Donnell moved to approve the Minutes of the 2 September meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission; Brenda Maulden seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*
- F. **FREEHOLDER CONCERNS**: None
- G. **OLD BUSINESS** :
1. (6:05 P.M.) **CSCD CONSERVANCY MANAGER’S REPORT**: It was noted that our newly hired Conservancy Manager, Brian Miller, has resigned. In the absence of a Conservancy Manager, Rick Normington provided a few CSCD updates of interest to the ECOLOGY Commission:
 - **CORDRY DAM SPILLWAY UPDATE**: CSCD is in possession of “Safety Inspection Reports” from the 31 July inspections of both dams that will be the basis for spillway repair work to be done on both dams over the next few years. As both reports were voluminous, and in hard copy format, we requested that the Conservancy office make copies of both for each member’s reading and review by next commission meeting. An alternative to paper copies would be a digitized copy of both reports sent to us by email or placed on the CSCD website.
 - **ECOLOGY BUDGET PROPOSAL UPDATE**:
 - a. To date, the only priority known to be removed from our budget proposal is Priority A13 (INSECT CONTROL MEASURES – bat boxes and purple martin boxes \$ 10,000). The final reading and adoption of the total CSCD budget will occur at the next CSCD Board meeting on 19 Oct.
 - b. In a related issue, a copy of a recent (but undated) memo was circulated to each member that appears to have been written to the CSCD Board by the Financial Advisory Committee. It appears to recommend a major change to the way revenues are raised to fund CSCD operations, undoing the 60+ year “ad valorem” taxation format and recommending a hybrid format that will also dramatically change the boat sticker fee structure that has been in place for decades. The members expressed concern over this late-breaking news that will impact everything we do here in the Conservancy District and we were urged to contact our respective Board members with our concerns. The suggestion of a referendum vote (by all freeholders) was discussed due to the major impact such a proposal would have on all freeholders if these proposed changes were implemented.
 - c. Also, a question was raised as to whether this year’s ECOLOGY Budget Proposal included money for the dredging of the north end of Sweetwater Lake, an item that was cut from last year’s budget proposal. As it turns out, a specific item for dredging the north end of SW lake is not specified in this year’s budget proposal, but two high priority line items have been included that may well address this issue: Priority A1 “Aquatic Weed Control” was increased to \$75K for next year and Priority A4” Shoreline Erosion Control & Stabilization,” was increased to \$60K.
 2. (6:25 P.M.) **DEER CONSERVATION HUNT UPDATE**: Rick Normington updated the commission on the status of this year’s Deer Reduction Hunt. The hunt begins on 18 October and all is on track for a successful hunt.

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3. (6:30 P.M.) **ZEBRA MUSSEL PREVENTION INITIATIVE UPDATE:** Several updates were provided:
- The Brown County Democrat, our local newspaper, has accepted our invitation to do a story on the now-approved Zebra Mussel Action Plan so as to more widely publicize our efforts, but without a Conservancy Manager, the story will be delayed until a new one is hired and he/she can participate in providing the details.
 - Work continues on the creation of an online Zebra Mussel Education & Certification Course and Test, modeled after the one used in the state of Utah for boater access to their lakes. Two (2) staff members of Shelbyville Elementary School, who have high technology skills, have been contracted to create the course for us. They are in possession of the edited script and the associated test, and they are working to create the online course for us. 1 November is the target date for fielding this online course and test so as to give freeholders ample time to complete the course/test in order to get next year's boat stickers.
4. (6:35 P.M.) **IU "INDIANA CLEAN LAKES PROGRAM":** In the absence of a Conservancy Manager, Jim Donnell's revived the connection between IU Professor Melissa Laney and the CSCD for possible support from her program and her students to the CSCD for the upcoming year. After brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Commission that we would like this water quality testing support from this reputable organization, especially since the support is provided at no cost to the CSCD. In the absence of a Conservancy Manager, Jim Donnell's agreed to communicate our desire to Professor Laney and serve as the interim POC until a new Conservancy Manager is hired.
5. (6:40 P.M.) **JOINT PROJECT w/CSLOA-EDUCATIONAL PAMPHLET FOR CSCD FREEHOLDERS :**
Brenda Maulden of the ECOLOGY Commission has communicated with Cindy Workman of CSLOA and they have agreed to work to complete this joint project this winter.
6. (6:45 P.M.) **POLLINATOR HABITAT UPDATE:** Brenda Maulden reports that a team of volunteers will be working to clear the land across from the beach this fall to move this project forward.

H. **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. (6:45 P.M.) **FREEHOLDER CONCERNS:** None
2. (6:45 P.M.) **DREDGING REQUESTS:**
- a. *Randy Brumfield moved to DENY Dredging Application Request submitted by KEVIN & LINDSEY KIRTLEY at lot CF-2 (7463 Ginseng Drive) as submitted. Jim Donnell's seconded. This motion was unanimously approved to DENY their application due to missing information and an extraordinary depth request .*
 - b. *Randy Brumfield moved to DENY Dredging Application Request submitted by TINA CISERELLA at lot ? 510 (7422 Hackberry Drive) as submitted. Jim Donnell's seconded. This motion was unanimously approved to DENY her application due to photos showing that the dredging would be removing the "hard pan" surface of the lake bottom instead of removing silt.*
 - c. *Randy Brumfield moved to APPROVE Dredging Application Request submitted by DANIEL ADAMS at lot WS-161 (6417 Nuthatch Drive) as submitted. Jim Donnell's seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*
3. (6:55 P.M.) **COMMISSION MEMBER CONCERNS:** None
4. The next meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission is scheduled for Thursday, **4 November, 2021**, at 6:00 P.M. in the CSCD conference room. A draft Agenda for that meeting was developed.

I. **ADJOURNMENT:** *Jim Donnell's moved to adjourn the 7 October meeting of the Ecology Commission. Brenda Maulden seconded. The motion passed.* The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

JIM DONNELLS
Commission Recorder
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