

DRAFT
MINUTES
ECOLOGY COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING
Cordry Sweetwater Conservancy District
1 September, 2022

- A. The monthly meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission was called to order by Commission Chairman, Josh Edwards, at 6:00 P.M. on 1 September, 2022, in the CSCD conference room.
- B. Members Present: Josh Edwards (Board), Ty Cooper, Randy Brumfield, and Jim Donnell (Recorder).
- C. Members Absent: Sunny Leerkamp (CSLOA) & Brenda Maulden
- D. Others in Attendance: 5 guest freeholders
- E. *Randy Brumfield moved to approve the Minutes of the 4 August, 2022 meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission; Ty Cooper seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*
- F. (6:05 P.M.) **FREEHOLDER CONCERNS**:
1. 2 freeholders re-appeared before the commission to urge action to stop big-wake boats from further damaging their shoreline and docked property. They submitted a very informative Information Paper on nation-wide research into this very issue on other small lakes. Their research paper will be offered to the soon-to-be organized, joint “Big-Wake Study Committee,” comprised of 4 ECOLOGY-oriented freeholders and 3 SECURITY-oriented freeholders.
 2. 3 members of the Pickleball Club appeared before the committee to present their proposal for expanding the Pickleball court playing area onto the rear concrete apron at the CSCD fire station, on the south side. They submitted a detailed schematic of the proposed new court area and a signed agreement with the CSVFD, approving of their expansion plans onto fire department property. The club now requests financial support to stripe the 2 new courts onto the approved fire station apron.
After a short discussion, including the idea to re-stripe the now faded original 2 courts, the committee agreed by consensus, that this would be a good use of still-available Parks & Recreation funds available to the CSCD Operations Manager this year. Nick Johann agreed to contact potential striping contractors to get the work done this year.
 3. One freeholder expressed concern over the recent proliferation of business-promoting signage throughout the CSCD, without apparent enforcement of the current business-advertising rules (no long-term ads). After a short discussion, the Operations Manager agreed to review the rules regarding business-oriented advertising within the CSCD with appropriate enforcement personnel and direct appropriate enforcement of same by those designated enforcers.
- G. **OLD BUSINESS** :
1. (6:20 P.M.) **CSCD OPERATIONS REPORT**: Nick Johann provided progress reports on myriad projects of interest to ECOLOGY including:
 - a. New **playground equipment** for the **SW beach** area has been ordered. This replacement equipment is needed to replace the weathered, rusted and vandalized playground equipment currently at the Sweetwater beach.
 - b. We are still awaiting the final design product for the Rebuild of the **Cordry Lake Spillway Project**. The 1.6 million dollar spillway rebuild project is still on track for construction to begin in the Fall of next year (2023).
 - c. CSCD is hosting a **“Hotsy”** hands-on **demonstration** for interested boaters this Saturday at 2:00 P.M. at the CSCD office area parking lot, in conjunction with the Ox Roast. This demonstration will allow interested boaters to meet the CSCD boat steward team and allow all in attendance to see how to put this hot water, high pressure washer apparatus into operation for do-it-yourself (DIY) decontamination of boats and trailers suspected of being contaminated with aquatic invasive species, e.g. zebra mussels.
 - d. Volunteer boat steward, Jim Donnell, expressed concern over the impending boat storage season in Sept., Oct., & Nov. Specifically he is concerned that a number of freeholders will engage boat storage companies to come to CSCD lakes with boat trailers that have been in other Indiana zebra mussel-infested waters, potentially contaminating our lakes with ZM. Nick Johan agreed to send out a reminder notice to all freeholders that they are personally responsible to ensure that any boat trailer put in our waters is free of invasive species and to ensure decontamination is performed on any trailer brought here for their boat removal this fall (or re-launch next spring).

(OVER >>>)

2. (6:30 P.M.) **SOUTHERN INDIANA SENTINEL LANDSCAPES PROGRAM:** Jim Donnell updated the commission on our current interactions with this new federally-funded program as it relates to our proximity to Camp Atterbury. He provided an email from the regional program director, Michael Spalding, who provided a comprehensive email summary of what “Sentinel Landscapes” can do for CSCD. Our next step is to meet with the regional Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) representative, Allison Shoaf, to identify our invasive terrestrial species mitigation needs and the resources available through her office to help eradicate them within the CSCD. Nick Johann has already requested a meeting with her for that purpose. Michael Spalding also recommends we move forward with both a CSCD Resolution on this topic and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), on both what Sentinel Landscapes agrees to do for us and what we agree to do within CSCD to promote environmental integrity of lands next to a military facility (Camp Atterbury).

3. (6:40 P.M.) **IU Clean Lakes Program:** Jim Donnell updated the commission on the status of the one-day re-sampling of the lake-water in both CSCD lakes by scientists from the Indiana University Limnology (Clean Lakes) community. IU Professor Melissa Laney has agreed to visit our CSCD lakes on Sunday, 11 September, for the purpose of sampling a total of 28 coves and both lake outlets to provide water testing for the same coves sampled last March (plus 11 more potential “hot spots”). Jim Donnell and board member, Aaron Paris have agreed to provide pontoon boat transport support to her and her team for this lake water sampling event. The results of these late-summer water test results will be compared to the results of last spring’s water test results to determine the impact on our lakes of high residential and high recreational use in the summer months. Results will be made available to CSCD in a formal report from the IU lab and Limnology Class next spring.

4. (6:45 P.M.) **JOINT PROJECT w/CSLOA: EDUCATIONAL PAMPHLET FOR CSCD FREEHOLDERS:**
This project is on hold until after the OX Roast.

5. (6:45 P.M.) **POLLINATOR HABITAT INITIATIVE UPDATE:** Katie Starr reports that she is working with NRCS representative, Allison Shoaf, for funding support through the Indiana “Clean Water Grant,” to help pay for land prep and seeding of the designated pollinator habitat area across from Sweetwater beach. A site survey with Allison Shoaf is also in the works.

H. **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. (7:00 P.M.) **FREEHOLDER CONCERNS:** None

2. (7:00 P.M.) **COMMISSION MEMBER CONCERNS:**

a. Jim Donnell commented on the recently dumped tree branches in the designated leaf compost pile. This chronic problem creates much extra work for CSCD maintenance personnel who could be better utilized elsewhere if freeholders and contractors had a separate, designated area to dump their tree branches and non-compostable wood products. He suggested CSCD look into designating such an area, away from the leaf compost area, and either purchase a wood chipper or contract a reputable tree service to come in, perhaps monthly, to chip up all tree branches dumped in that newly designated area and perhaps offer wood chips to freeholders to use for landscaping purposes.

b. He also pointed out that we are short one member on the ECOLOGY Commission and suggested a search be undertaken to identify a seventh member of our Commission to bring it up to its designated full strength. Nick Johann agreed to publicize the volunteer job opening.

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

I. **ADJOURNMENT:** *Randy Brumfield moved to adjourn the 1 September, meeting of the Ecology Commission. Josh Edwards seconded. The motion passed.* The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

JIM DONNELLS
Commission Recorder
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