

DRAFT
MINUTES
ECOLOGY COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING
Cordry Sweetwater Conservancy District
February 5, 2026

1. The monthly meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission was called to order by Randy Brumfield at 6:00 P.M., in the CSCD conference room. Members Present: Randy Brumfield, Tom Golias, (Substitute Interim Recorder), and Shawn Rexroth. Members Absent: Harold Crooks, Matt Rotelli

Others in Attendance: Jayme Golias, Ted Adolay, Brad Hancock, Mike Leavitt

2. **REVIEW AND REVISION OF DRAFT AGENDA:** Additions were made to add updates for the Garden Club and 2025 Deer Reduction Hunt Harvest.
3. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** *Mr. Golias moved to approve the Minutes of the December 4, 2025 meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission; Ms. Rexroth seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*
4. **FREEHOLDER CONCERNS:** There were no concerns.
5. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - a. **Summary Review of CSCD Water/Grounds Superintendent's Report:** Mr. Brumfield reported that ABG Construction was unable to replace the Sweetwater boat ramp in January 2026 as planned due to weather, hopeful that this can be completed in February. Additional work for kayak launch on Nuthatch also planned.
 - b. **Cordry Spillway Update:** Mr. Brumfield reported the gates need to be lowered at the boat ramp, they are too high and it's possible to slip underneath them. Water level at Cordry is at proper level.
 - c. **Pollinator Habitat Update:** No update.
 - d. **Eagle Scout Project Update at Center Lake Park:** Mr. Brumfield reported that an agreement has been signed for CSCD to be the recipient of 6 park benches.
 - e. **Fish Management Options:** Mr. Brumfield reported that the Angler Club and CSCD have reached agreement that as part of each of their 20 scheduled tournaments, CSCD will fund \$1.00 for every largemouth bass under 13 inches that is kept. This amount will be paid to the boat with the heaviest catch of largemouth bass less than 13 inches in that tournament.
 - f. **Dredging Discussion:** No applications received; Mr. Brumfield noted that probing will begin in the spring. Discussion was held regarding possibility of a specified time frame for dredging to reduce sediment/improve water clarity. A request was made that Nick provide the number of dredge projects done per lake over the past two years.
 - g. **CSCD Freeholder Camping Rule Violations Update:** Mr. Brumfield if violations are suspected/found, the property deed needs to be reviewed to determine if camping restrictions on that property had been removed by a bankruptcy judge to allow the freeholder (in the case of bankruptcy)to use the property to make money.
 - h. **CSLOA Ox Roast/Fireworks Plan Update:** Mr. Brumfield reported no update at this time.
 - i. **Zebra Mussel Prevention Committee:** Mr. Brumfield stated the Board did approve continuation of Zebra Mussel Prevention Education, but it was unclear exactly which recommendations were finally approved (test upon boat sticker renewal?). After discussion it was asked that confirmation of final approved actions be done from the Board minutes/recordings/transcript if necessary.
 - j. **Sweetwater Beach Shelter House Review/Discussion:** Mr. Brumfield reported that Roger was reviewing the Board's decision and next steps. A lengthy discussion followed concerning the final Board decision after it was

noted by Ms. Rexroth that what was approved was not what the Ecology and Security Commissions recommended after their meetings. Mr. Brumfield stated that he investigated the proposed 80 occupancy limit on the shelter with the State of Indiana which noted that would be appropriate factoring in tables and chairs but in an open air/side shelter the capacity could be almost unlimited. Discussions with the county determined standing room only could be up to 320 persons. The county employee, Lonnie, visited the site and determined that 106 was an appropriate occupancy level for an event given the space and seating configuration. Mr. Brumfield stated that this was new information he learned after the Ecology Commission meeting and it impacted his views on the issue as a Board member. He also noted that some of the rules proposed by the Ecology/Security Commissions created unintended consequences; for example the Anglers Club would not be able to buy a nominal gift and advertise if for their Kids Fishing Day on Facebook, and advertising a donated kids kayak would also create an issue.

Mr. Golias noted that exceptions for the CSLOA, Anglers Club and Church of the Lakes to advertise were in the proposed rules; Mr. Brumfield stated that those exceptions may come about from the Board. Mr. Golias expressed concern that this new information regarding occupancy had not been shared with the Commission once it was learned. Mr. Brumfield noted the concern but stated that once the recommendation goes to the Board it is in their hands. He acknowledged that at times it is difficult to communicate changes such as this to the Committee due to competing interest with work/life/etc. Mr. Golias stated that every effort to share information with not only the Commissions but freeholders through multiple lines of communication would provide clarity and hopefully avoid rumors and misstatements from being spread instead. He also asked what had been passed by the Board and Mr. Brumfield replied the 106 person occupancy limit for the event, with Roger reviewing the additional rules.

Discussion continued, with different concerns raised about the resignation of some Board and Ecology committee members within the past month. Opinions and various points were raised by committee members throughout the discussion before it was brought to a close.

- k. **Garden Club Update:** Mr. Brumfield shared feedback from his meeting with Libby regarding the recommended changes to the annual rental form. Libby noted that the intent was not that all beds be planted by the end of May, but rather that they be planted during the term of the agreement. The steering committee noted on the form referred to the officers designated for the club.
- l. **Deer Reduction Hunt Update:** Mr. Brumfield reported that the second phase of the hunt from January 3 through 11 the deer reduction hunt resulted in one doe and one buck harvested, for a season ending total of 26 does and 15 bucks. Hunt Coordinator Rusty Fields has reported no issues.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Dredging Applications:** None.
- b. **Ecology Committee Member Vacancies:** There are currently 2 vacancies on the committee to be filled. Discussion was held regarding the recent resignation of Brenda Maudlen from the Committee and the need to have interested and willing freeholders participate and give their time to the Committee. One of the freeholders present at the meeting, Brad Hancock, noted he bought property at the lake this past fall and was interested in serving on the committee. Mr. Brumfield suggested he attend the March meeting when it is hoped more Committee members will be in attendance. The Commission discussed adding Matt Rotelli for another 3-year term.
- c. **Commission Member Concerns:** None.
- d. **Freeholder After-Thoughts:** None

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Golias moved to adjourn the meeting of the Ecology Commission. Mr. Brumfield seconded. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

Tom Golia

Substitute Interim Commission Recorder