

DRAFT
MINUTES
ECOLOGY COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING
Cordry Sweetwater Conservancy District
June 5, 2025

1. The monthly meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission was called to order by Randy Brumfield at 6:05 P.M., in the CSCD conference room. Members Present: Randy Brumfield, Harold Crooks, Tom Golias, Shena Johnson (Substitute Interim Recorder). Members Absent: Charlie Tinkle, Brenda Maulden, and Matt Rotelli. Others In Attendance: Nick Johann (CSCD Operations) + 4 Guests
2. **REVIEW AND REVISION OF DRAFT AGENDA:** No changes were made.
3. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** *Ms. Johnson moved to approve the Minutes of the May 1, 2025 meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission; Mr. Crooks seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*
4. **FREEHOLDER CONCERNS:** Tom Quill, a freeholder residing on Owl Drive, cited some concerns regarding Sweetwater Dam, and requested copies of the specs on the dam from 1965. He noted that the emergency spillway worked as intended during heavy rains in April, but there are concerns that it is insufficient. Mr. Quill noted there is a resource who is knowledgeable about dams who would be willing to discuss same. Mr. Quill inquired as to the elevation of the emergency spillway when the dam was erected. Mr. Johann noted that there are no existing drawings or specs from 1965 available. Mr. Johann stated that we know what the normal pool is, and that the engineering firm is able to calculate what the elevation should be based on the normal pool. The Corps of Engineers is also lacking records. Mr. Quill will inquire at the County in an attempt to locate records.
5. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - a. **CSCD Operations Report: Weed Treatments:** Mr. Johann reported that the ecology of the lakes has changed such that the timing of the weed treatments is still being perfected. Some weed treatments are being performed in-house, but it is difficult to identify the appropriate time to treat to eradicate the majority of the weeds. Mr. Crooks inquired as to the temperature of the lakes, and whether a higher temperature could engender the proliferation of weeds. The first treatment has occurred, so any weeds at the beach are likely dead vegetation floating to the surface.
 - b. **Cordry Lake Spillway:** Mr. Johann reported that the contractor is currently backfilling the downslope side of the spillway, with intention to pour walls and the remaining portion of the road the week of June 22, weather permitting. Mr. Johann has received good feedback on the quality of the ramps, although the project is currently two months behind schedule. The contractor remains motivated to complete the job as soon as possible. Mr. Johann remains hopeful that the electricity will be restored next weekend, such that the Cordry marina can reopen; we are at the mercy of REMC's schedule at this time.
 - c. **Pollinator Habitat Update:** Mr. Brumfield reported that the milkweed plugs purchased through a grant should arrive by Friday, and Ms. Maulden will solicit volunteers to plant same upon their arrival.
 - d. **Bat House Structure Update:** Mr. Brumfield reported that several bat houses have been placed near the tree line by the garden. Mr. Johann noted that there are approximately 28 cedar bat houses remaining that could be placed strategically around the District.
 - e. **America the Beautiful Grant Update:** Mr. Brumfield announced that the task list for May was completed to the satisfaction of the Grantors, such that the District should receive funding in the amount of approximately \$52,000 within the next few weeks. Mr. Brumfield stated that the grant amount will be budgeted by the Ecology Commission for the next few years for Ecology-related projects. Mr. Golias inquired as to whether we would lose that money to projects proffered by other Commissions, and Mr. Brumfield stated that we would not, but it would be difficult to spend the entire amount in one year.
 - f. **Port-O-Pot Surround Mural Update:** Mr. Brumfield reported that Ms. Maulden is working with the freeholder artist on details of this project. Mr. Johann requested that the Port-O-Pot vendor pull them out from the surrounds upon their next visit to empty them, which was granted by the vendor.
6. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. **Dredging Applications:** *After discussion, Mr. Crooks moved to approve dredging application D25-011 submitted by Nicholas Johann on lots WS 18-19 (6373 Sweetwater Drive), as submitted. Ms. Johnson seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*
- b. **Weed Wrangle:** Mr. Crooks will host the third Weed Wrangle of 2025 on Saturday, June 7, from 9 – 11 around the community gardens. Discussion was had regarding the necessity of chainsaws for this endeavor due to the presence of ailanthus near Salmon Drive and a large Autumn Olive; Commission members were generous in offering the use of their chainsaws of various sizes. The July Weed Wrangle date was briefly discussed due to the July 4 holiday.
- c. **Lakes Appreciation Month:** July is Lakes Appreciation Month. CSCD was awarded a grant to raise awareness, which may go toward the purchase of a banner.
- d. **CISMA Creation:** Ms. Maulden is still working with Katie Starr and Dawn Slack regarding same.
- e. **Eagle Scout Project Ideas:** Mr. Brumfield suggested that an Eagle Scout could build bat boxes and place them on a structure that could be raised by a bucket truck onto high poles for bat condos. It was later suggested that an Eagle Scout could work on mapping the trails. It was determined that a kayak launch project would likely be beyond the scope of the project required. A previous Eagle Scout project was the purple martin gourds at the point near Sweetwater beach.
- f. **Light Pollution Concerns:** In response to these concerns, CSLOA will publish information on their website and in their newsletter in an attempt to educate freeholders on how their lights can affect others. We will also include information on the CSCD website. Discussion was had regarding motion lights or shields that could aim the lights toward the water.
- g. **Commission Member Concerns:** Mr. Brumfield noted that he and Mr. Johann are seeking further guidance regarding an in-house weed treatment program.
- h. **Freeholder After-Thoughts:** It was established that the District is responsible for mowing the rights-of-way in the District. Brief discussion was had regarding the construction of a trail between the fire station and the beach, and the history of the budget requests made by the Ecology Commission in previous years regarding same.

FY 2026 Strategic Plan & Budget Development Plan : Former Commission Member Jim Donnellis, along with Mr. Brumfield, facilitated the budget planning workshop in the development of the ECOLOGY budget proposal for FY 2026. The Commission finalized the categorization of all 60 concerns raised by commission members over the last 3 months and prioritized the major concerns that will comprise the final Budget Proposal of the ECOLOGY Commission for FY2026.

ADJOURNMENT: Discussion among commission members about possibly rescheduling the July 3rd Ecology meeting due to the date falling the evening before a busy holiday. It was decided to still plan for the scheduled date and see who's available. Ms. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting of the Ecology Commission. Mr. Crooks seconded. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

Shena Johnson

Substitute Interim Commission Recorder

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