

MINUTES

ECOLOGY COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING

Cordry Sweetwater Conservancy District

1 June, 2023

- A. The monthly meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission was called to order by commission chair, Herb Benshoof, at 6:00 P.M. on 1 June, 2023, in the CSCD conference room.
- B. Members Present: Herb Benshoof (Board), Brenda Maulden, Ty Cooper, Randy Brumfield, Shena Johnson, & Jim Donnell (Recorder).
- C. Members Absent: Sunny Leerkamp (CSLOA)
- D. Others in Attendance: Nick Johann (Director of CSCD Operations)
- E. (6:00 P.M.) *Shena Johnson moved to approve the Minutes of the 15 May, 2023 meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission; Randy Brumfield seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*
- F. (6:05 P.M.) **FREEHOLDER CONCERNS**: None
- G. **OLD BUSINESS** :
1. (6:05 P.M.) **CSCD OPERATIONS REPORT (Nick)**: Nick Johann provided progress reports on myriad projects of interest to ECOLOGY including:
 - a. **Aquatic Control Inc.** has completed the annual **aquatic weeds surveys** in our lakes that we contracted for. Treatment for curly leaf pondweed is scheduled for 6 June. Treatments to eradicate Eurasian milfoil will follow in July.
 - b. **Pickleball** court striping will be done on the preapproved fire station parking lot on 14 June, weather permitting.
 - c. **Cordry Lake Spillway Repair** - Final engineering refinements are expected to be delivered to us later this month, at which time the project can go out to bid.
 - d. **Zebra Mussel Prevention Program**: Nick Johann briefed the commission that we have a hired two CSCD Boat Stewards for the season. Nick will soon advertise the need for volunteers to help them with her duties so that concerned freeholders can sign up to be trained and help with our CSCD zebra mussel protection program this boating season.
 - e. **Bollards** to prevent unauthorized vehicular beach access will be emplaced this fall so that no vehicles, boats or trailers can access the lakes except at the authorized boat launch ramps, after unlocking the barrier chain locks.
 - f. **Deer Hunt Update**: Per Shena Johnson, over 220 deer hunt post cards have been returned, completed by freeholders to authorize (or deny) deer hunt access to their properties, to date. Several email responses have also been received.
 2. (6:20 P.M.) **JOINT (Ecology/Security) WAKE BOAT STUDY COMMITTEE UPDATE**: No Update
 3. (6:25 P.M.) **JOINT PROJECT w/CSLOA –EDUCATIONAL PAMPHLET FOR FREEHOLDERS**: Brenda Maulden updated the commission on the ongoing progress with CSLOA to compile and publish this much-anticipated freeholder and new-resident resource.
 4. (6:30 P.M.) **POLLINATOR HABITAT UPDATE**: SCI-REMC employees were on site to mow down and clear the designated “Pollinator Habitat,” (area across the street from the beach) in preparation for anticipated seed planting this fall. Four (4) men with 2 trucks and 2 large mowers donated many hours of field work on 19-23 May to accomplish our much needed land clearing goals. It is estimated that \$ 14,000 worth of work was donated by these men on behalf of SCI-REMC to prepare our designated “Pollinator Habitat” for fall seeding. Randy Brumfield has agreed to donate his time this fall to perform final prep of the cleared land before seeding. A Grant application has been completed and submitted to the office of the Brown County Soil & Water Conservation District with hopes of receiving up to \$7,500 grant money to fund seed purchase for the Pollinator Habitat project.

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H. **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. (6:55 P.M.) **DREDGING APPLICATIONS:** None

2. (6:55 P.M.) **FREEHOLDER CONCERNS:** None

3. (6:55 P.M.) **COMMISSION MEMBER CONCERNS:**

a. Jim Donnell's relayed a request from Eric Fischer (Indiana DNR) for CSCD to consider participating in a major effort to educate boaters on the importance and principles of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) spread prevention and to gather data regarding those educational and related boat/trailer inspection efforts during the period 23 June-9 July. This project would be contributing to Indiana DNR's participation in a "Great Lakes Boat Landing Blitz," sponsored by the Alliance for the Great Lakes. After discussion, it was agreed that our boat steward team of employees and volunteers could and would participate as requested by Indiana DNR. Jim Donnell's will work with the boat stewards to prepare for our CSCD participation in this "Boat Landing Blitz."

b. Jim Donnell's also relayed information from Sunny Leerkamp (in her absence) regarding an event sponsored by the Brown County League of Women Voters in Nashville on 22 July. This event is billed as a "Pollinator Fest" and will be held at the 4-H Fairgrounds from 12:30-3:30 P.M. Brenda Maulden expressed interest in participating in this event along with Sunny Leerkamp.

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

5. (7:00 P.M.) **STRATEGIC PLANNING/BUDGETING WORKSHOP:** Jim Donnell's facilitated a Strategic Planning / Budgeting "Prioritization Workshop" which focused on creating a FY 2024 Ecology Budget Proposal.

I. **ADJOURNMENT:** *Sheena Johnson moved to adjourn the 1 June, meeting of the Ecology Commission. Randy Brumfield seconded. The motion passed.* The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

JIM DONNELLS

Commission Recorder

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