

DRAFT
MINUTES
ECOLOGY COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING
Cordry Sweetwater Conservancy District
2 June, 2022

- A. The monthly meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission was called to order by Commission Chairman, Rick Normington, at 6:00 P.M. on 2 June, 2022, in the CSCD conference room.
- B. Members Present: Rick Normington, Josh Edwards (Board), Ty Cooper, Sunny Leerkamp (CSLOA) and Jim Donnell (Recorder).
- C. Members Absent: Brenda Maulden & Randy Brumfield
- D. Others in Attendance: 3 guest freeholders
- E. *Josh Edwards moved to approve the Minutes of the 5 May, 2022 meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission; Ty Cooper seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*
- F. **FREEHOLDER CONCERNS**: Freeholder Sharon Grimm appeared before the Commission to explain the email sent by her son, a nuclear engineer living in Michigan, to the CSCD Board on 25 April, regarding “Abnormal Water Levels in Sweetwater Lake: Low-Cost Fixes.” Her son was raised here in CSCD and knows of the frequent red-light, “no-wake” boating restrictions on SW lake due to high lake levels after storms. Sharon Grimm explained in clear detail the outflow drainage problem existing at the entrance to the SW spillway. Nick Johann agreed to have CSCD personnel visit the spillway next week, assess the blockage situation, and take necessary steps to increase the outflow capacity of the spillway by whatever procedure deemed necessary. Sharon Grimm was thanked for her bringing this issue to our attention and was asked to thank her son, an engineer, for his interest and expertise in this matter.
- G. **OLD BUSINESS** :
1. (6:10 P.M.) **CSCD OPERATIONS REPORT**: Nick Johann provided progress reports on projects of interest to ECOLOGY including: progress on the bidding process for the Rebuild of the Cordry Lake Spillway is on track for later this year; Geotechnical testing on Cordry Dam will soon be conducted by engineers and, on that date, the road over Cordry Dam will be closed; Work is wrapping up with the water line being laid for the newly purchased “Hotsy” boat/trailer decontamination equipment at Centerlake Park as part of the Zebra Mussel Prevention Action Plan; A team from “Aquatic Control,” our lake weed treatment contractor, will be treating for aquatic weeds (Eurasian milfoil) in both CSCD lakes next Friday. A discussion ensued about changing the date from Friday (impacts weekends) to the middle of the week so as to have better dilution of the treatment chemicals before the heavy weekend use. Nick will see if the treatment date can be changed. Also, curly leaf pondweed will be treated by the end of June according to our contract. Additionally, an update on the coffer dam issue on Bass & Bluegill Drives was provided (still seeking bids).
 2. (6:20 P.M.) **DREDGING APPLICATION**: : *Jim Donnell moved to APPROVE the Dredging Application submitted jointly by Sunny Leerkamp and Robert & Katherine Taylor at lots SW426 – SW428 (6486 Coyote Drive and 6447 Cougar Drive) as submitted. Josh Edwards seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*
 3. (6:25 P.M.) **ZEBRA MUSSEL PREVENTION INITIATIVE UPDATE**.
 - a. Nick Johann reported that the planned-for barrier chains for both lake boat ramps have been approved by the CSCD Board and are to be installed by June 15th.
 - b. Katie Starr, the newly hired “Boat Steward” along with several volunteer boat stewards, have begun boat & trailer inspections at both boat ramps. To date, no issues have arisen and in fact, all freeholder interactions in this program have been congenial and very well received. Nearly all boaters have expressed extreme gratitude at what the boat stewards and CSCD are doing to keep zebra mussels out of our lakes.
 4. (6:35 P.M.) **SENTINEL LANDSCAPE PROGRAM INITIATIVE**: No update available. Jim Donnell will re-contact the IU coordination office charged with managing this program to get an update before the next meeting.

(OVER >>>)

5. (6:40 P.M.) **IU CLEAN LAKES PROGRAM SUPPORT:** Nick Johann has contacted Professor Melissa Laney of the IU Clean Lakes Program to work out the details and pricing of a revisit to our lakes later this summer to re-sample water in our coves and outlets for follow-on testing for contaminants. Our hope is to compare summer results with our most favorable spring results to analyze the impact, if any, on our lakes from the heavy summer usage of the lakes and septic systems surrounding them.

5. (6:45 P.M.) **POLLINATOR HABITAT INITIATIVE UPDATE:** Katie Starr, in attendance, reported that she is pursuing grant money from various sources to breathe new life into this project this summer. She is developing startup plans for this fall with hopes of preparing the designated area across from the beach for the planting of pollinator seeds before winter.

H. **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. (6:50 P.M.) **FREEHOLDER CONCERNS:** None

2. (6:50 P.M.) **COMMISSION MEMBER CONCERNS:** A commission member reports that he has heard that an apparent sump pump has been installed and operating in the north end of Cordry Lake, creating a visible current in the water. He asks that the CSCD office look into this report to determine if continued operation of this device in our lakes is authorized and poses no problem for others. Nick Johann agreed to look into the matter.

3. (6:55 P.M.) **BUDGET PLANNING WORKSHOP:** The Commission continued its FY 2023 budget planning process by conducting their annual “Prioritization” workshop. All actions recommended by the commission for next year’s budget year were prioritized and prepared for submission to the CSCD Board for approval.

4. The next meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission is scheduled for Thursday, **7 July**, at 6:00 P.M. in the CSCD conference room. A draft Agenda for that meeting was developed

I. **ADJOURNMENT:** *Sunny Leerkamp moved to adjourn the 2 June, meeting of the Ecology Commission. Ty Cooper seconded. The motion passed.* The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

JIM DONNELLS
Commission Recorder
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