

**DRAFT**

**MINUTES**

**ECOLOGY COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING**

Cordry Sweetwater Conservancy District

**7 MAR, 2019**

- A. The monthly meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission was called to order by Commission Chairman, Rick Normington, at 6:00 P.M. on 7 March, 2019, at the CSCD conference room. It was noted that the meeting scheduled for 7 February, 2019, was cancelled due to threatening weather and member unavailability.
- B. Members Present: Rick Normington, Sunny Leerkamp (CSLOA), Randy Brumfield, Brenda Maulden, & Jim Donnell (Recorder ); Josh Edwards ( Board ) arrived late due to an unscheduled Board Executive meeting.
- C. Members Absent: Ty Cooper
- D. Others in Attendance: 5 Guests
- E. *Brenda Maulden moved to approve the Minutes of the 6 December, 2018, meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission; Randy Brumfield seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*
- F. FREEHOLDER CONCERNS: None
- G. **OLD BUSINESS** :

1. ( 6:05 P.M. ) **REVIEW OF CSCD WATER/GROUNDS SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT ( Josh H. )**: Josh's update covered progress reports on projects of interest to ECOLOGY including: Trail 5 Extension work progress; a planned sediment pond to catch silt before it enters the lake on Sweetwater Lake; plans for coffer dam repairs on Antelope Drive; updates on a project to remedy problems with the coffer dam on Grizzly/Elk Drives; and an update to the major project to repair the drainage pipe leak and erosion on Sweetwater Dam. Additionally, he noted that the Garden Club is gearing up for the new growing season. Josh also briefed the Commission on his growing concern over the potential for the introduction of non-native invasive species into our lakes from boats and trailers that come to our lakes from other surrounding waterways without a thorough washdown and drainage of ballast tanks and livewells. Specifically, the threat of an irreversible infestation of zebra mussels and/or quagga mussels is significant and growing every year as surrounding waterways, including Geist Reservoir and the Ohio River, are already infested. Josh will be developing an Action Plan to address his and our concerns.

2. ( 6:15 P.M. ) **WALKING/JOGGING TRAIL INITIATIVE ( Josh H. )**: Josh pointed out that there was a survey conducted on Facebook to evaluate freeholder support for our proposed Walking/Jogging Trail Initiative. The survey produced only 315 respondents, with 46% ( 145 freeholders ) in FAVOR of the trails and 54% ( 170 freeholders ) AGAINST the trails. The Commission discussed these results and concern was expressed regarding both the wording of the survey and the validity of the results based on the limited distribution of the survey to only Facebook users. Further discussion of this initiative was tabled until Ecology Budget Priorities discussions later this Spring. Sunny Leerkamp offered to get CSLOA involved in generating more freeholder information and interest for this Trails Initiative.

3. **POLLINATOR HABITAT UPDATE ( Brenda )**: No significant activity update

4. ( 6:30 P.M. ) **DEER HERD CONSERVATION INITIATIVE ( Rick )**: The Commission reviewed the finalized "Report of the Hunt" for 2018 in the CSCD, prepared by our CHAP coordinator, Rusty Fields, for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR). All agreed that this first deer hunt season, under the auspices of a Deer Reduction Zone and Community Hunt Access Program (CHAP), was a success from all vantage points. Planning and preparations are already under way by the CSCD Deer Reduction Committee for next year's hunt. Concern was expressed regarding the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in neighboring states and it was emphasized that Indiana DNR biologists are not yet concerned about CWD in the Indiana herd, but they continue to monitor its absence in all surrounding Indiana counties for 2018. Brenda Maulden briefed the Commission on her representation of the CSCD at a recent CHAP Coordinator Conference held at Fort Harrison State Park.

**( OVER >>> )**

**H. NEW BUSINESS :** ( 6:45 P.M. )

1. After a brief discussion on annual Aquatic Weed Control measures managed by the ECOLOGY Commission, ***Sunny Leerkamp moved to approve the proposed contract with Aquatic Control Inc., for not more than \$ 45,000, to provide aquatic weed control measures in our lakes for the 2019 season. Randy Brumfield seconded. The motion passed unanimously.***

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

- a. There is a report of beavers near Laurel Drive. Josh Hawley will investigate and deal with them if found.
- b. There is a downed tree in Sweetwater Lake blocking the cove between Grizzly & Greywolf Drives. The CSCD office has been notified to ensure that the responsible freeholder removes it in a timely manner.
- c. Rick Normington and Randy Brumfield raised an issue of interest to the Anglers Club. After a detailed discussion, ***Randy Brumfield moved and Sunny Leerkamp seconded the following change to the current CSCD Fishing Rules:***

**Proposed Amendment to CSCD RESOLUTION NO. 2018-4, dated 20 March, 2018, “Regulating the Taking of Fish from Cordry and Sweetwater Lakes and Providing for Penalties for Violations Thereof”:**

***Paragraph 1.1 to be changed to read: “Smallmouth and largemouth bass: No fish measuring between thirteen inches (13”) and sixteen inches (16”) may be harvested. One (1) fish over sixteen (16”) may be harvested. Aggregate daily possession limit of smallmouth and/or largemouth bass per angler is \*ten (10).” Similarly, it is proposed that “Anglers participating in a CSCD Anglers Club-sponsored tournament would be legally entitled to harvest not more than \*ten (10) smallmouth and/or largemouth bass...”***

Note: \* ***underlined parts*** reflect the proposed changes to this RESOLUTION, increasing daily creel limits of smallmouth and/or largemouth bass from five (5) to ten (10), effective immediately upon adoption of this amendment by the CSCD Board.

**3. FREEHOLDER AFTER-THOUGHTS:** ( 7:00 P.M. )

- a. Sam Banter and Julie Ann Sheehan appeared to determine the status of their request to maintain bee hives on CSCD property for the purpose of preserving the bee populations, improving local pollination, and harvesting honey. The Commission had previously discussed this request of 4 months ago and reported to them that their request has been APPROVED. They will work with Josh Hawley to work out the details of an appropriate location for their bee hives on CSCD-maintained property.
  - b. Josh Hawley reported that 45 muskrats have been trapped and removed from the lakes so far this winter.
- I. The next meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission is scheduled for Thursday, 4 April, 2019, at 6:00 P.M. in the CSCD conference room. A draft Agenda for that meeting was developed. **ALSO, the Commission decided to postpone their scheduled July 4<sup>th</sup> meeting by 1 week to July 11<sup>th</sup> due to the Independence Day Holiday.**
- J. A brief ECOLOGY Budget meeting ( review of FY 2019 budget figures ) was conducted.
- K. **ADJOURNMENT:** ***Sunny Leerkamp moved to adjourn the March meeting of the Ecology Commission. Randy Brumfield seconded. The motion passed.*** The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

**JIM DONNELLS**

Commission Recorder

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