

DRAFT
MINUTES
ECOLOGY COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING
Cordry Sweetwater Conservancy District
3 March, 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 3 March, 2022, in the CSCD conference room.
- B. Members Present: Rick Normington, Josh Edwards (Board), Ty Cooper, and Jim Donnell (Recorder).
- C. Members Absent: Brenda Maulden, Randy Brumfield, & Sunny Leerkamp (CSLOA)
- D. Others in Attendance: Nick Johann (CSCD Operations Manager) + 2 freeholders
- E. *Ty Cooper moved to approve the Minutes of the 2 December, 2021 meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission; Josh Edwards seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*
- F. FREEHOLDER CONCERNS: None
- G. OLD BUSINESS :
1. (6:10 P.M.) **CSCD OPERATIONS REPORT**: Nick Johann provided an update that covered progress reports on projects of interest to ECOLOGY including: There were 145 muskrats removed from our lakes this last winter by Rusty Fields, our animal control contractor; plans for an annual Canada Goose roundup in June/July are underway; and a detailed update on the major reconstruction of the Cordry Lake Spillway was provided. Burke Engineering has completed their design work for the Cordry Spillway Reconstruction project and one copy of the detailed design plan was provided to the Commission. An electronic copy of that plan will be provided to all commission members for review. In summary, the plan calls for construction contract development and bidding in FY 2022; reconstruction work beginning in late fall of FY 2023; and work completion in early FY 2024 (early spring). Engineering design and repair of Sweetwater Spillway will be pursued in the out years (TBD), beyond 2024. During the reconstruction of the Cordry Spillway, it is anticipated that the lake level will be lowered by up to 10' for the 3-4 (winter) month duration of the project. Cost estimate for the Cordry Spillway project is \$1.6 million.
 2. (6:30 P.M.) **DEER CONSERVATION HUNT UPDATE**: To date, 26 deer (mostly does) have been taken by hunters in this year's CSCD Deer Reduction Hunt. It was further reported that the Indiana DNR grant program for deer reduction hunts has ended, therefore, a deer reduction hunt in the 2022/2023 season is in question. No CSCD monies have been approved to pay for a CSCD hunt that had been funded from DNR grants over the last 4 years.
 3. (6:40 P.M.) **ZEBRA MUSSEL PREVENTION INITIATIVE UPDATE**. Nick Johann reports that:
 - a. The CSCD Board and the Operations Director are working on a CSCD Resolution that will require all freeholders to ensure that their transient boats, trailers, and boating equipment are free of zebra mussels before launching into our lakes.
 - b. The planned-for "Hotsy," high pressure, hot water decontamination device has been procured for the upcoming boating season and is currently on hand at the CSCD Maintenance shed. A tentative boat/trailer decon site has been selected in Centerlake Park, near the water tower.
 - c. Planned-for security cameras are being researched by Matt Peterson of the Security Commission. Once procured, they will be emplaced in locations to ensure boater compliance with zebra mussel prevention procedures.
 - d. Boat launch ramp control measures as outlined in the ZM Action Plan (locked chain barrier with electronic pass cards for freeholder access after-hours) are on hold by the CSCD Board of Directors. It was pointed out by the ECOLOGY Commission that without access control facilities in place on 1 April, 2022, all other Zebra Mussel prevention efforts are useless and a waste of money. Without total control over boat launch activities 24/7, all other prevention measures are wasted efforts.
 - e. The "Boat Steward" position job opening has been posted on the CSCD website as of 1 March. The Boat Steward will oversee and manage the entire Zebra Mussel Prevention Program as created by the Zebra Mussel Prevention Committee, approved by the ECOLOGY Commission, and approved by the CSCD Board last year.

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f. It was further reported that 215 freeholders have completed and passed the required “Zebra Mussel Prevention Online Course and Test,” to date. ***All boat-owning freeholders are required to successfully complete this online course, and a score of 100% in the 20-question certification test will be required in order to be eligible to purchase boat stickers for the 2022/ 2023 boating seasons.***

H. **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. (6:45 P.M.) **FREEHOLDER CONCERNS:** None

2. (6:45 P.M.) **IU CLEAN LAKES PROGRAM SUPPORT:** Thanks to efforts of the previous Conservancy Manager, IU Professor Melissa Laney and a 20 graduate-student Limnology Class from the Bloomington IU campus have adopted our CSCD lakes for annual Limnology (study of lake water quality) studies. The Class is divided into 4 teams: **Limnology** (water testing for chemical and biological contaminants); **Education and Outreach**; **Wildlife Management** (esp. Canada geese); and **GIS Integration**. The Limnology/Water Quality Team will be on both of our lakes this Saturday to take water samples from multiple coves on both of our lakes for extensive testing for contaminants. Sampling locations will be GPS recorded in GIS for continuity purposes in future testing events.

3. (6:55 P.M.) **SENTINEL LANDSCAPE PROGRAM INITIATIVE:** Jim Donnellis informed the Commission on the contents of a newspaper article (Indy Star) outlining a recently announced program that awards millions of dollars to the State of Indiana to be used to rehabilitate and protect private lands and waterways surrounding military installations (e.g. Camp Atterbury & Crane Naval Base). The Commission would like to pursue more information regarding this federal funding program to see if we qualify for inclusion in these grant proceeds. Jim Donnellis agreed to contact IU Professor Christian Freitag, the designated Program Coordinator, for further information of interest to CSCD.

4. (7:00 P.M.) **COMMISSION MEMBER CONCERNS:** Randy Brumfield (in absentia) expressed concern over the number of freeholders who are installing underwater lighting around their docks in the lakes. He suggests some measure be taken to ensure only approved low voltage and/or DC lighting be used by freeholders for underwater lighting equipment to ensure no electric shock to swimmers occurs as a result of unauthorized lighting being used.

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

I. **ADJOURNMENT:** *Ty Cooper moved to adjourn the 3 March, meeting of the Ecology Commission. Rick Normington seconded. The motion passed.* The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

JIM DONNELLS
Commission Recorder
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