

DRAFT
MINUTES
ECOLOGY COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING

Cordry Sweetwater Conservancy District
May 7, 2026

1. The April meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission was called to order by Randy Brumfield at 6:09 PM in the CSCD conference room.

Members Present: Randy Brumfield, Tom Golias, Harold Crooks, Shawn Rexroth, Matt Rotelli

Members absent:

Others in Attendance: Shena Johnson

2. **REVIEW AND REVISION OF DRAFT AGENDA:** *Mr. Brumfield proposed adding an update from Shena Johnson regarding a review of proposed revisions to the CSCD Rules and Regulations. Mr. Golias proposed adding a review of the Controlled Deer Hunt. Mr. Rotelli moved to approve the revised Agenda; Mr. Crooks seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*
3. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** *Ms. Rexroth moved to approve the Minutes of April 2, 2026, meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission; Mr. Rotelli seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*
4. **FREEHOLDER CONCERNS:** None.
5. **REVIEW OF DRAFT RULES AND REGULATIONS:** Ms. Johnson reviewed freeholder submitted revisions to the draft CSCD Rules and Regulations. Sections covered included zebra mussel management, camper restrictions, bass fishing regulations and e-bike use in the district. The commission discussed apparent confusion around fishing regulations, particularly regarding size and slot limits for largemouth and smallmouth bass, and distinguishing features between the two species. The decision was made to clarify language around "harvesting" in regulations. E-bike use on nature trails was reviewed, with consensus to maintain the current rule prohibiting off-road vehicles, snowmobiles, and motorized vehicles, including e-bikes and regular bikes, on nature trails.
6. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - a. **Summary Review of CSCD Water/Grounds Superintendent's Report:** Mr. Brumfield provided several topics for information and discussion including security concerns about a tent found in the woods and a person sleeping at the community garden, which was reported to the non-emergency line. The commission reviewed work barge procedures and decontamination processes as well as what nearby lakes (Lamb Lake) requires which is a \$500 deposit requirement. The team also discussed herbicide treatment plans, with Mr. Brumfield explaining they ordered an oil-based product that should be more effective at permeating tree stems compared to their current herbicide. The conversation ended with a brief discussion about boat inspections being conducted by boat stewards.
 - b. **Pollinator Habitat Update:** The commission had a follow-up discussion from the last meeting regarding the management of the pollinator habitat area. Mr. Rotelli raised the question of when to mow, noting the presence of invasive plants like bush clover, sweet clover, teasel, and creeping thistle. Mr. Brumfield suggested using glyphosate on specific areas before mowing to control invasives while allowing desired plants to grow, with discussion around the implementation of a burn plan to be

managed by the fire department. A burn should occur after year 3 and that the pollinator habitat is currently excluded from burn plans. Matt and Harold scheduled a meeting for Saturday, May 9th at 10:00 AM to map out the habitat area using ribbon and stakes. The group also discussed clearing and mulching progress, with plans discussed to handle debris.

- c. **Weed Wrangle:** Mr. Crooks stated that the next Weed Wrangle would be held on June 7th, with participants meeting at the fire station shelter house. The commission discussed plans for treating invasive plants in the pollinator habitat area, proposing to conduct the treatment in June if pre-mowing treatment is not required. Mr. Brumfield explained the best timing for herbicide application would be early spring or late fall, using a specialized mixture with methylated acetyl to penetrate waxy leaves. The group agreed to meet on Saturday, May 9th at 10 AM to test application methods in the pollinator area, with plans to address both bush honeysuckle and a vine growing on nearby sycamore trees
- d. **Eagle Scout Project Update at Center Lake Park:** Mr. Brumfield noted the completion of the Eagle Scout project that included donating and building six new picnic tables located behind the fire house. There was \$250 left over from the initial fund which will be used for additional bird houses/habitat.
- e. **Dredging Discussion:** The group discussed probing and addressing debris accumulation in specific cove areas (Gray Wolf, Aspen), with plans to start probing soon. Mr. Brumfield mentioned beginning the budget process for 2027 in the coming month and the need to start budgeting for more dredging on both lakes over the next few budget years to get on a rotational cycle.
- f. **Garden Club Update:** Brittany reported that the Garden Club is now managing their own finances internally, with Brittany tracking the money and only the steering committee having access to funds..
- g. **Barge Permits and Rules:** As a follow up from the April meeting, the commission discussed contractor permit fees and bond requirements with debate over whether to implement a \$500 annual permit fee or require a \$50,000 bond. Some expressed concern about the cost impact on contractors, particularly given that many may already be bonded. Mr. Brumfield suggested adjusting bond requirements for contractors with a reduction from \$50,000 to \$20,000, which falls within the typical range of \$25,000-\$75,000 for environmental pollution bonds. The team also reviewed barge docking regulations, agreeing that contractors should only park at active worksites and not at freeholder ramps, with a three-day limit requiring separate approval for longer stays. Additional requirements were discussed including prominently displaying contractor names on barges, maintaining proper permits, safety protocols and training as well as preventing metal-to-ramp concrete contact during loading and unloading. It was proposed that barge operators should pass the boat safety course and that company supervisors should be responsible for ensuring their employees are trained, rather than requiring every individual to take the test. The discussion also covered liability concerns and the need to reference specific sections of CSED guidelines rather than general boating safety requirements. Mr. Golias noted the proposed updates to the CSCD rules and regulations, mentioning specific sections that should be included to cover lake traffic and safety requirements.

Mr. Brumfield noted that the Security Commission agreed with our recommendations initially drafted in April and updated today:

- \$500 annual contractor permit fee
- Bond requirement for each contractor at a \$25,000 level
- No contractor barge parking at community docks or ramps
- No barge docking longer than 3 days unless approved separately by CSCD staff
- Prominently display contractor name on barge
- Clearly display CSCD issued permit on barge
- Contractors will not modify any contractor ramps
- Contractors will not use freeholder ramps
- No metal to ramp concrete contact in the loading/unloading of barges
- All contractors comply with section 2021-04 of CSCD guidelines

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Dredging Applications:** None received.
- b. **Controlled Deer Hunt:** Mr. Golias raised the need for a re-survey regarding property owners' preferences for hunting in CSCDs deer reduction zone since it has been three years and many properties have changed ownership. He highlighted ecological and health reasons for controlling deer populations, including damage to the landscape, vehicle collisions, and the potential spread of tick-borne Lyme disease. The impact of a fatal disease that strikes overpopulated deer herds, epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) was discussed as this did kill deer this past fall in Brown County including Camp Atterbury. Mr. Golias shared his conversation with Rusty Fields, the Deer Hunt Coordinator, about the need to expand access for the controlled archery reduction hunt into the CSCD property around the hiking trails. Initial thoughts would be that it would be available only for experienced hunters, focusing on areas away from trails, while ensuring public access remains available. Mr. Rotelli emphasized the importance of updating property owners about hunting permissions and suggested reviewing information about the current and recommended deer population to help determine appropriate hunting harvest targets based on DNR guidelines. Mr. Golias agreed to research this information, work with Rusty to develop a specific plan and report to the commission.
- c. **Fish Population Management:** Mr. Brumfield noted the fishing tournament results for largemouth bass under 13 inches, reporting they have removed around 90-115 fish per event. Ms. Rexroth asked what the recommended target of undersized bass was per year, and Mr. Brumfield was shared it was approximately 12,000 pounds of fish. She noted that while the Angler's Club was making good progress it couldn't remove enough fish alone, and a community-wide effort spanning the fishing season could help meet the quantities needed. Ms. Rexroth proposed a community management initiative where freeholders who wanted to help out and fish but not keep them could collect fish throughout the summer and donate small largemouth bass (under 13 inches) to a freezer at the shelter house for wildlife donation, accompanied by educational materials about fish handling and recipes.. The group discussed logistics, including freezer placement, power access, and potential rules about fish disposal, ultimately deciding to start with one freezer at the shelter house and assess usage before expansion. Ms. Rexroth agreed to investigate further and report to the commission.
- d. **Commission Member Concerns:** None.
- e. **Freeholder After-Thoughts:** None.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Rotelli moved to adjourn the meeting of the Ecology Commission. Mr. Brumfield seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Tom Golias
Secretary