

DRAFT
MINUTES
ECOLOGY COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING
Cordry Sweetwater Conservancy District
NOVEMBER 6, 2025

1. The monthly meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission was called to order by Randy Brumfield at 6:20 P.M., in the CSCD conference room.
Members Present: Randy Brumfield, Shena Johnson, Harold Crooks, Tom Golias, and Brenda Maulden- Interim Recorder.
Members Absent: Matt Rotelli, Shawn Rexroth
Others In Attendance: Nick Johann, Tom Quill, Jim Maulden, Jamie Johann, Libby Saunders, Bob Lonsinger, Jayme Golias
2. **REVIEW AND REVISION OF DRAFT AGENDA:** Add Bluebird Trail/Purple Martin 2025 count
3. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** *Shena Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2025 Ecology Commission meeting. Tom Golias seconded the motion. All in favor.*
4. **FREEHOLDER CONCERNS:** None
5. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - a. **CSCD Operations Report:** (Nick Johann)
 - Beach shelters have been closed and winterized for the season.
 - “Danger Tree” survey to be conducted around the conservancy.
 - Dam inspections for Cordry and Sweetwater by DNR has been completed; inspection report should be received by CSCD by December or January.
 - Sweetwater Overflow repair discussion- Camera inspection through pipe. Plan to remove some bars on pipe spillway to prevent debris clogs which should allow water to flow more freely and keep water level from going red as often.
 - Grizzly/Groundhog erosion control**Cordry Lake Spillway:**
 - Cordry Spillway punch-list still being worked on. 200K in payment to contractor being withheld until all tasks satisfied.
 - Engineers still have not approved finished project.
 - Ramp gates still need to be installed. There has been a delay in the delivery of them.
 - b. **Deer Reduction Hunt Information**
 - Harvest-to-date totals: 16 Does, 8 Bucks
 - First half last day of the Reduction hunt is Friday, November 14, 2025.
 - Second half of the Reduction Hunt begins Saturday, January 3, 2026 through Sunday, January 11, 2026
 - Discussion of possibly expanding hunt to certain trail areas for 2026/2027 hunt-tabled and will revisit at a later date.
 - c. **Pollinator Habitat Update.** Will review prescribed habitat management plans over the next few months to prepare for spring burns and mowing schedule.
 - d. **Bluebird/Purple Martin 2025 Nest Counts from Neil Crum**
328 Purple Martins (1,452 total since 2019)
158 Bluebirds (783 total since 2021)
139 Tree Swallows (659 total since 2021)
63 Chickadees (259 total since 2021)
38 Wrens (88 total since 2021)
*Special THANKS goes to volunteer nest checkers Dale Onken, Lauren Pennington, and Matt & Jan Murtha who inspected each nest weekly during the nesting season and kept important records on their observations.

- e. **America the Beautiful Grant Update:** Want to be sure that portion of grant funds that were received go towards replacement native plantings at the CSLOA, CSCD office, CSVFD, and Sweetwater shelter areas.
- f. **Port-O-Pot Surround Mural Update:** Confirm that Susi Williams has been reimbursed for materials.
- g. **Eagle Scout Project:** No current update information.
- h. **CSLOA Fireworks/Ox Roast (Brenda)** No additional information was shared at October CSLOA meeting
- i. **Fish Management Options (Randy)** January/February Anglers Club meetings will discuss and plan for Cull Tournament discussion with CSCD cooperation. Tournament spanning 19 weeks plans to cull bass under 13" to potentially take place beginning in April 2026 and available to all freeholders regardless of Anglers Club member status.
- j. **Dredging Discussion (Randy)** Internal survey of coves to determine where dredge needed. Brenda Maulden volunteered to help with on-water survey to mark areas of coves that are shallower than 3'. Potential dredge dump site; look at gully area behind tree line on east side of baseball diamond.
- k. **Violation of CSCD Freeholder Camping Rules (Randy)** Waiting to hear back from Roger Young who has contracted experienced help in researching the abstracts for each potential property violation before sending out letters to the respective freeholders.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Dredging Applications: Shena Johnson made Motion to Approve. Seconded by Tom Golias. All in favor.**
 - **D25-021-Hughes-7722 Hackberry Drive,**
 - **D25-022-Lind-7420 Ginko Drive,**
 - **D25-023-Brasseur-7040 Muskrat Drive**

*Discussion about recent incident regarding hydraulic hose rupture on contractor's barge excavator resulting in a hydraulic fluid spill. Nick was called and spill was contained with pig-mat absorbent material that the CSVFD had on hand. Need to create standard procedures for immediate reporting and remediation and make sure contractors have emergency contact information and avenue where CSCD can recover cost for remediation from incidents from the contractor.
- b. **CSCD Community Garden Club-** Garden Club chair Libby Saunders along with sub-committee member Bob Lonsinger attended this meeting at the request of the Ecology Commission to review the activities and future expectations of Garden Club. Garden Club renters will need to sign a yearly agreement which will be kept on file along with the minutes of the Garden Club meetings, financial records of rent monies received and expenditures. The Garden Club committee will need to provide the Ecology Commission with updates and a plan for expenditures so that it can be worked into the yearly Ecology budgeting plan. Request for any maintenance work or purchases must go through Ecology who will then forward the request to the office so work orders can be created; this should streamline the request process going forward.
- c. **Weed Wrangle:** The Weed Wrangle held on November 1st at Sweetwater Marina Park cleared all invasives and treated stumps with glyphosate. No Weed Wrangles are scheduled for December, January or February. However, if any experienced Wranglers would like to get out on their own to work on district property during this downtime, please contact Brenda Maulden to pick up Wrangle supplies.
- d. **Indiana Lake Management Society Annual Conference- March 26th and 27th in Plymouth Indiana.** Very informative conference with numerous break-out sessions pertaining to a variety of topics relating to lakes and watershed management. Great to source for vendors and making valuable contacts with other lake community officials. Anyone on the board or commissions that could attend can bring that knowledge learned back to our district to enhance our operations here at CSCD.

- e. **Sweetwater Beach Shelter House Review/Discussion:** In what has become a passionate topic, A historical background of the “new” 2017 Beach Pavillion was shared with commission members from excerpts taken from previous emails, personal knowledge, Ecology Commission and CSCD Board minutes by former commission member Jim Donnels. Originally, there had been few rules created for use when the shelter was constructed. The intended use had been for small gatherings of freeholders and their families and invited guests. A couple of largely attended events this year resulted in the pavilion rental gatherings spilling out into the other shelter and onto the beach which drew the attention of numerous freeholders asking why our private beach has been advertised openly to the general public. It has become necessary to examine how the shelter house is being used and develop a set of stricter rules for its use going forward before the situation gets further out of hand. Rental agreements from the past two years are being reviewed. Occupancy limits (still determining limit number) will be put in place. Facility Use Agreement will be revised. Our beach and lakes are advertised as being private. There are more off-shore properties in the district than those that have lake-front. The off-shore freeholders utilize the beach area and expect the beach to be secure for private freeholder use. There are an estimated 14 weeks of summer lake season from Memorial Day through Labor Day when we see our community population and lake use swell. From information provided by the office, there were at least 5 instances of rental gatherings that had at least 50 people this summer that warranted and required needing the septic pumped or port-a-pots brought in to handle the crowd. Ecology and Security hope to have a solid plan in place by December to present to the CSCD Board.
- f. **Zebra Mussel Prevention Procedure Review**
Concerning instances observed of prescribed Boat Steward inspection procedures not being followed. This is a serious breach of our prevention program. We will discuss more over the next few months in reconvening the original ZMP Committee to review plans and procedures, and implement a re-education of all Boat Stewards prior to the 2026 boating season.
**There will be a Zebra Mussel Prevention Committee meeting held on Thursday, November 20, 2025 6pm at the CSCD office.*
- g. **Commission Member Concerns:** Brenda Maulden has concern with information as representative for CSLOA. Will discuss with CSLOA at next meeting.
- h. **Freeholder After-Thoughts:** Tom Quill wants to see copy of Dam Inspections Reports as soon as they are available. Jim Maulden addressed the commission and other freeholders in attendance that sometimes commission and board members are put in difficult positions when having to make decisions. Issues have to be carefully thought through when reaching decisions, and personal feelings set aside.

REVISE 5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN: Reviewed by commission

ADJOURNMENT: Shena Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting of the Ecology Commission. Randy Brumfield seconded. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:59PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Brenda Maulden
Interim Commission Recorder
BMauldenSPE@gmail.com