

DRAFT

MINUTES

ECOLOGY COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING

Cordry Sweetwater Conservancy District

3 September, 2020

- 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 September, 2020, in the CSCD conference room.
- B. Members Present: Rick Normington, Josh Edwards (Board), Sunny Leerkamp (CSLOA), Randy Brumfield, Ty Cooper & Jim Donnels (Recorder)
- C. Members Absent: Brenda Maulden
- D. Others in Attendance: Josh Hawley (Conservancy Manager) plus 6 guests.
- E. *Sunny Leerkamp moved to approve the Minutes of the 6 August, 2020, meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission; Ty Cooper seconded. This motion was unanimously approved.*
- F. (6:05 P.M.) FREEHOLDER CONCERNS :
1. Freeholder Jonathan Petruch inquired what the Commission and/or CSCD has done to test water quality of our lakes in the past, what is being done currently, and what the plans are for future testing of our lake water to ensure the sanitation of our water resources and the safety of all water sports enthusiasts in both lakes over the long term. He referenced the recommendations of several historical water quality reports and asked what we are doing to address those recommendations. He also inquired what studies have been done to convert from a septic-served community to a sewer-served community. He expressed concern over the old age of many of the septic systems in place around the lakes dating back to the 1960s, and whether they are properly maintained to ensure the continued sanitation of our lakes for all users, not just beach-goers. Josh Hawley, the newly appointed Conservancy Manager and longtime Water/Grounds Superintendent assured the freeholders in attendance and the Commission members that all state-mandated water testing requirements of Sweetwater Lake have been accomplished vis-à-vis weekly water sampling and testing of the Sweetwater Beach water, and we have consistently passed those tests without exception. Also, he assured all in attendance that the, CSCD-mandated, every-5-year septic flush and inspection program in place keeps our community septic systems in check and serviceable. The consensus of the Commission is that we will undertake an immediate internal study to determine whether additional testing of Sweetwater Lake and Cordry Lake is warranted, and if so, cause it to happen.
 2. Freeholders Pam & Jim Ruster reinforced Mr. Petruch's concerns and encouraged a study be done to look into a conversion from a septic to a sewer system in our future CSCD planning. The Commission took these freeholder concerns under advisement and will address their concerns in future meetings.
- G. OLD BUSINESS :
1. (6:20 P.M.) **DEER CONSERVATION HUNT UPDATE (Rick):** Rick Normington updated the Commission on the status of this year's planning for the Fall/Winter Deer Reduction Hunt in the CSCD. A final hunt calendar has been finalized and published. Hunting commences on 5 October, from 8:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M., weekdays, with 2 weekend hunts in November also listed.. Pre-qualification of all hunters desiring to participate in this year's hunt was held on 22 and 23 August (Sat. & Sun.), and 33 hunters qualified. Another qualification is scheduled for 27 September, in late afternoon. "Hunttable lots," "Retrievable lots," and "No-hunt lots" are being determined by the annual post card mail out program to the satisfaction of the Deer Reduction Committee and CHAP Coordinator. All seems to be on track for another successful Deer Conservation Hunt in the CSCD.
 2. (6:30 P.M.) **DREDGING POLICY & PROCEDURE:** Josh Edwards expressed concern over the timing of private dredging operations during the lakes' recreational seasons. It was reiterated that the current CSCD Rule Book only allows private dredging in coves from Labor Day thru 15 December of each year, presumably to reduce the stirring up of sediment in the coves during the recreational season.

(OVER >>>)

3. (6:40 P.M.) **REVIEW OF CSCD WATER/GROUNDS SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Josh):** Josh's update covered progress reports on projects of interest to ECOLOGY including: results of a post-dredge, onsite inspection of a privately-financed dredging project that had reportedly compromised the original lake bottoms (no violation was found) and an update on pending spillway repairs on Cordry Dam (on pause until 2021). He also reported that the Rule Book-directed "dredge season," (31 Aug-15 Dec. annually) will be enforced from now on and he will publish this information in the upcoming CSCD newsletter.
4. (6:50 P.M.) **POLLINATOR HABITAT :** No update
5. (6:50 P.M.) **OAK WILT UPDATE (Jim):** Jim Donnell reported that the Purdue Plant and Pest Diagnostics Lab has, in fact, confirmed their diagnosis of "Oak Wilt," as the cause of multiple oak trees deaths on Flounder Drive. Those trees will be expeditiously removed from those properties to hopefully preclude any further spread of this terminal, fungal disease. Josh Hawley will inform all CSCD freeholders, through the CSCD Newsletter and other means, of the symptoms and recommended mitigation measures to address any further oak wilt spread in the CSCD.
6. (6:55 P.M.) **ACTION PLANNING FOR NON-BUDGET ISSUES (Jim):** Jim Donnell handed out a document that captures all ecological issues/concerns in the CSCD, identified by commission members back in March of this year, that do not require money outlays to deal with. Instructions to commission members were to identify the 10 most important issues to be dealt with this year (A Priorities) and the 10 least-important issues (C Priorities), based on completion of their assigned homework last month. Next month, we will begin to Action-Plan the Top 10, identified by member consensus.

H. **NEW BUSINESS** (7:10 P.M.) :

1. **FREEHOLDER DREDGING APPLICATIONS:**

- a. Application # 1: **KRAUSKOPH** – 7782 PawPaw Drive; *Sunny Leerkamp moved to approve the Krauskoph application for dredging as submitted. Josh Edwards seconded. This motion passed unanimously.*
- b. Application # 2: **BOGNAR** - 6602 Groundhog Drive; *Ty Cooper moved to approve the Bognar application for dredging as submitted. Sunny Leerkamp seconded. This motion passed unanimously.*
- c. In addition, Josh & Bethany **WOLF** (8258 Aspen Drive), requested, thru Mr. Hawley, that J. Rollins be asked to return to their previously-approved dredge site to "finish the job," as permitted earlier in June of this year. The Commission agreed to this request by consensus.

2. **COMMISSION MEMBER CONCERNS** (6:50 P.M.): None

3. The next meeting of the CSCD Ecology Commission is scheduled for Thursday, 1 October, 2020, at 6:00 P.M. in the CSCD conference room. A draft Agenda for that meeting was developed.

I. **ADJOURNMENT:** *Randy Brumfield moved to adjourn the September meeting of the Ecology Commission. Ty Cooper seconded. The motion passed.* The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Commission Recorder
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