

CORDRY- SWEETWATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Cordry-Sweetwater Conservancy District Newsletter

SUMMER 2019

Stacy's Spotlight



By: Stacy
Wethington

Conservancy
Manager

Hello CSCD Residents! It seems like the Summer just started, but here it is the end of August! This has been a busy summer here at the lakes! August 24th was the last Saturday for CSCD Office hours. They will resume next May from 8 am to noon. The beach and marina attendants normally finish up Labor Day weekend, but we are trying to see how much interest there is to

stay open on the weekends at least the second weekend in September. Boat patrol will continue at least through September, weather depending. I want to take this time to thank all the amazing seasonal employees that I had the pleasure of working with this year. They all went above and beyond to do their job and any other tasks that were asked of them.

The shelter continues to be a big hit! It has been reserved every weekend again this season! Remember if you are planning an event and would like to reserve the shelter to call the office early, as dates fill up quickly!

In this issue, you will find the 2020

proposed budget information. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call me at the District office. We have worked hard to keep the 2020 budget as low as possible, while allowing us to accomplish what needs to be done to protect our infrastructure. The first public hearing for the proposed 2020 budget will take place at the September 17th CSCD Board meeting with the final adoption date being on October 15, 2019 at the CSCD Board Meeting.

As the Summer season comes to an end, remember that the Cordry-Sweetwater Conservancy District employees continue to work hard to keep your lakes and community the safe and well-maintained place that you know and love.

Speeding Concerns Mount on District Roads

It's an age-old dilemma since the dawn of motor vehicles; how fast can I go. The better question today is "How fast SHOULD I go?" The answer is clear in the CSCD and enforcement is stepping up.

The speed limit on all main roads in the CSCD (Cordry Drive, Sweetwater Drive, Sunset Drive, and Centerlake Road) is **25 MPH**, all other roads in the District regardless of paved or gravel is a **15 MPH** speed limit.

Several residents have voiced concerns on social media as well as at Board meetings. Officer Jimmy Green has worked out a deal with the county to use a portable speed radar with large read-out to get people to slow down as well as gather important data about average speeds, high speeds, and a vehicle count.

Chief Officer Bernie McGaha is also concerned for school buses. "We have an officer behind a bus nearly daily," he said at a recent

Board meeting.

Officer Green and McGaha both agreed to step up enforcement on speeding in the District. Speeders are difficult to catch. The human perception of how fast a car is moving vs how fast it actually is moving can sometimes be skewed. Also, obviously if drivers see officers they tend to drive slower; but there's only one officer on duty at a time. Everyone needs to do their part to keep our roads safe, please SLOW DOWN.

BUILDING CORNER



By: Nick Johann

*Building Compliance
Officer*

Summer is wrapping up and I hope everyone had a fun filled time! If you have been out on the water, you have seen how busy construction has been around the lakes. 55 applications have been approved as of this writing.

I want to take this time to highlight a particular building rule. The rule pertains to a repair or replacement and if a building application would be required. "Replacement of over 51% of an existing boat shelter, dock, boatlift, or shore station must meet all current CSCD requirements". If you are unsure if your project would be considered a repair or need a building application, please don't hesitate to contact me and I'd be happy to help.

When you call 811 before you dig, locate requests for CSCD water lines are sent to Josh Hawley. He and his crew will **ONLY LOCATE WATER LINES TO THE METER**. The water line running from the meter to your home must be located by an outside source.

If you are going to pave your driveway and the water meter is in your driveway, **PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE** or email Josh at jrhawley1981@gmail.com. We would like to make sure your meter pit and lines are in good shape so we don't have to tear up your pavement in the future!

Fall Leaves Bring Important Maintenance Responsibilities

The beauty of fall in Brown County is unsurpassed in the State of Indiana. But with the turning of the leaves comes the inevitable falling of the leaves. Those fallen leaves can cause major maintenance headaches in areas like the CSCD when it comes to proper drainage and erosion control.

Roadside ditches in the Conservancy are a bit of a gray area. Some ditches are on CSCD road property while other's are on private property.

The CSCD has adopted a generally accepted maintenance plan for ditches that includes periodic clean-outs of leaves and debris. However, it is not feasible in the fall for the Grounds Department to clean the ditches out every hour or every day while leaves are falling. We need lot owners to do their part in insuring that ditches and culverts near their property remain clean.

The District is not responsible for damage on lot owner property caused by flooding, erosion, or other acts of God even

if a ditch or culvert gets clogged.

One major problem we see is residents blowing leaves from their yards into drainage ditches. That is now against CSCD rules and can lead to losing lake privileges as it can directly cause harm to the lakes due to erosion.

The CSCD has a dedicated area for fallen leaves located between the Fire Station and Cordry Dam on Centerlake Road.

Let's all work together to maintain both the public AND private properties at these beautiful lakes!

CSCD Leaf/ Compost Area

Where: Located on Centerlake Road, between the Fire Station and Cordry Dam

When: Open from Labor Day to Memorial Day

What: Leaves and Grass ONLY, no brush, trees, limbs, plastic bags, trash, etc

Please do not park anything on or near your meter. Crews will need access in case of leaks or other emergencies.

Corrugated Chaos Returning to Beach This Fall

Brown County Parks & Rec will bring back the second annual Cardboard Regatta on Saturday, **September 21** at Sweetwater Beach.

Last year around 8 boats braved the “seas” in a race against time in their (somewhat) trusted cardboard steeds. The event drew children and adults alike whom had constructed their cardboard boats earlier. Boats must be constructed according to

rules set forth by the Parks & Rec Department.

Prizes are awarded for several categories including ‘Most Creative Design,’ ‘The Titanic’ award, and the ‘Fastest in the County.’

We encourage our residents to join the fun! Rules and registration can be picked up at Brown County Parks & Rec or online at BCPARKSREC.com. For any questions, please contact their office at 812.988.5522.



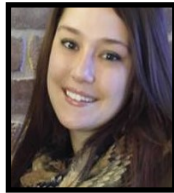
After-Hours **Water** Emergency Numbers

317.412.7025
317.306.8395

Two CSCD Board Seats Up for Election in 2020

Area 1 (Herb Benshoof) and Area 2 (Josh Edwards) are both up for election at the 2020 Annual meeting in January. Candidates need to turn in applications for Candidacy before December 1, 2019.

CSCD Budget Decreases for 3rd Straight Year



By: Brittany Bay
Financial Manager

There has been much consideration in preparing the 2020 preliminary budget in order to continuously preserve the lake community while cutting some costs. The 2020 preliminary budget is ready to be presented at the September 17th Board Meeting for the 1st Public Hearing and then at the October 15th Board Meeting for Adoption.

Each of the Commissions submitted their proposed budgets to either the CSCD Conservan-

cy Manager Stacy Wethington, Superintendent Josh Hawley, Chief Deputy Bernie McGaha, or the Financial Manager Brittany Bay. The Financial Manager then combined all of the commissions proposed budgets to deliver at the July Board Meeting. During this time The Board of Directors and CSCD Managers went over every line item and came up with a 2020 proposed budget.

Overall, the 2020 budget decreased by \$46,480 from the current 2019 Budget. This is the third straight year the CSCD budget has decreased. While the Tax Levy remained the same, the Tax Rate decreased. If there are any leftover funds up to 10% of the budget will be transferred to the Rainy-Day Fund.

Helping Prevent Deadly Blue-Green Algae Takes a Community Effort Moving Forward



By: Josh Hawley

Superintendent

Blue-green algae has been a hot topic in 2019 with deaths of pets hitting news nation-wide and local lakes such as Lake Monroe in Bloomington reporting the algal blooms. We fielded a lot of calls and questions online about our lakes and their susceptibility.

I can tell you that our lakes are no less susceptible than any other lake in Indiana. Fortunately we have not experienced a blue-green algal bloom. However, after testing an algal bloom on Sweetwater it tested positive for *Euglena* algae, a unique algae that has both plant-like and animal-like qualities.

Euglena is not toxic to pets or humans, but it does raise some caution flags. The presence of this algae could be a signal that there are sufficient nutrients entering our waters that can feed algal blooms.

In the past two years there has been a noticeable increase in filamentous algae mats. These mats love nitrogen and phosphorous; what else loves nitrogen and phosphorous? Lawns.

There seems to be a growing correlation between the amount of algae we are seeing in these lakes and the amount of dark, lush yards

surrounding the lakes. It is time to take a step back and really consider what is happening here. I would argue that most residents contract out yard care. Do your contractors understand the ecology of these lakes? Do they take care to keep product out of the water? Do they have organic, non-phosphorous solutions for your yard? These are questions you need to ask.

The science can not be denied. When excess nitrogen and phosphorous enter bodies of water algae WILL develop. It is happening here and as a community we need to ask ourselves which we want more; dark, lush yards or healthy lakes?

I'm certainly not saying you can't have a healthy yard. I spent 15 years working on a golf course, I have been licensed as a pesticide applicator in Indiana for over 10 years. There are ways to keep green grass without polluting the lakes. First, quit putting phosphorous down. Chances are good that you don't need it at all for your lawn. Secondly, cut down the nitrogen; yes it gives it that nice dark green color, but that doesn't necessarily mean a healthy yard. Excess nitrogen can lead to disease and die-out.

Finally, and most importantly, leave AT LEAST a 20 foot buffer zone of untreated vegetation between the water and your yard. If your yard is on a hillside sloping towards the water, 20 feet might

not be a large enough buffer. You should strongly consider not treating your yard with any nitrogen or phosphorous.

These lakes are two of the cleanest in the state; but it won't take long to change that. Cordry and Sweetwater Lakes are both spring-fed and have relatively little water shed feeding them. These lakes will only be as clean as what is being fed into them.

Sure, I can treat the filamentous algae with copper sulfate; but a blue-green algae bloom is normally not something that is treated as that can help release the toxins that have plagued the news this summer. A blue-green algae bloom in these waters could be devastating. We all need to do our parts to keep these waters clean.

I encourage you to attend Ecology meetings to learn more; study alternate yard treatments; talk to your neighbors if you see them treating near the water's edge; talk to your contractors, ask them questions.

At this time there are not rules regarding yard treatments. Education is key here. There's no magical formula to keep out blue-green algae. We could ban fertilizing yards and still end up with a bloom due to other nutrients in the water. But I can promise you that if nitrogen and phosphorous continue to enter our lakes at this pace, trouble is coming. Help us keep these lakes clean and beautiful.



Another beautiful sunrise on Cordry Dam. Just a few more weeks left to enjoy the flags until next spring!

Boat Safety Course to Be Offered Through US Coast Guard Auxiliary

Joseph and Mary Mastripolito with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary met with CSCD Manager, Stacy Wethington and Boat Patrolman, Rick Normington to go over the myriad of services they offer.

They do vessel safety checks of all required equipment such as personal flotation devices, fire extinguishers, navigation lights, state and local requirements, etc. This is a FREE annual check.

They will also be offering a Boat Safety Class on Saturday October 26th from 8am-noon at the CSLOA Clubhouse! You can call the office for more information or to get registered!

CSCD Commission Updates

With budgeting season finally over, the five CSCD Commissions have returned to the business of current activities and future-planning for their areas of concern.

BUILDING

The Building Commission continues to process building applications. Nick Johann and the Commission have implemented several new procedures that have stream-lined the process of obtaining CSCD building permits.

ECOLOGY

The Ecology Commission is currently working with the Deer Reduction Committee to finalize the upcoming second year of the Deer Reduction Hunt. The commission is also working towards the final steps to creating a Pollinator and Wildlife Habitat at the area across from the beach. They are working on a solution for the Fireworks parking that normally takes place in that area.

ROADS

The Roads Commission has been refining a 5-year plan to continue to repair roads and properly maintain them moving forward.

SECURITY

The Security Commission has been working on the issues of wake enhancing devices. They are also looking into a new style of buoys that are more rigid and

also can softly illuminate at night via solar energy.

WATER

The Water Commission just successfully passed an IDEM Sanitation Inspection and continues to focus on water loss prevention as that was the only deficiency noted on the report. The commission will finish it's 2020 budget in September and is looking forward to working with Curry & Associates Engineering in completing a very important Asset Management Plan.

History Lesson

It has been exactly five years since the hiring of Conservancy Manager Stacy Wethington. Superintendent Josh Hawley, and Assistant Superintendent Josh Bryant.

In those five years the largest upgrade to the water utility was successfully completed, a new shelter house built, miles of new pavement on roads, new billing software implemented, new mobile work order system was implemented, and GIS has been started; just to name a few!

Also celebrating five years soon will be Building Compliance Officer Nick Johann who has revolutionized the building permit process.

Second Year of Deer Reduction Hunt to Kick off in October

After a successful inaugural year, hunters in the District will be returning to the woods on authorized properties to aid in thinning the deer herd to a healthy level.

All hunters must either be residents of the CSCD or sponsored by a resident and must meet all DNR requirements. Hunters will also attend a mandatory safety orientation meeting as well as pass a proficiency and safety test. The dates for those are EITHER September 1st at 4pm or September 14th at 10am.

The hunt for 2019-2020 remains archery and crossbow only and hunters must obtain EXPLICIT, WRITTEN PERMISSION from a homeowner to hunt on that property.

For those wanting more information about Deer Reduction Zones go to the Indiana Division of Fish & Wildlife webpage and find the Urban Deer Technical Guide. You may also contact our Coordinator, Rusty Fields at 317.714.2028 for questions about the CSCD Hunt.

CSCD OFFICE

CLOSURES

September 2nd: Labor Day
October 14th: Columbus Day
November 11th: Veteran's Day
November 28th: Thanksgiving
November 29th: Thanksgiving

DATES	HUNTING HOURS
2019	
Oct 14-18	8am-2pm
Oct 21-25	8am-2pm
Oct 28-31	8am-2pm
Nov 1	8am-2pm
Nov 2-3	Legal Hunting Hours
Nov 4-8	8am-2pm
Nov 11-15	8am-2pm
Nov 16-17	Legal Hunting Hours
Nov 18-22	8am-2pm
Nov 25-27	8am-2pm
2020	
Jan 20-24	8am-2pm
Jan 27-31	8am-2pm

RULES REVIEW

Floating Platforms of any kind can not extend past 25 feet from the shoreline and at no time take up more than 25% of a cove. They can not pose a navigational impediment and **MUST** be pulled in and secured at the shoreline at dusk or when not in use! Please be courteous to neighbors and other boaters and bring them in when not in use.

There has been lots of chatter about wake surfing and wake enhancing boating activity. Please remember the activity is not banned only the use of wake enhancement equipment on boats is, this includes ballasts and "wedge devices". Any boat purchased and registered after 11/17/15 that is equipped with these devices must have an affidavit on file at the CSCD office that states they have been permanently disabled. If you witness a boat that you believe is utilizing any of these banned devices, please get a video if possible and the lot number and/or decal number and report it to the CSCD office.

CSCD COMMISSION MEETING INFO

BUILDING	<i>1st Tuesday</i>	<i>7pm</i>	<i>CSCD Office</i>
ROADS	<i>1st Thursday</i>	<i>5pm</i>	<i>CSCD Office</i>
ECOLOGY	<i>1st Thursday</i>	<i>6pm</i>	<i>CSCD Office</i>
SECURITY	<i>2nd Tuesday</i>	<i>7pm</i>	<i>CSCD Office</i>
WATER	<i>2nd Thursday</i>	<i>5pm</i>	<i>CSCD Office</i>
CSCD BOARD	<i>3rd Tuesday</i>	<i>7pm</i>	<i>Clubhouse</i>

Putting in a tree? Dog Fence? Or doing any other digging? Make sure you call 811 BEFORE YOU DIG!

CSCD v CSLOA v CSVFD What Are They?

Confusion can reign supreme in figuring out the three entities that help comprise this beautiful area.

The Cordry-Sweetwater Conservancy District (CSCD) is the governing authority over the area. It owns the lakes, roads, and parks in the District and has authority over each. It is led by a Board of Directors and Commissions that oversee important aspects of the District.

The Cordry-Sweetwater Lot Owner's Association (CSLOA) is NOT affiliated with the CSCD in that it is not a government entity. The Lot Owner's Association, however, plays a very important role in the

social aspects of the freeholders. This year is the 60th Annual Ox Roast that is put on by the CSLOA and surely you've been to the Fireworks show, which is also put on by the CSLOA. They also own the Clubhouse.

Those events and more take a lot of time, dedication, and money. Freeholders can pay an annual fee of \$75 to assist the CSLOA in continuing to provide memories that will last a lifetime.

The Cordry-Sweetwater Volunteer Fire Department also has a \$75 annual fee that is used to fund its operations. The Fire Department is made up of ONLY volunteers,

you call 911 or have a medical emergency, one of these brave men and women will be there within minutes.

The Fire Department also hosts several events throughout the year including a garage sale, pancake breakfasts, and the ever popular Haunted Forest in October.

Please consider donating and paying the annual fees to BOTH these great organizations that are here for you, the freeholders! The CSCD Office collects fees for both organizations or you can attend any of their functions to purchase memberships and merchandise!



In just five, short years the grounds crew has cut water loss by 40%. The water utility has invested money in new leak locating devices to find leaks that never surface. This time of year when it is very dry, if you see water puddling or running anywhere please report it to the office or email Josh Hawley at jrhawley1981@gmail.com.

Recycling Woes Continue at Office

When using the recycling bins, that are free to Brown County residents, please condense materials as much as possible, crushing cans, flattening cardboard, smashing plastics, etc. to decrease their volume so that more materials in the bins can be added.

We urge everyone who recycles to please place the proper recycle goods into their right windows. Paper should go with paper, cardboard in cardboard, glass with glass etc. And please no non-recyclable garbage. This makes the sorting process so much easier on Recycle Center employees.

Another point of contention has been residents leaving bags of

both recycling and trash on the ground at the recycling bins located at the office. **PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE ANYTHING ON THE GROUND.** If the bins are full, take your items with you until the bins are exchanged.

The recycling bins are operated by Brown County Solid Waste, not the CSCD. The Brown County Solid Waste team works on a minimal budget with volunteer employees. They attempt to exchange our bins on either Sunday or Monday.

Cameras are in place to help in reducing vandalism and littering. Help us help our area remain litter-free as well as doing our part to help our planet.

Pay your water bill and/or sign up for free text alerts at our website www.cscd-in.org

Your CSCD Employees

Stacy Wethington, Conservancy Manager
Brittany Bay, Financial Manager
Nick Johann, Building Compliance Officer
Judy Surface, Water Clerk
Mary Johantgen, Part-time, Year-round Office Clerk

Josh Hawley, Water/Grounds Superintendent
Josh Bryant, Water/Grounds Assistant Superintendent

Mike Roberts, Part-time, Year-round Water/Grounds Maintenance

Bernie McGaha, Chief Deputy
Jimmy Green, Deputy
Mike Clark, Deputy

There are about a dozen part-time/ seasonal employees without whom the District would not operate as smoothly as it does. Thank-you!

**Cordry Sweetwater Conservancy District
8377 Cordry Drive
Nineveh, IN 46164**

Contact Us

**Cordry-Sweetwater
Conservancy District
8377 Cordry Drive
Nineveh, IN 46164**

(317) 933-2893

cscdinformation@gmail.com

**Visit us on the web at
www.cscd-in.org**

**Like us on Facebook.
www.facebook.com/cscdgrounds**

**Follow us on Twitter
[@cscd_official](https://twitter.com/cscd_official)**

**Follow us on Instagram
[@cscdworks](https://www.instagram.com/cscdworks)**

**First Class
U.S. Postage Paid
NINEVEH, IN
Permit No. 22**