**CCCoLA minutes July 9, 2021**

**Hybrid meeting: in person at the Cook County Higher Ed in Grand Marais and on Zoom**

Dave Coleman – Clearwater, Jerry Wilkes-Devil Track, Jerry Caple, Joel Halvorson & Jim Tiplett – Gunflint, John and Barb – Hungry Jack, Carrie Framsted – Pike, Biz Clark & John Craddock – Poplar, Voyageurs Point – Peter Rauen, Gary Maciejewski – Tait, Kathy Bogen – Loon, Irene&Larry Mullen – Caribou, Ilena Hansel-CC SW, Karen Evens – MPCA.

Minutes from last meeting and treasurer’s report accepted

**Ilena Hansel Cook County Soil and Water:** Plan on reorganizing before hiring employee to replace employee who left in March- Not re-hiring until the fall

Because of Covid restrictions and work, I am in and out of office. Best to call or email if you want to meet me at the office

Water quality funding no available so seven lakes are paying for the testing. All the lakes have volunteers except one.

Lake Superior: just for your information, outreach to prevent coastal erosion with more green and fewer rocks, boulders. Hundreds of feet with rock as erosion prevention is not uncommon. Our office is encouraging native plants and a mix of rocks and green to prevent erosion. 96 people came to the CCSWD workshop

Also working on conductivity issues on a creek in Schroeder which is one of the coldest trout streams on the north shore. Also rain gardens and storm water projects

Looking for a board supervisor for the north end- which includes the end of the Gunflint. The position is not political and does not include enforcement. There is compensation for the meetings.

Devil’s Track watershed: starting in ’22 or ’23 looking at pollution sources. Start with basics and assessments and working with land owners.

Also working on a Rainy River watershed plan. Question from Loon Lake: neighbors on Loon are interested in CCCoLA and water quality monitoring. There is a volunteer who is testing on Loon and Ilena requested that person to continue for this year.

**Amanda Weberg: AIS Supervisor** - have five inspectors and two technicians for the season. They work a random schedule which includes lakes at the end of the Gunflint Trail as well as lakes at East and West end of county. There is a boat wash at Rockwood Lodge and another at the car wash in Grand Marais.

We are monitoring for new infestations.

**Karen Evens MCPA**: Blue green algae is showing up in lakes early and robustly

There is a contact page devoted to this problem and an Ap.

Put the AP on your phone or other handy spot so you can use it when you detect a problem

Animal health: health department has links to vets and hot lines to answer questions

The geographical area of blue Green includes Cook County and right up through the Canadian border. The early hot weather caused early blooms.

Mercury reduction study:

Outlier lakes, even with the calculated reduction methods, have not seen a reduction in mercury- primarily in the St. Louis River Watershed but other lakes scattered throughout northern MN. There is a group and project updates are available. Karen will send the email and web page link to Irene.

For those who take their drinking water from lakes

Double check your system, have additional filters on hand and a bit of bottled water as well

Lucky if you are near campgrounds with drinking water

If you really have serious concerns about people drinking the water, we have staff who will take samples.

Question about viability of blue green: finite life span. Dies and falls to sediment. Chlorophyll is an indicator of algae. Keeping a low phosphorous number is important.

Question was asked about Caribou Lake which has maintained a low phosphorous level for a number of years.

The last resort to get rid of blue green is to chemically treat

Contact Land services in Cook County if you are concerned with an algal bloom

There was a discussion of the problem of carp churning up the bottoms of lakes and causing an increase in phosphorous and chlorophyll.

Encouraged to share the Shoreland Stewardship booklet with neighbors

**Irene Mullen: reporting on MNCoLA**

* Citizen emails and calls do make a difference during the legislation session
* Funding: MLR pushing for increase in boat license fees.
* AIS: wanted 1.2 million, received 910k
* Wake Boat issue not discussed
* Suggested that lake property owners take photos of wake boat damage
* Hope to make 200ft. set back- waiting for research results from 2021
* Healthy Water initiative: St. Anthony Falls research center-wave action and boat motor impact results in 2022- being peer reviewed now.
* Monitoring Network in MN: Wave monitoring masts, designed by UMN
* Fabricated, deployed and monitored by citizen science network
* Aggregated into a common data base of boat generated waves and wind driven waves
* DNR Loon restoration and buying easements for habitat BP settlement 7.2 million-funding could last 15 years Hire 3 people
* Counties targeted: Cass, Becker, Beltrami, Clearwater, Crow Wing, Hubbard and Itasca
* MPCA: Get the Lead Out, and existing program awarded additional funding

**Biz Clark – Subcommittee – Surface Water Use** -Discussion of the wilderness experience for those new visitors to Cook County and how to preserve a different kind of outdoor experience here as compared with other lake areas in the state. Balancing between welcoming tourism dollars and keeping the “minimalist outdoor experience”. Discussion from Loon Lake about increase in speed boating and cutting swimmers off from shore. Education of visitors and residents would be beneficial. The group will meet again before our next meeting.

**John Craddock: Geology of Cook County**- how this affects calcium levels in lake –

John shared the rock in Cook County does not leach calcium, so additional calcium in our lakes is coming from humans. Questions regarding the calcium chloride used on our roads, and whether there is calcium in gravel?

Alternatives to calcium chloride are very expensive. Stopping applications completely will result in lots of pushback. The application chemistry has not changed in the last five years. Calcium was below the 15 parts per million required by Zebra mussels. The average is about 7 parts per million in Cook County. We don’t have any studies of the mobility of the calcium from the roads to the lakes. CC engineer Dix, mentioned a research firm that could do that kind of research.

Meeting adjourned a little before 11:00AM**. Next meeting August 6th , 10:00, Hall One Gunflint Trail.**