

August 14, 2020 CCCoLA minutes

Zoom meeting participants:

Gary Maciejewski (treasurer), Tait Lake; Larry and Irene Mullen, Caribou; Kris McPherson, Portage; Biz Clark, Poplar; Peter Rauen, Poplar; Joel Halvorson and Jerry Caples, Gunflint; David Coleman, Clearwater; Ilena Berg, CCSWD; Karen Evans, MPCA; Jeff Forester, Minnesota lakes and Rivers; Kate Kelnberger, Bearskin (note taker).

Minutes approved with corrections, Kate will resend July's minutes

Gary's treasurer's report was accepted

Jeff Forester representing Minnesota Lakes and rivers, guest presenter

Advocating training for young boat operators

Current topic: Wake Surfing boats

Create a 16-foot depth disturbance

Bill includes money for research on impact to lakes and shorelines.

The wake causes lake bed disturbance and turbulence

They carry ballast bags of 12000 lbs.

Have immense motors

Create high risk of moving AIS

Angling group supporting a self-inspection certification.

Not having the certificate or boat showing that AIS parameters have not been met would result in a \$5,000.00 fine and loss of fishing privileges for 3 years.

Legislative information

\$500,000 in AIS support

Imposing a \$1000.00 fine for transporting AIS knowingly is getting some traction in house and senate

LCCMR (Legislative Citizen-Commission on Minnesota Resources) proposed a \$434,000 budget. Did not receive

Minnesota Lakes and Rivers partnered with various groups in a Crowd Funding effort to fund research on the impact of wake surfing boats

Raised \$93,000 in first phase of campaign

Pledges from many states

Jeff contacted those who are doing the same work in other states, spearheading effort for a national alliance of concern for lakes and rivers.

Jeff cited the publication Civic Government from the Humphrey Institute. Used methods from publication to address the wake surfing boat problem.

Jeff is concerned that there is not a lake association for the BWCAW.

Jeff suggested using Civic Government method to bring together the very diverse governmental and no-profit groups to work on AIS using on-line meetings. Making some progress in this endeavor

Plan on using AIS research to drive dollar acquisition for next year

Climate Change

We have detailed information on how agriculture and forests will be affected by climate change but no idea about climate change impact on lakes. There is not monied interest in fresh water research.

A group concerned about the impact of Starry Stonewort has started a non-profit fund. Ask the right questions and drive doctoral thesis and research \$ to make the general public aware of this threat to Minnesota lakes.

Jeff proposed a program for lake owners to qualify for a certificate for good shoreland management- similar to the certificate awarded to qualified forest owners

Starry Stonewort

A group pledged to stop the spread of starry stonewort has started a non profit and have raised a substantial amount of money. Starry Stonewort is present in 14 Minnesota lakes; it produces dense surface mats and affects fish and wildlife reproduction. Goal of the group is to stop the spread. The 14 affected lakes have 28 access points. Volunteers have been working at these lake access points to make sure boaters follow decontamination protocols

Jeff made a point about pesticides- that they wash out into water sources when there is more than ½ inch of rain in one hour. Good organic matter in the soil has many advantages including holding back pesticide water contamination. If you want to support lakes buy your food from farmers who are “organic” and use other good management on the land

There is a push on Gull Lake to buy farm land and then lease it back to farmers to agree to use sustainable farming practices. Check in to Webinars from Minnesota Lakes and Rivers menu on the web page

Jeff encourages individual membership in Minnesota Lakes and Rivers. The organization cannot engage in meaningful work without the support of lake associations AND individual members. Compare the lake advocacy to Pheasants Forever which has done a remarkable job at habitat restoration and maintenance- with the monetary support of both individual and club dollars. Jeff would like to see that same level of support for our lakes and rivers.

Gary asked if boat size and motors will be addressed by legislature. Jeff answered that information to the legislature will cover all types of watercraft. Science will provide the framework and scaffolding for local governments to make good decisions for their lakes

Peter remarked that his Poplar Lake association decided that setting up “no wake zones” would be more effective than limiting motor size. Jeff added that Lake Vermillion is varied in depth and lakeshore vulnerability so that flexibility is needed to manage motorboats

Biz joked that “no wake buoys” or More Rocks (joking) would work on Poplar
Not in favor of revisiting BWCAW controversy over motor size.
Water/septic systems are causing impaired water
Happy that research is being conducted on this issue

Grand Portage

Research on climate change and impact on lakes. How and with what to stock lakes as they change

Jeff said he was aware of research on the tribal lands

Continues that wakes and the way boats are operated- the drivers with no training- and speeding at 70 or 80 mph. Many have no boating experience, no idea what damage a fast boat causes. All the boat owners need is the dollars to buy big boats. Most do not have the training or information to operate safely. People causing the problems are not informed

The Sierra Club is pushing to stop hunting on public lands. Hunters are in favor of good education and certification because they do not want the backlash to hunting and hunters. Hunting organizations are in favor of sensitivity training in regard to environmentally safe hunting practices. Which is exactly the kind of education that should be required of boaters

Jeff spoke of places where, if you are towing watercraft, you have to stop- 4 roads in Minnesota. Peter asked how long the stops generally are. If decontamination is required: about 12 minutes; otherwise for an inspection- 3 or 4 minutes/boat.

Jerry Caples said that on the Canadian side of Gunflint lake there is no real or effective government oversight. He is also concerned about micro-plastics in the border waters

Jeff: plastic manufacturers can make a plastic that biodegrades in water. Monofilament lines are a special problem.

Jerry: those ice fishing leave plastic containers on ice (worm containers) that end up in the lake

Irene: I suggest that if you have further questions for Jeff that you email him.

Irene and the group thanked Jeff for his attendance and information

Ilena CCSWD

Didymo (didymosphenia) update

There is weird stuff that looks like decomposing toilet paper. Sometimes called “rock snot”. It is an invasive diatom that likes cold and low phosphorus water. It looks like fluff. It has been

talked about on WTIP. There are lots of scientist looking into the invasive. There seems to be a large amount of it. If you see it collect it. Good idea to keep a scoop in your boat.

There will be a newspaper insert this week or next: "Ask an expert with Headwaters"
Wednesdays at noon.

Sign up for the series, they are recorded so participants are able to watch anytime
Ilena said the series is excellent. She will resend the link

Irene congratulated CCSWD for grant to educate lake shore owners on Lake Superior about erosion.

Karen MPCA

Managing SALT is moving toward a public comment period

Karen will inform Irene and information will be forwarded to the group

Karen added that some of this work is culture change. Starting to see more salt in ground water, for instance, and in drinking water. Salt is persistent in the environment: once it is in the system, it tends to stay permanently.

Salt is also damaging to infrastructure and vehicles as well as causing environmental harm. It is a pollutant with high cost attached.

Karen asked us to look at SALT from our perspective. There are many common-sense ideas that work besides salt. The Minnesota Chloride Resources has information about alternative materials

The Cook County AIS task force's first meeting was to begin updating plan from 2014 by reading and discussing each session

Old Business

Decide on Wake Surfing Crowd Funding donation from CCCoLA

Dave Coleman suggested the group give a symbolic donation of \$100.00 to the U of M to support research

Irene said that the annual expenditures total was \$400.00: MN Lakes and Rivers \$250 - \$100 for hosting CCCoLA website, and \$150 membership fee and \$150 for MN COLA membership.

Donation to fire departments

Dan Fitzgerald said that FEMA decided to fund big city fire departments this year so no funding from that source. Also, because of Covid, there have been no in- person fundraising events this year. Dave Coleman suggested that we participate in the streamed concert and gave the link to the group. Gary suggested that we give \$250 to the GTVFD.

Biz suggested that the money be earmarked for ambulance service only. The group agreed that earmarking would be an administrative problem.

Gary requested the U of M address for the Wake Surfing research.

Lake reports:

Tait Lake: Gary said the loon chicks are growing, there is a fox family with 5 kits – folks have been enjoying their antics.

Clearwater:

Dave said that their work on the lake plan has been put on hold but there still is momentum to get it done