

## MEETING MINUTES: CCCoLA JANUARY 9, 2025

**PRESENT:** BETSY BLUME, KATHY BOGEN, PATTI CRADDOCK, KATE KELNBERGER, RORY LAIHO, MARGRE LIND MILLS, JOHN MILLS, GARY MACIEJEWSKI, PETE RAUEN, DANIEL SWENSON-KLATT, ANN SULLIVAN, AMANDA WEBERG

**GUEST:** MITCH TRAVIS, COOK COUNTY PARKS AND TRAILS COORDINATOR AND WETLANDS SPECIALIST

Item	Discussion	Action
<p><b>Welcome and Introductions (10-10:10)</b></p>	<p>All members introduced themselves and their Lake or Road Association affiliation. We were fortunate to be joined by Amanda Weberg, Ann Sullivan, and Mitch Travis who shared their expertise and discussed ways we can be working together to achieve common goals relative to the protection of Cook County waters and shorelands.</p>	
<p><b>Breakout Groups (10:10-11:10)</b></p> <p><b>Report Out (11:10-11:25)</b></p>	<p><b>Water Quality Breakout Group summary:</b>            Participants: Rory Laiho, Betsy Blume, Peter Rauen (partial time) and Patti Craddock. Elena Hansel, SWCD, was not able to attend, but Patti met with her Feb. 3 to relay information about SWCD water quality activities.</p> <p>The group devoted most of the time to identifying priority areas. Additional meeting discussion is required to complete an action plan. Some ideas discussed are noted in these minutes. The actions listed are not the final action plan.</p> <p><b>Priority areas identified:</b>            #1 Engagement and education            #2 Science based focus and decision making            #3 Continue with septic system education efforts            #4 Algae blooms            #5 Shoreland protection</p>	<p><b>#1 Engagement and Education</b>            This is a broad topic to encompass a range of actions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Develop consistent messaging and identify documents members can access in any water quality related educational activities we are involved in.</li> <li>B. Up our game to increase engagement at public events (especially for youth).               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Add activities to our booth at Fisherman’s picnic (ex. hydroscape hands-on diorama to explain non-point source pollution)</li> <li>o Participate in the Cook County Earth Day event.</li> </ul> </li> <li>C. Coordinate with County/SWCD events.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Advertise events to our lake association members</li> <li>o Assist with events</li> <li>o Request background materials to</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

		<p style="text-align: right;">better understand any local water quality issues.</p> <p>#2 Science Based Focus and Decision Making</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. CCCoLA members become involved with the County and state entities evaluating water quality issues. (liason)</li><li>B. CCCoLA member liaisons disseminate information to CCCoLA. (note: we are doing this already!). This information can assist with consistent messaging.</li></ul> <p>#3 Septic System Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. Followup on last year's workshop and identify actions to carry forward this year.</li><li>B. Identify brochures/signage and places to distribute in the community.</li><li>C. Coordinate with Trails and Lands team to integrate their ideas for septic systems.</li></ul> <p>#4 Algae Blooms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. SWCD has a grant application in to have a workshop on algae blooms. CCCoLA can assist with promoting this, plus gather information to educate our members and the community.</li><li>B. After this workshop, identify actions for CCCoLA to use our local algae bloom occurrence to educate our community.</li></ul> <p>#5 Shoreland Protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. Assist SWCD/County with promoting a shoreland planting workshop this June.</li><li>B. Identify CCCoLA actions to build on this outreach activity and expand education on shoreland protection and the benefits to water quality.</li></ul>
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<p><b>Trails and Lands (Joined by Mitch Travis, Cook County Parks and Trails Coordinator) summary:</b>  CCCoLA 1/9/2025 - Final  Participants: Margre Lind Mills, John Mills, Peter Rauen, Daniel Swenson-Klatt, Mitch Travis</p> <p>Mitch Travis, Cook County Parks &amp; Trails Coordinator provided an overview of current issues, concerns, and opportunities for CCCoLA cooperation:</p> <p><u>Planning &amp; Zoning</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● MN DNR has different classifications for different lakes (recreation, natural environment) and each have differing and specific ordinances for acceptable distance from the high-water mark, density, and types of vegetation, what and how much can be removed within the impact zone (1/2 the distance from the highwater mark to structure). However, codes and ordinances can be vague and difficult to enforce. Currently SeaGrant (seagrant.umn.edu) is auditing Cook County shoreline codes and ordinances and will be providing feedback for updates that are more user friendly and clear on homeowner expectations. These will be reviewed at County Commissioners' meetings for adoption.</li> </ul> <p><u>Septic Systems</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Currently no inspections with sale/title transfer. Land Services has a rotating inspection plan on high density lakes. Land Services is working with (Andrew Beavers, Vacation Rental Administrator)</li> </ul> <p><u>Trails</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Very diverse, all-season user groups with lots of resources (trails, paths, etc.) that require hands-on maintenance, but have a diminishing number of folks able to participate. Cook County</li> </ol>	<p>CCCoLA opportunities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assist Land Services by reviewing and providing feedback on SeaGrant draft. Perhaps identify a list of folks from various types of lakes that are willing to review and provide feedback.</li> <li>2. Assist Land Services with communication of current/updated regulations (emails to member Lake, Road and Area Associations, agenda topics at meetings, share documentation, CCCoLA booths, etc.)</li> </ol> <p>CCCoLA Opportunities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review previous work, insights, and recommendations with Biz Clark</li> <li>2. Advocate with Cook County Commissioners for Point-of-Sale Septic Inspection. Perhaps develop talking points and/or write articles or opinions in News Herald or (or other publications TBD)</li> <li>3. Assist Land Services with public education on necessity, care, and maintenance of septic systems, as well as levels of non-compliance and opportunities for USDA low interest loans available (same info flow as #2 above)</li> </ol> <p>CCCoLA Opportunities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Encourage younger and able-bodied folks to join recreational clubs and user groups to maintain membership levels and volunteer resources for resource management.</li> <li>2. Advocate with Cook County Commissioners for expanded Parks &amp; Trails Department;</li> </ol>
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	<p>is focused on recreational tourism, yet does not have a full-time department, including maintenance, only a half-time coordinator. The cost of recreational resource maintenance falls on a small property tax base.</p>	<p>provide input on what that would look like in Cook County (using models from other Counties).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Provide feedback via surveys developed by Cook County Parks &amp; Trails, or other means, which provide direction on specific projects (e.g., Sawtooth Bluffs Project)</li> <li>4. Work with county resources to identify and/or provide feedback on alternate methods of funding for recreational resource maintenance or expansion (e.g., recreational tax, donations federal funding models – payment in-lieu of taxes).</li> </ol>
	<p><b>AIS (joined by Amanda Weberg and Ann Sullivan) summary:</b>  Kathy Bogen, Gary Maciejewski, Kate Kelnberger, Anne Sullivan</p> <p>Irene and Larry Mullen couldn't join today, but they are on the Cook County AIS Advisory Board. Kate Kelnberger is also on the AIS Board.</p> <p>Amanda shared that current AIS infestations are spreading and that the Chief Lieutenant at the DNR is working on establishing check points along major thoroughfares into Lake country. The DNR uses dogs that are trained to sniff out zebra mussels.</p> <p>We discussed the importance of continuing to do community outreach in support of the work Amanda Weberg is doing as the AIS Coordinator for Cook County. We grouped this outreach into 3 action areas.</p> <p>#1 Outreach to our Lake Association members and other Lake Associations that do not already belong to CCCoLA</p> <p>#2 Increase the visibility of CCCoLA and its efforts to address AIS in Cook County</p> <p>#3 Outreach to youth</p>	<p>Kate will send minutes and/or summary of the AIS Board meetings to Kathy so they can be disseminated to the CCCoLA members.</p> <p>#1 Expand Outreach  Ann will send Kathy contact information for the Kristine Lake Association off the Carlson Trail and the Clara Lake Association. Kathy will then reach out to these LA's to see if they'd like to join CCCoLA and/or become involved in AIS mitigation efforts.</p> <p>#2 Increase Visibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Kathy will contact the Cook County Herald editor regarding an article about CCCoLA's involvement in AIS mitigation and ways other Lake Associations and Individuals can be involved.</li> <li>● Kathy will also contact Joe Fredrick about a similar article in Portage and Paddle.</li> </ul>

	<p>At the MNCOLA Quarterly meeting in December, youth engagement was a focal point. What are some ways CCCoLA can connect with Cook County youth to expand interest in AIS identification and mitigation efforts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● She will also connect with WTIP about a radio spot about AIS</li> <li>● We will identify key community events where we can support Amanda’s outreach to the community: having the CCCoLA booth next to Amanda at <u>Fisherman’s Picnic</u> works well. <u>Gunflint Canoe Races</u> is another opportunity as well as the <u>event at Voyageurs</u></li> <li>● We need more brochures printed up for these events and will have to begin expanding our active volunteer base.</li> </ul> <p>#3 Outreach to youth</p> <p>Ann suggested connecting with the middle and high school teachers, April Wahlstrom and Emma Spoon.</p> <p>We could sponsor a young person 18+ who would be interested in the DNR AIS Identification course. Kathy is also interested in this course.</p> <p>CCCoLA Volunteers could help out with Take a Kid Fishing</p>
<p><b>Common Themes</b></p>	<p>Some of the common themes among all action groups are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Increase community outreach</li> <li>● Need to develop a broader volunteer base</li> <li>● Work together with County and State entities to support their efforts</li> </ul>	<p>We will discuss strategies to meet these goals at our February 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.</p> <p>Betsy Blume suggested connecting with Sarah Waddle to see if people in the Master Naturalist program would be interested in volunteering. High School students also may be interested in volunteering—connect with teachers.</p>
<p><b>Closing</b></p>	<p>Encouraging...Uplifting...Involvement...Collaboration...</p>	

<b>reflection</b>	connected...grateful...excited...encouraging...uplifted...connected... collaboration...involvement	
<b>Adjournment</b>		Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.
<b>Next Meeting</b>	The CCCoLA March meeting will be Thursday, February 13, 10-11:30 a.m. via ZOOM. This will be a meeting of the whole. Action groups will have an opportunity to report on follow-up they have done. We will also identify opportunities for increased community outreach and engagement.	Please send along agenda items you would like included.