

## MEETING MINUTES: CCCoLA FEBRUARY 8, 2024

**PRESENT:** KATHY BOGEN, DAVE COLEMAN, PATTY CRADDOCK, BIZ CLARK, CARRIE FRAMSTED , GAIL GIESKE, KATE KELNBERGER, RORY LAIHO, GARY MACIEJEWSKI, IRENE MULLEN, LARRY MULLEN, PETE RAUEN, ANN SULLIVAN, MARY HALVERSON WALDO, AMANDA WEBERG

**GUESTS:** JEFF FORESTER (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MINNESOTA LAKES AND RIVERS), SAMI SELTER (MLR), NEVA MAXWELL (COOK COUNTY PLANNING AND ZONING ADMINISTRATOR), MITCH EVERSON, COOK COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER), TIM NELSON (COOK COUNTY LAND SERVICES DIRECTOR), STEVEN YANG (MNPCA GET THE LEAD OUT PROGRAM), KELLY AMOTH (MNPCA GET THE LEAD OUT PROGRAM),

Item	Discussion	Action
<p><b>Welcome and Introductions (10:10-10:10)</b></p>	<p>All members introduced themselves and their Lake or Road Association affiliation. We were fortunate to be joined by several guests who came to share their expertise and discuss ways we can be working together to achieve common goals relative to the protection of Cook County waters and shorelands.</p>	<p>Guests joined the action groups working on issues pertaining to their areas of expertise.</p>
<p><b>Breakout Groups (10:10-11:10)</b></p> <p><b>Report Out (11:10-11:25)</b></p>	<p><b>SSTS Breakout Group (joined by Tim Nelson, Neva Maxwell, and Mitch Everson) summary:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cook County Department of Land Services did an amazing job of studying lake property septic systems in the earlier 2,000's. This work had to drop off for a period until adequate funding was in place.</li> <li>• Funding from One Watershed has helped in brining inspections up to speed. In 2023, the Department was able to complete 118 inspections.</li> <li>• The biggest issue was that legal power was needed to enforce septic requirements. The County now has a .5 attorney working on this, and there has been improved compliance from property owners who fail to meet the requirements for a safe septic system.</li> </ul>	<p>The #1 Goal for this CCCoLA action group is to do more educational outreach to lakeshore property owners, especially among Lake Associations.</p>

**AIS (joined by Jeff Forester and Sami Selter) summary:**

**Signage**

- Signage being put up next to Forest Service displays
- Having more cleaning tools available is a priority (and education on how to use)
- Billboard signage may be helpful

**Education**

- Need to upgrade BWCA video to include more on AIS
- VRBOs and AirBnB - trying to create an AIS coalition with owners

**Legislative Session**

- \$159 million passed for updating boat accesses
- 5-Year AIS plan in action

**Inspections**

- Increased roadside inspection proving to be more effective in finding violations
- County has 3 new conservation officers to help with inspections at accesses

**AIS Prevention Program**

- Counties get funding for how many accesses and parking spots they have
- Early-monitoring greatest tool for non-infested waters/protecting against growing infestations
  - Develop New Infestation Response Plan - modeled after Ramsey County
  - AIS Detective Program for locals to ID invasive species
  - AIS Explorer tool useful for identifying connections between lakes: <https://www.aisexplorer.umn.edu/#!/home>
  - Minnesota Impaired Waters Map - <https://mpca.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=fafc5a12d2fd4b16bc95bb535d09ae82>

The AIS group, with support from the full CCCoLA Board and others, will be working to implement the strategies listed.

Biz Clark has volunteered to join the ABC group working to keep AIS out of the BWCAW.

	<p><b>Get the Lead Out (Joined by Steven Yang and Kelly Amoth) summary:</b> Steven and Kelly shared a wealth of information with this group about Get the Lead Out efforts in Minnesota.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A key reason why Minnesota will have difficulty passing a ban on lead tackle is that there isn't adequate data on loon populations and mortality. The last loon population study was done in 1989. The states that have banned lead tackle, have fewer loons and more data.</li> <li>• The high cost of tungsten, which is more sensitive and heavier than lead, may be a reason anglers hesitate to replace their lead tackle with tungsten. Tungsten is, however, the tackle of choice for ice anglers.</li> <li>• Carrol Henderson, former Supervisor of Minnesota's Non-Game Wildlife program had approached the MPCA about leading the Get the Lead Out effort since lead is an environmental toxin.</li> <li>• Jeff Forester and MLR have been instrumental in supporting ongoing funding for the GLO program which is now funded through 2027.</li> </ul>	<p><b>What CCCoLA can do:</b> Possible to promote legislation to restrict the size of lead tackle.</p> <p>Connect with the National Loon Center in Cross Lake Minnesota. <a href="https://www.nationallooncenter.org/about-loons/">https://www.nationallooncenter.org/about-loons/</a></p> <p>The National Loon Center offers monthly educational Zoom workshops and promotes loon research. One idea we could adopt is their partnership with a local brewery which promotes lead tackle drop off and exchange.</p> <p>Steven will follow up with more information on loon studies and non-lead tackle.</p>
<p><b>Closing reflection</b></p>	<p>An excellent meeting. Great to have guests here to share their expertise and help us to develop well-informed strategies—work together. Appreciated the collaboration. Appreciated the welcoming atmosphere. Gratitude for everyone's participation and commitment. The continuity provided by these ZOOM meetings is important. Plan to do more 1:1 conversations with lakeshore neighbors.</p>	
<p><b>Adjournment</b></p>		<p>Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.</p>
<p><b>Next Meeting</b></p>	<p>The CCCoLA March meeting will be Thursday, March 14, 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 community outreach.</p>	<p>Please send along agenda items you would like included.</p>