

MEETING MINUTES: CCCoLA FEBRUARY 13, 2025

PRESENT: BETSY BLUME (DEVIL TRACK), BARB BOTTGER (HUNGRY JACK LAKE), KATHY BOGEN LOON LAKE), BIZ CLARK (POPLAR LAKE), DAVE COLEMAN (CLEARWATER LAKE), PATTI CRADDOCK (POPLAR LAKE), AL FLIEDER (ASPEN LAKE), GAIL GIESEKE GREENWOOD LAKE), WOLFGANG GREINER (DEVIL TRACK LAKE), ILENA HANSEL, KATE KELNBERGER (WEST BEARSKIN), RORY LAIHO (SOUTH GREENWOOD LAKE ROAD OWNERS), MARGRE LIND MILLS (PIKE LAKE) JOHN MILLS (PIKE LAKE), GARY MACIEJEWSKI (TAIT LAKE), LARRY MULLEN, PETE RAUEN (POPLAR LAKE), ANN SULLIVAN (DISTRICT 4 COOK COUNTY COMMISSIONER), MARY HALVORSON WALDO, JERRY WILKES

GUEST: NEVA MAXWELL, COOK COUNTY LAND SERVICES SUSAN PERRIN SCHUBERT, MINNESOTA PUBLIC LANDS COALITION

Item	Discussion	Action
Presentation and conversation with Neva Maxwell regarding proposed overlay district	Neva Maxwell, Planning and Zoning Administrator from the Land Services Department, presented her ideas on how to encourage workforce housing and residential growth in Cook County. She shared a plan she's been working on to create open space subdivisions, which would allow a 50% greater residential density in these areas. The open space concept clusters rural homes in a design that increases efficiency by making it possible to have shared use of septic systems. By clustering homes on a platted piece of land, "open space" collectively owned by the residents is created which can be used for recreation. The proposal would only be eligible in non-shoreland areas, over a thousand feet away from lakes, and in the far 2 and 3 zone districts. The development would need to be within half a mile of state, county, or township roads and have a platted road to access road services. The proposal is intended for single family dwellings, duplexes, home businesses such as daycares, and accessory structures, but prohibited vacation rentals, guest cabins, and bunkhouses. The proposal was met with interest and questions from the attendees, who were asked to provide feedback and identify concerns. Neva emphasized that the septic system size is determined by the number of	<p>Ann Sullivan expressed her support for the proposed development plan, highlighting its potential for affordable housing and protection of green spaces.</p> <p>CCCoLA members expressed appreciation for Neva's efforts in reaching out to the community for feedback on the Open Space Overlay.</p> <p>Neva encouraged CCCoLA members to reach out to her at if they have further questions, concerns, or ideas.</p>

	<p>bedrooms in a house, and that the county's septic rules are strict and straightforward. Patti raised a question about the planning of septic systems, to which Neva responded that the final plat approval would require a full septic design.</p> <p>Margre raised concerns about the impact of these developments on existing property owners around Pike Lake, particularly on the southeast side. Neva reassured her that the process was still in its initial stages and that most of the proposed developments were on public land parcels. She also noted that the proposed developments were limited to single-family dwellings and did not include commercial or vacation rental properties.</p>	
County Updates-- Ann Sullivan	<p>Ann discussed the county's legislative initiatives, including full funding for Cook County Soil and Water Division, AIS mitigation, and local bridge funding. Ann also mentioned her involvement in the Association of Minnesota Counties' environment and natural resources group and the solid waste subcommittee. She emphasized the need for state funding for waste management and the importance of proper management of electronic waste, batteries, and construction materials. Ann also mentioned that the County Commissioners would be in St. Paul from February 25th to 27th, working with legislators and policy committees.</p> <p>Cook County Commissioners will be meeting with Senator Hauschild and Representative Skraba regarding investments in Emergency Management and Response. Ann is on the Association of Minnesota Counties, Environment and Natural Resources group, on their solid waste subcommittee. This group is working together with other counties throughout Minnesota, because providing public waste management facilities and programs that meet the needs of public is such a challenge. The tourists that come</p>	<p>Kathy encouraged attendees to send their questions and concerns via email.</p> <p>Plans for the proposed new solid waste transfer station can be found on the County Website:</p>

	here, particularly during the summer, contribute to the need for expanding solid waste management services and facilities.	
Comment on ATV Master Plan Susan Perrin-Shubert	<p>Susan Perrin-Shubert shared information about the DNR draft ATV Master Plan trails, highlighting several concerns. She pointed out the lack of mention of washing stations to prevent invasive species spread, inadequate maintenance funding, and issues with the economic impact section, including lack of references and questionable data collection methods.</p> <p>Biz expressed concern about the negative impact of the proposed plan on the environment, particularly the spread of machines on trails. She suggested that manufacturers of the machines should contribute to maintenance and possibly pay for some of the issues caused by their equipment. Susan agreed, highlighting the lobbying efforts of manufacturers and the need for public awareness and action.</p> <p>We also discussed the limited effort by the DNR to engage user groups and community members other than ATV users and clubs.</p> <p>The group discussed the importance of writing letters to legislators and demonstrating understanding of the economic background of the issue. They also discussed the lack of discussion about the effects of these trails on residents living near them.</p> <p>Kathy raised the question of whether the CCCoLA Board members should write a collective letter noting that the survey respondents were predominantly ATV users, lacking perspective from low-impact sport users and residents.</p>	<p>Barb made a motion to write a letter on behalf of CCCoLA to the DNR noting that it's an incomplete document and summarizing concerns CCCoLA members have about the draft ATV Master Plan.</p> <p>Jerry seconded this motion.</p> <p>After some discussion, 11 of 16 voting members support the motion. Dave Coleman mention he'd like to share the letter with his Lake Association members prior to signing on.</p> <p>Major concerns expressed by CCCoLA members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noise and air pollution 2. Damage to environment and habitat 3. Introduction and spread of Invasive Species 4. Use of funds should go to maintenance, signage, upgrades, and enforcement on existing trails rather than creating new ones. <p>The letter will emphasize pro-environment, not anti-ATV.</p> <p>Kathy will draft a letter on behalf of COLA regarding concerns about the ATV master plan and send it out to board members for review. Board members may share the draft CCCoLA letter with their Lake/Road associations for input.</p> <p>Kathy will resend Susan's bullet points and summary to all members along with the website link for submitting comments on the ATV master plan.</p> <p>Comments on the ATV Strategic Master Plan draft must</p>

		be submitted by Friday February 21 st . CCCoLA Members are encouraged to submit individual comments.
Cook County Soil and Water District Updates (Ilana Hansel)	Ilana informed the group about the potential decrease in SWCD and watershed implementation funding.	Ilana will send out information about proposed reduction in SWCD and Watershed Implementation funding. Gary made a motion for a letter to be written on behalf of CCCoLA to support increase of funding for CSWD and Watershed Implementation. Al seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
Proposed AIS Funding Cuts and CCCoLA response	CCCoLA has signed on to a group letter to the Governor requesting that AIS funding not be reduced in the State budget. Barb Bottger made the point that AIS funding Statewide is necessary for reducing AIS infestation in all Minnesota lakes and streams.	Biz will be meeting with Jeff Forester to discuss how his meeting with the Governor went and what the expected funding for AIS. She will report back and encourages members to send letters to the Governor supporting full funding for AIS mitigation. Kathy will draft and send out a letter on behalf of CCCoLA requesting full funding.
	Betsy Blume shared some communication she received from Save the Boundary Waters about a new bill proposed by Senator Hauschild, which would allow projects to start construction without required operating permits in hand and limit comment and public engagement periods.	Kathy will send a link to the members regarding the proposed bill Betsy mentioned from Senator Hauschild. Members can share their concerns with Senator Hauschild individually and if CCCoLA members wish to send a letter on behalf of CCCoLA , this could be accomplished by electronic motion, second, and voting.
Meeting Reflection	Happy Valentine's Day (tomorrow), A very good and full meeting, Thanks for your leadership and communication.	
Next Meeting	The CCCoLA March meeting will be Thursday, March 13. Although this will be a meeting in action groups, we will take time at the beginning to approve the financial statement and meeting minutes of the January and February CCCoLA meetings. We will also ask the action groups to discuss plans to implement action based on common themes.	Please send along agenda items you would like included.