

MEETING MINUTES: CCCoLA MARCH 13, 2025

PRESENT: BETSY BLUME, BARB BOTTGER, KATHY BOGEN, BIZ CLARK, DAVE COLEMAN, PATTI CRADDOCK, AL FLIEDER, GAIL GIESEKE, WOLFGANG GREINER, ILENA HANSEL, KATE KELNBERGER, RORY LAIHO, MARGRE LIND MILLS, JOHN MILLS, GARY MACIEJEWSKI, LARRY MULLEN, PETE RAUEN, ANN SULLIVAN, MARY HALVORSON WALDO, JERRY WILKES

GUEST: SENATOR GRANT HAUSCHILD

Item	Discussion	Action
Approve January and February 2024 Minutes		Pete made a motion to approve the minutes. Al 2 nd No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.
Approve February Financial Statement	Since there was only a minor change (\$10.08) from a dues payment and rewards for March, we will vote on the February financial statement only.	Al made a motion to approve the February financial statement. Barb 2 nd No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.
	Gary mentioned that we haven't received dues from Sag Seagull Lake Association. Ashley Hatchett stepped down as the Sag Seagull representative in June and we need to see if there is someone else who would represent them.	Patti will reach out to Kim at Sag Seagull to see if she or someone else will represent Sag Seagull on the CCCoLA Board. She will also mention the unpaid \$50 dues for 2024.
CCSWD Updates—Ilena Hansel (10:15-10:25)	<p>Ilena discussed upcoming events and initiatives for the season. There will be a meeting on April 25th to review findings on water quality testing from 2024 data and 2025 monitoring. It will be from 9:30 a.m – 11:00 a.m. on Friday, April 25. It will be at the Commissioner's room and via zoom.</p> <p>The June 6th shoreline buffer workshop on Devil's Track Lake was highlighted, along with a workshop on land use development and its impact on water quality. This workshop will also include information on cyanobacteria (NRRI from Duluth will present) and algae blooms.</p> <p>Ilena also mentioned the annual tree sale and a new native plant sale. She encouraged attendees to reach out for</p>	<p>Ilena will provide a Zoom link for the April 25th meeting for those who are unable to attend in person.</p> <p>We will include the June 6th shoreline buffer workshop in our volunteer opportunities flyer and encourage CCCoLA members and others to attend and help out with this workshop.</p> <p>More information on the tree and native plant sale can be found: https://www.co.cook.mn.us/government/departments/soil_and_water/index.php </p>

	<p>technical assistance and mentioned the availability of discounted fencing. Lastly, she mentioned the development of a landscape stewardship plan for the Lake Superior North basin. This will help with reforestation efforts which will improve water quality. Technical assistance is available for individual property owners.</p> <p>There is going to be a native plant sale coming up.</p> <p>Amanda is presenting at the Rainy River Headwater forum in International Falls. Thanks, Amanda for all your work!</p> <p>Note: Senator Hauschild authored and is supporting SF 1089 supporting full funding \$22 million for Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Representative Skaraba also supports the House version HF 1066 of this bill.</p>	<p>Al made a motion for CCCoLA to write a letter to Senator Hauschild and Representative Skraba encouraging their support for bills SF 1089 and HF 1066 that ensure full funding for the State's Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Gary 2nd the motion. Discussion about mentioning the bill in our meeting with Senator Hauschild today. The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>We need to separate our letters in support of CCSWD funding and funding for AIS as they are different bills.</p> <p>It is also very important for individual CCCoLA members and others to write individual letters of support for CCSWD funding.</p>
CJ Ramstad Trail updates	<p>Margre mentioned that on the the OHV/ATV Trail Development Bills: The Senate bill didn't go forward. In the House, there was committee discussion last Thursday in the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee both for increasing weight to 3,000 lbs. and to allocate funds to study adding ATV's to the CJ Ramstad Trail. The following bills were passed on a 7-5 vote.</p> <p>HF274 (Skraba) - C.J. Ramstad/North Shore State Trail Master Plan update to allow for all-terrain vehicle use on a portion of the trail funding provided, and money appropriated.</p> <p>HF1327 (Burkel) - Definition of all-terrain vehicle modified.</p> <p>The only testimony on the HF 274 came from Rick Goutermont, Lake County Commissioner Mickey Brazell, Cook County ATV Andrew Korsberg, Department of Natural Resources Planning and Policy Supervisor, Parks and Trails Division</p>	<p>For members concerned about these bills, you can track them and request an opportunity to testify as they move to the House Ways and Means Committee.</p> <p>HF274 (Skraba) - C.J. Ramstad/North Shore State Trail Master Plan update to allow for all-terrain vehicle use on a portion of the trail funding provided, and money appropriated.</p> <p>HF1327 (Burkel) - Definition of all-terrain vehicle modified.</p>

	<p>On HF 1327, testimony came from Ron Potter, ATV Minnesota JR Burke, Polaris Kyle Makarios, Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association</p>	
Forest Service	<p>Rory reached out to the Forest Service rangers regarding ways volunteers could help with projects. She hasn't heard back yet but will let us know what she learns when she hears back.</p>	<p>We have a staff member from the Forest Service meeting with us in April. This would be a good opportunity for us to ask about Forest Service needs for volunteers.</p>
Volunteer engagement	<p>Ilena mentioned that we could reach out to Tia Parks from the Highway Department to see if there is a need for volunteers to help with invasive terrestrial.</p> <p>Dave Coleman mentioned that the Gunflint Trail Scenic by-way committee is planning an invasive terrestrial species pulling event along the Gunflint Trails.</p>	<p>The Gunflint Green-up event will come up in June and Ilena will send us information about the event.</p> <p>Dave will keep us posted about the weed pulling event.</p> <p>These events will be added to the volunteer engagement flyer which members can share with their Lake and Road Associations and others</p>
Meeting with Senator Grant Hauschild	<p>Senator Housechild expressed his support for the Cook County soil and water division and assured the group that he would work to preserve the funding for the division.</p> <p>Senator Hauschild has spoken with the Governor about the importance of preserving full AIS funding.</p> <p>Senator Hauschild also discussed the Forest Service cuts and the Park Ranger cuts at the Federal level, stating that he would be pushing back against these cuts. He has sent a letter to President Trump and Representative Stauber regarding the importance of funding the Forest Service. He also mentioned that he would be hosting a town hall in International Falls and another one in Cook County.</p> <p>Regarding the OHV/ATV trails, Senator Hauschild stated that the bill would not move forward in the Senate this year due to the lack of agreement among the different trail groups and</p>	<p>On Friday, March 21st, Senator Hauschild will be holding a Town Hall meeting likely around noon at the Cook County YMCA. CCCoLA members and others are encouraged to attend. Kathy will send out details once confirmed.</p> <p>CCCoLA members expressed that they felt this was a meaningful conversation with Senator Hauschild.</p> <p>Another reflection was that Senator Hauschild expressed his support for tourism and understanding that preserving the environment is key to a healthy tourism industry.</p> <p>Kathy will send a thank you note to Senator Hauschild for meeting with us.</p>

	<p>stakeholders. He doesn't know what Representative Skraba is doing about the bill in the House.</p> <p>He also mentioned that work was ongoing to find compromises with clubs on the legislation. There will be a hearing on SF this session and Senator Hauschild encourages us to sign up to testify at the bill's hearing sometime in March or April.</p> <p>Senator Hauschild discussed his consistent stance on mining, emphasizing the need for individual mine plans to be evaluated by state professionals rather than being influenced by political election cycles. He expressed regret over a letter he wrote to President Trump, acknowledging it may have been perceived as more aggressive than intended. He clarified that his proposed permitting bill does not restrict public involvement in mining projects and does not degrade environmental standards. He argued that sticking to existing timelines could lead to more projects being rejected, and proposed separating construction permits from operating permits to improve competitiveness. <u>With SF 570 Tier 2</u> permits for larger scale projects, the EAW petition wouldn't apply so Cook County residents would have a voice in these types of projects.</p> <p>He also addressed concerns about balancing tourism and mining jobs, highlighting his efforts to support tourism through tax relief, funding for tourism organizations, and exemptions for seasonal workers.</p> <p>Senator Hauschild expressed his appreciation for the efforts of CCCoLA members and others who work to preserve and protect the environment.</p>	
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Report out from Action Groups	<p><u>Surface Water</u> The Surface Water group discussed new DNR boating permit requirements and issues like wakeboarding and lakeshore erosion. The DNR is now requiring a boating permit for operators</p> <p><u>Water Quality</u> The Water Quality group emphasized the importance of water monitoring, funding challenges, and community outreach.</p> <p><u>AIS</u> The AIS group focused on funding initiatives and education about invasive species.</p> <p><u>Trails and Lands</u> The Trails and Lands group identified the need for better communication with Mitch Travis, improved volunteer coordination, and addressing ATV concerns.</p>	<p>Kathy encouraged action groups to meet outside of regular CCCOLA meetings to follow up on their initiatives.</p> <p>At the May CCCoLA meeting, Action groups will have the full hour to discuss and plan work for the open water season.</p>
Meeting Reflection	<p>CCCoLA expressed their appreciation for the meeting, with Ann highlighting the great collaboration Larry noting the productivity and informativeness, and Rory praising the opportunity to hear Hauschild share. Biz thanked Ann for her support and Kate expressed trust. Jerry expressed his anger and disappointment with Hauschild's actions. Appreciation for the meeting and gratitude for the opportunity to meet with Senator Hauschild. Appreciated the opportunity to hear Senator Hauschild speak and better understand the best way to go forward given competing interests among constituents.</p>	
Next Meeting	<p>The CCCoLA April meeting will be Thursday, April 10, 2025 10-11:30 a.m. It will be a Zoom meeting.</p>	<p>Please send along agenda items you would like included.</p>