

MEETING MINUTES: CCCoLA MARCH 14, 2024

PRESENT: KATHY BOGEN, BIZ CLARK, AL FLIEDER, CARRIE FRAMSTED , ASHLEY HATCHETT, RORY LAIHO, IRENE MULLEN, LARRY MULLEN, PETE RAUEN, ANN SULLIVAN, DAN SWENSON-KLATT, AMANDA WEBERG

Item	Discussion	Action
Welcome and Introductions (10-10:10)	All members introduced themselves and the Lake/Road Associations they are affiliated with. Dan Swenson-Klatt, new member from Hungry Jack Lake joined the meeting today. Welcome Dan!	
Legislative Event coming up on March 15 (Ann Sullivan)	Ann Sullivan, Cook County District 4 Commissioner, provided a synopsis of the upcoming Legislative event she has been instrumental in organizing. The 5-hour event will be taking place at the Grand Portage Lodge and Casino tomorrow, March 15. The purpose of this event is to be united as a County in sharing priorities with our legislative representatives (Senator Grant Hauschild and Representative Roger Skraba) and hearing from them about their work on behalf of their constituents. This is an invitation-only event with about 50 people anticipated to attend. Carrie Framsted will be representing CCCoLA and will be sharing information about our Get the Lead Out campaign. (Thanks Carrie!) Ilena Hansel will be speaking about SWCD issues-- of great importance is maintaining the current allocation for SWCD's.	
USDA Meeting regarding a grant for Forest Fire Mitigation efforts in the Superior National Forest (Ann Sullivan)	Ann spoke about a substantial grant being written by the United States Forest Service in collaboration with neighboring tribal governments for forest fire mitigation projects in and around the Superior National Forest. Note: The Superior National Forest has been described as the largest and most likely to burn in the Eastern United States. The grant is due April 23 rd . Regarding forest fire mitigation, Rory Laiho asked about requirements for notifying residents about prescribed burns and creating mechanical buffers (thinning and removal of brush) between properties. Pete Rauen asked about when the prescribed burns will be starting this Spring and how residents will be notified. Ann mentioned that work is being done to improve evacuation planning and a new app is being developed that will enable residents to quickly notify County staff that they have evacuated. This will keep firefighters from unnecessarily going into dangerous situations	Cook County Commissioners from Districts 1, 4, and 5 will be available to meet with Lake Associations this summer and would like to be invited so they can get the meeting times on their schedules. They would like to discuss Firewise and changes to the evacuation plan. Please contact the County Commissioner for your District and invite them to your Lake Association meeting.

	to rescue residents who have already evacuated.	
Rainy Headwaters-Vermillion Watershed Plan (Ann Sullivan)	The Rainy Headwaters-Vermillion One Watershed Plan has been approved by the Cook County Commissioners and has now been submitted to BWSR (Board of Water and Soil Resources) for approval. Ann believes it will be approved.	
Action Groups Follow-Up (10:10-10:25)	<p>AIS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irene Mullen shared that the Cook County AIS Advisory group met and discussed the effectiveness of check points for AIS inspections. Commissioner White has expressed support for check points and Grand Portage is looking at putting in a check point with a cleaning and decontamination station. • On Caribou Lake, grant funding will pay for Crawdaddies to come in and trap the Rusty Crayfish for 6 weeks this summer. NRRI from the University of Minnesota will be at Caribou the 3rd week in August to trap Rusty Crayfish for a study. • Signs will be posted on Pike and Caribou Lake after the fishing opener to alert boaters of the presence of Rusty Crayfish in these lakes and the importance of decontaminating their boats after use. • Zebra Mussels have been found in two Harbors and Thunder Bay, so preventing their spread from boats in those waters is critical. <p>Get the Lead Out</p> <p>Due to a faulty email account, Jerry Wilkes wasn't aware of some of the CCCoLA's Get the Lead Out campaign communication. He has been in touch with some resorts and Buck's where he has placed lead tackle collection buckets and GLO literature. He also led a Get the Lead Out workshop at Cook County Higher Education. Now that we have his new email and phone number, we'll be able to work more closely together on this campaign. Thanks to Jerry and everyone else working on the GLO campaign!</p>	

	<p>Septics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carrie has drafted an article for the Cook County Herald on the topic of septic installation, maintenance, and inspections. She is also planning a radio spot on WTIP about septic issues in Cook County. • Biz is working with Cook County Higher Education to host a 2-hour workshop on septic issues. This workshop will be open to the public and focused especially on residents who already have septic systems or are planning to install them. Capacity will be 30-40 if lecture style. The workshop will feature key individuals who play an important role in ensuring the quality of septic design and maintenance: <u>Neva Maxwell</u> to address shoreline development and ordinances <u>Mitch Everson</u> to address septic design, maintenance, and inspections <u>G & G Septic</u> to address care of septic systems. • CCCoLA members recommended holding the workshop in mid-late June when more of the seasonal residents are apt to be around 	<p>Biz requests that we help spread the word among our Lake/Road Association members about this workshop once the details are set up (around Mid-May). She will look into getting the publications on Shoreline management and septic system construction guidelines. Kathy will create and send a placard on septic maintenance.</p> <p>CCHE will also publicize the workshop.</p>
<p>Articles for the Cook County Journal</p>	<p>Since Carrie is writing an article on septic for a March edition of the journal, it would be great to do another article from CCCoLA on either Get the Lead Out or AIS for April.</p>	<p>Anyone from either of these action groups willing to write an article on one of these?</p>
<p>Plastic Boat Shrink Wrap Bill and Discussion (10:25-10:40)</p>	<p>More discussion is needed if we plan to send a letter to our legislators and/or MLR concerning our position as an organization on the Boat Shrink Wrap bill as there are some concerns about how it would be implemented and its impacts. Ashley Hatchett shared that while she has no argument with the idea of the bill, she has concerns about the timeline being too short to accomplish its goals. The deadline for a plan to be developed is also too short to be thorough, and there isn't the infrastructure in place to collect the plastic wrap in more remote areas of the State such as Cook County. She is also concerned about the requirement for producers to accept all plastic shrink wrap regardless of where it was produced.</p> <p>Biz noted that she supports the bill and that it will encourage emerging technology of plastic recycling in the State.</p> <p>Al noted that he sees the relevance of doing something to curb the presence of plastics in landfills where it can leach into water sources.</p>	<p>Individual CCCoLA members can write letters to their legislators. Please do not mention CCCoLA in this communication. A small group (Ashley Dan, Kathy, and likely Dave) will meet to draft a CCCoLA position letter inclusive of the support for the bill's intent but also expressing concerns mentioned about the timeline and impacts. Once drafted by the group, members will have an opportunity to review, discuss, and vote.</p>

Clarification of Electronic Voting Process	If electronic voting is needed, procedure will be for one member to make a motion and another to second the motion. The chair will ask for discussion once the motion to approve is made and seconded. After the question is called, we can then all vote aye, nay, or abstain. In the case of the plastic shrink wrap letter, at least 4 days will be allowed from the time the draft letter is sent out so members may consult with their Lake Association members if they wish to.	CCCoLA members are encouraged to respond in a timely manner when a call for electronic voting goes out. E-voting will be used only when a vote is needed prior to the regular meeting times.
Spring and Summer Outreach Events	Carrie will not be available to host a table at the Earth Day event this year. No one else has volunteered, so we will not have a presence at this event. Other events: Gunflint Green-up and Fisherman's picnic will need to be staffed by CCCoLA members.	We'll firm up plans at our April and May meetings. Kathy will purchase a tent for the outdoor events.
T-Shirt Design and Printing	We discussed T-shirt designs and decided to use one that our Lake Association members and the public might like to buy at our events. On the front will be the larger design with the shoreline, heron, fishing child, and paddler. On the back will be a by-line "Cook County Coalition of Lake Associations (CCCoLA) Celebrating 30 years of citizens working together to protect and preserve the waters and shorelands of Cook County Minnesota"	Kathy will put together a proposal for design and colors and send out to members prior to ordering the T-shirts. Members will be able to order the size (s) they want.
ABC Boundary Waters Meeting Summary	Amanda mentioned that the ABC group (BWCAW AIS Mitigation Collaborative) is working on an America the Beautiful grant to address AIS mitigation in the BWCA. One of the items this grant would fund would be AIS kiosks with AIS removal tools at the Saginaga, Bearskin, and Grand Portage landings.	
New Business	Zoom Membership $\$174 \times .5 = \87 to reimburse Kathy for payment.	
Closing reflection	Lots of information. Great discussion. Learned a lot. Appreciate the research and background on issues such as plastic shrink wrap. Looking forward to getting the T-shirts. Good Nice to have Dan Swenson-Klatt join. Good to explore topics in depth and find unity. Process, content, purpose.	
Adjournment		Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.
Next Meeting	Kathy is unable to chair the meeting on April 11 due to a prior commitment.	We will hold the April meeting on Thursday, April 18, 10-11:30 a.m.