

MEETING MINUTES: CCCoLA APRIL 10, 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), DOUG LAIHO (SOUTH GREENWOOD LAKE ROAD OWNERS), RORY LAIHO (SOUTH GREENWOOD LAKE ROAD OWNERS), MARGRE LIND MILLS (PIKE LAKE) JOHN MILLS (PIKE LAKE), GARY MACIEJEWSKI (TAIT LAKE), IRENE MULLEN (CARIBOU LAKE), LARRY MULLEN (CARIBOU LAKE), PETE RAUEN (POPLAR LAKE), ANN SULLIVAN (DISTRICT 4 COOK COUNTY COMMISSIONER), AMANDA WEBERG (COOK COUNTY AIS COORDINATOR).

Item	Discussion	Action
Welcome and Introductions	Members introduced themselves and their Lake/ road association affiliations. Larry Bick will be representing Poplar Lake PLAA going forward. Welcome Larry!	
Forest Service discussion regarding wildfire mitigation	We had an informal conversation about Forest Fire matters which covered the understory/balsam thinning piles in the mid-trail area. These piles need to be burned and this will most likely happen in the Fall around East Bearskin and Squint Lake. The Firewise piles are open for residents to deposit brush and trees. The County helps with pushing the piles together when they get spread out. Loss of staff due to Federal budget cuts will impact service at ranger stations including BWCA permits. There is no overtime allowed and this will impact the ability to tend burn piles.	<p>May 1st 5-6:30 pm Forest Service Open House at the Schaap Center. People are encouraged to come to learn more and ask questions.</p> <p>May 2nd 5-6:30 Forest Service Open House at the Lutsen Town Hall 116 Caribou Trail.</p>
Review and approval of March 13, 2025 minutes		<p>Gary made a motion to approve the March CCCoLA minutes.</p> <p>Pete seconded the motion. No discussion.</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously.</p>
Review and approval of Treasurer's report (10:32-10:35)	Gary presented the Treasurer's report. Total dues from 2024 were \$920. MNCOLA dues of \$150 were paid. Leaving and ending balance of \$1163. \$792 are currently accessible. Kathy has been in contact with Kim Dayton from Sag-Seagull and she has agreed to send out a note to Sag-Seagull members requesting someone to serve as a representative	<p>Larry made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report.</p> <p>Al seconded.</p> <p>The motion was approved unanimously.</p>

	on CCCoLA. Kelly Berg is the Treasurer of Sag-Seagull.	
Budget item: Ordering more brochures	<p>Northern Wilds will print 1000 brochures for \$223.37. The cost for printing 250 brochures is \$154.24 (a difference of \$69.13)</p> <p>We discussed that it will be important to limit time-sensitive information in the brochure so that the information is applicable into the next couple of years. We will have the contact information listed as CookCountyCola@gmail.com so that we have a consistent contact into the future. We want to avoid posting personal email or phone numbers to reduce the chance of spam.</p>	<p>Al made a motion to have 1000 brochures printed. Gary seconded. Motion passed.</p> <p>Kathy will send out the proof to members prior to giving the go-ahead to print.</p> <p>The brochures will be distributed to CCCoLA members at the June in-person meeting.</p> <p>Ann will brochures at Lake Association meetings.</p>
County Updates-- Ann Sullivan 10:35-10:45	<p>Ann discussed the potential impact of state funding reductions on the county, including a proposed reduction of \$102,004 in AIS funding, \$47,159 in public health and human services, and a recommendation to reduce PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) funding by 34%. She emphasized that these cuts would require a 2.7% increase in the levy.</p> <p>The Army Corps of Engineers has had reduced funding, which could affect erosion issues in Grand Marais.</p> <p>She also mentioned that the Gunflint Trail construction project from the water tower to 4 Corners is moving forward with 11 million dollars secured. There will be traffic delays in this area of the Gunflint Trail and no signed alternate routes due to the construction of a bridge and resurfacing of the road. A fourth lane will be added for logging trucks, and a bypass lane will be added for the cutoff road intersection. A 160-foot bridge will replace the box culvert over the river.</p> <p>The County Commissioners approved for a \$8,500 generator at the Lutsen Town Hall as FEMA \$ may not be available.</p>	<p>Citizen action (your emails, phone calls, and notes) that show support for local initiatives. CCCoLA members should contact Representative Skraba and Senator Hauschild asap.</p> <p>PILT: Urge the legislature to reject the proposed cuts of 34% to PILT Disproportionately impacts the northern counties, which accounts for 95% of PILT payments.</p> <p>Schools: Support funding that would reverse legislation passed in 2000, that would move money generated by non-residential taxpayers from the general fund back to the schools. This would not only return hundreds of thousands of dollars to schools, but would potentially offset the cost of a school levy by 50% for homesteaded properties Basically, "cabin" tax that goes into the general fund would go to the Cook County school district.</p> <p>CCCoLA members should email Ann Sullivan if they would like to be on an email list for Gunflint Trail construction updates. Ann.sullivan@co.cook.mn.us</p>

Field Code Changed

	<p>Upcoming events:</p> <p>April 22, 5-7 pm A Town Hall meeting will be held on at the YMCA to discuss the impact of federal funding on Cook County. Ann will be there to discuss the impact of federal reductions at FEMA on emergency management in the County.</p> <p>May 2nd and 3rd Ann encourages everyone to register for an Emergency Services conference which will cover topics important to residents concerning wildfire and emergency preparedness, and evacuation.</p> <p>Monday, May 12 at the Courthouse 5-7 p.m. Airport Master Plan Public Meeting</p> <p>Sunday, May 18, 11am-3 at the Cook County Community Center Water recreation swap meet (boats, motors, fishing equipment, outdoor recreation equipment)</p>	<p>Be sure to let Ann know the dates asap you would like her to speak at your Lake and Road associations this summer.</p>
<p>AIS Updates Amanda Weberg</p>	<p>Amanda announced funding for the AIS detector course, which teaches how to identify native and invasive species. She also mentioned a training she is leading on I- Naturalist and Edmaps on June 12th, 12-1. This training will be valuable because more people will be trained to recognize and report AIS. There will be 3 inspectors at boat launches this season.</p> <p>The AIS funding is still under consideration due to legislative cuts. Amanda confirmed that \$200,000 for AIS mitigation has been allocated to Cook County annually for the last 9 years.</p>	<p>Kathy encouraged everyone to volunteer and support Amanda's efforts.</p>

Highlights of 3/21 Town Hall with Senator Hauschild—Barb Bottger	<p>Barb Bottger shared a summary of the Town Hall meeting with Senator Hauschild on March 21. There were around 200 people in attendance at the meeting. She emphasized that Senator Hauschild seemed honest and genuine in giving remarks and responding to questions. He is the only Democrat representing a rural District in Minnesota. He works with Representative Roger Skraba on writing policies that speak to the needs of constituents. He noted that the most divisive issue in rural districts is ATV issues so he has to be mindful of the desire for more ATV Trails along with need for environmental stewardship.</p> <p>Biz mentioned that Senator Hauschild has been working on legislation for tightening up the permitting process for mining. Public hearings would be required, but only residents of Cook Lake and St. Louis County would have input at the hearings.</p>	
Legislative Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MLR • MNCOLA 	<p>Kathy provided legislative updates on bills related to lake and river management, including a "Keep it Clean" program for ice fishing waste and an increase in boat license surcharges for aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention.</p> <p>Amanda clarified that the AIS surcharge goes directly to the DNR's AIS program, separate from County AIS funding. She noted that the State AIS funding is needed because the DNR doesn't have the capacity to</p>	<p>Kathy will share links to legislative information with the group.</p> <p>Kathy encourages CCCoLA members to sign up for the MLR and MNCOLA newsletters to keep up to date on legislative action and statewide initiatives that protect and preserve lakes and shorelands.</p> <p>https://mnlakesandrivers.org/</p> <p>https://mncola.org/</p>
MLR Updates Shoreline Stewardship Program	<p>Kathy mentioned the Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Lake Stewardship program that lake associations can participate in as pilot projects. This is a well-supported program for lakeshore residents to work together to improve shoreland and water quality.</p> <p>https://mnlakesandrivers.org/lake-steward/</p>	<p>Larry Montana from Hungry Jack Lake Association has contacted Lily Carr from MLR and will be initiating a Lake Steward project this year.</p> <p>Betsy Blume will let us know at our June meeting if there is interest among Devil Track Lake residents in starting a Lake Steward program.</p>

Volunteer Recruitment Plan and Events	Kathy presented a volunteer recruitment flyer for upcoming events and asks for feedback, with Barb suggesting adding the CCCoLA logo.	Kathy will adjust the volunteer recruitment flyer so that the CCCoLA logo is emphasized.
Meeting Reflection	Great meeting. Nice to have outside presenters join us. Great to have Forest Service information. Forest Service linkage is great. Looking forward to sharing some of the information from this meeting with others in her Lake Association via the May newsletter. Rich. Relevant. Important. Another great meeting—can't believe how much information we learn. Positive. Thanks for being here. Great meeting – Thank you (2)	Barb noted that Amanda and Ilena presented at the Hungry Jack Lake Association meeting and this was very valuable. Other Lake Associations might benefit from this type of presentation as well.
Zoom recording Link for this meeting	https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/GjnVY7b2JdPErt-jiJnIAk-vYGUhYbYdB-2TL70Vj-P-b6smsrITmBSu8_26-3fG.-SbU9kHFeoyJpq95 Passcode: YP!.w8M\$	
Next Meeting	The May meeting will be an Action Group break-out meeting.	Thursday, May 8, 10-11:30 a.m. Zoom