

MEETING MINUTES: CCCoLA MAY 8, 2025

PRESENT: LARRY BICK (POPLAR LAKE), BETSY BLUME (DEVIL TRACK), KATHY BOGEN (LOON LAKE ROAD ASSOCIATION), BIZ CLARK (POPLAR LAKE), PATTI CRADDOCK (PIKE LAKE), AL FLIEDER (ASPEN LAKE), ILENA HANSEL (COOK COUNTY SOIL AND WATER DISTRICT MANAGER), MARGRE LIND MILLS (PIKE LAKE), JOHN MILLS (PIKE LAKE), GARY MACIEJEWSKI (TAIT LAKE), LARRY MONTAN (HUNGRY JACK), IRENE MULLEN (CARIBOU LAKE), LARRY MULLEN (CARIBOU LAKE), PETE RAUEN (POPLAR LAKE), ANN SULLIVAN (DISTRICT 4 COUNTY COMMISSIONER), AMANDA WEBERG (COOK COUNTY AIS COORDINATOR) MITCH TRAVIS (COOK COUNTY WESTLAND SPECIALIST, STORMWATER OFFICER, PARKS AND TRAILS COORDINATOR)

Item	Discussion	Action
Clarification on Signal on the Gunflint Trail for Emergency Vehicles	During construction on the Gunflint Trail, there will be a temporary stoplight installed. Everyone, including emergency vehicles <u>must stop</u> when the light is red.	
Report out from Action Groups	<p><u>Surface Water</u> Definition of surface water uses: “what people do on the water and how it affects the lake and the people.” There was a discussion about building consensus among lakeshore property owners concerning surface water uses.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Survey all the lakes in CCCoLA to see what their concerns are. 2. Once that information comes back, is coming up with a roadmap to help the Lake Associations address those concerns. 3. There’s also a need to get information out about what legal use of the lake is.
	<p><u>AIS</u> Amanda noted that the 50% reduction in State funding for AIS has been taken out by the tax revenue committee in the legislative budget. It remains to be seen if the Governor will sign the budget bill.</p> <p>The group discussed various aspects of AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) prevention and outreach in Cook County. A checkpoint for boat inspections will be set up on one day this summer on Highway 61.</p> <p>The group emphasized the importance of education and</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase effort to get AIS Mitigation practices printed in materials that go out to visitors and lakeshore residents alike. 2. Individual lakeshore property owners have an important role in educating others when there are issues (such as installing a dock from an infested lake). They can also contact Amanda. 3. CCCoLA members are encouraged to volunteer at upcoming events to staff both

<p>outreach to lake property owners, visitors, and the broader community. They plan to collaborate with Visit Cook County to create informative materials for tourists and explore ways to spread AIS prevention messages through maps and local attractions.</p>	<p>CCCoLA and AIS booths, highlighting the organization's role in AIS infestation prevention and community engagement. Sign up to staff both the CCCoLA booth and AIS booth at events such as the Gunflint Canoe Races and Fisherman's Picnic.</p>
<p><u>Water Quality</u></p> <p>The water quality group discussed priorities are to focus on engagement and education, science-based focus and decision-making septic system education, algae blooms and shoreline protection. This group discussed initiating a Lake Steward program on Devil Track and Hungry Jack Lakes. Betsy, Jerry Wilkes, and Wolfgang Greiner met with Lily Carr, Lake Steward Program Coordinator from MLR. The Devil Track group is working on getting the word out to their members about the program. It begins with property owners taking a survey to assess their current stewardship practices. The survey results go to Lily who can then connect them with a Lake Steward Assessor (volunteer trained to do the assessments). As the property owner moves toward improved Lake Steward practices, they receive a Lake Steward sign to post on their property. Signs are \$43 each plus \$17 for tax and shipping. The signs help to build interest and connection around lake stewardship practices.</p>	<p>The Lake Steward program will roll out in conjunction with the Shoreline Planting workshop on June 6th.</p> <p>Lily Carr will be coming to meet with the Devil Track Lake Association on July 7th. Larry Montan would also like to attend this meeting.</p>
<p><u>Trails and Lands</u></p> <p>Discussion about how ATV use has a bigger statewide context. It is important for members to become familiar with who their Conservation officer is so that they know who to speak with if there's a question or concern. There are 3 State DNR CO's and one Federal officer in Cook County. The group discussed that there are essentially 3 types of lakeshore residents in Cook County: year-round residents, seasonal residents who spend various portions of the year at their lake</p>	<p>Goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Outreach especially to year-round and seasonal lakeshore property owners to develop knowledge base and encourage lake stewardship practices. 2. Signage on lakes and trails to indicate permitted uses and recommended stewardship practices.

	properties, then there are people who come up on weekends or for short periods of time.	
DNR Funding	Most funding for the DNR comes from license fees. The \$5 surcharge for AIS goes into the DNR's AIS mitigation budget.	It's important for people to purchase licenses to support the DNR's work.
Meeting Reflection	Very informative. Good to meet with others who are committed. Good meeting. Constructive discussions. A lot of good viewpoints. Optimistic. Good to see a group of concerned citizens exercising and engaging in the public process.	
Next Meeting	The CCCoLA June meeting will be Thursday, June 12, 2025 10-11:30 a.m. at the Schaap Center	Please send along agenda items you would like included.