

MEETING MINUTES: CCCoLA NOVEMBER 14, 2024

PRESENT: BETSY BLUME, KATHY BOGEN, BARB BOTTGER, JOHN BOTTGER, DAVE COLEMAN, PATTI CRADDOCK, KATE KELNBERG, GARY MACIEJEWSKI, MARGRE LIND MILLS, JOHN MILLS, IRENE MULLEN, LARRY MULLEN, RORY LAIHO, PETE RAUEN, JERRY WILKES, ANN SULLIVAN

Item	Discussion	Action
Welcome and Introductions	All introduced themselves and Lake or other affiliations.	
Approval of the October 10, 2024 minutes		Gary moved to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2024 CCCoLA meeting. Rory seconded. Motion approved unanimously.
Treasurers Report	Gary then presented the treasurer's report, stating that there was no income or expense and that Sag Seagull was still owing their dues. Total of 931.51 available.	Ann will contact the Sag-Seagull Treasurer, Kelly Berg about sending in the dues for their Lake Association.
A new Representative from Sag-Seagull Lake is needed as Ashley Hatchett has resigned.	Communication with Sag-Seagull has been lagging as Ashley Hatchett resigned her position as CCCoLA Representative and there is currently no new representative. Susan Webber, Bill Douglas, or others might be interested?	Patti Craddock, Barb and John Bottger, and Kate Kelnberger will contact a few folks they know from Sag-Seagull to see if they'd be interested.
Meeting overview	This meeting will focus on setting up action groups and make decisions about legislative engagement.	
County Commissioner Report from Ann Sullivan	<p>Concerning the CJ Ramstad Trail use expansion to include ATV's , Ann reported that the Superior Hiking Trail declined to provide a letter of support for this change and the representative group of Superior Cycling hasn't sent one in either. The Sawtooth Saddle Club sent in a letter of support. Therefore, only 2 of the 3 user groups have responded with a letter of support thus far. The Parks and Trails Commission will be meeting virtually on Tuesday November 19th and will be discussing this issue. It would be great to have some CCCoLA members attend.</p> <p><u>County Budget.</u> The levy started out with a 9.81% preliminary levy. Commissioners have worked to bring it down to 9.6%. The goal is to get it down to around 5, which is kind of a historical average putting the County in a good position to make progress and do some planning and</p>	Prior to the meeting, contact Mitch Travis, the Parks & Trails Coordinator and Wetlands Specialist. His office number is 218-387-3634, and his cell is 218-235-4109. Mitch's email: mitch.travis@co.cook.mn.us and Tim Nelson know that you're planning to attend. Randy Knutson is the Chair of the Committee.

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	<p>preparation, but also keep it reasonable for the taxpayers. We had not looked at fees for septics, vacation rentals after the fact, variances, etc. There are a couple of pages of fees that were reviewed, and the County estimates an additional \$100,000 a year from the fees. The fees are paid by users so they are not spread out among all taxpayers.</p>	
	<p>The letter of support from CCCoLA was helpful when the request for \$20,000 for Cook County Soil and Water was made as part of the budgeting process.</p>	
	<p>A grant is being written by Cook County Soil and Water District to the application will be turned in this Friday.</p>	
	<p>County Staff Position vacancies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>County Administrator</u>, James Joerke, has recently resigned due to the tragic death of his wife in a hit and run accident making it important for him to return to his home in Kansas City. • <u>The County Attorney</u> has resigned effective December 31st. • <u>Firewise Coordinator</u> has resigned effective December 31st. He has been serving as Firewise Coordinator for both Lake and Cook County and the workload plus travel is challenging. • <u>HRA Director</u>, Jason Hale, has resigned. <p>Ann mentioned that the work of these dedicated staff members has been invaluable to Cook County. Filling these key positions is a major focus for the Commissioners.</p>	<p>Margre Lind Mills will connect with the key Forest Service staff so arrangements can be made for them to join our CCCoLA meeting in April or May.</p>
	<p>The US Forest Service would like to meet with CCCoLA in the early Spring to discuss burning piles and other topics.</p>	
	<p>The County Commissioners decided to continue with a County Administrator. Therefore, David Dronan and Associates have been contracted to begin a candidate search. Study was done to inform this decision.</p>	

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CJ Ramstad Trail updates	In sharing perspectives with members of the Parks and Trails Commission, it's important to address the <u>process</u> of passing a resolution to allow ATV use on the C.J. Ramstad Trail with little public input as well as concerns about introducing ATV use on the trail.	As some members of our Lake and Road Associations may not agree that the CJ Ramstad should remain closed to ATV's, it is best that we speak for ourselves at the November 19 Parks and Trails meeting.
Lake Association Structure and Representation	Kathy proposed creating a Google Doc to better understand the structure and representation of each lake association. The document would include information such as the number of members, how often they meet, and how they are organized. This would help in understanding each lake association's unique characteristics and how they represent their members. The document would also aid in taking a stand on issues, as it would provide a clearer picture of the number of people engaged in the work. Important to include both paying members and people who are included in the communication that goes out.	Kathy will create a google doc for CCCoLA members to fill in information about their Lake Road Associations. There will be columns for contact person, number of members, a description of the Association including structure, meeting frequency (and usual dates) key issues.
Membership in Minnesota Lakes and Rivers (MLR)	Kathy discussed the importance of maintaining connections with Jeff Forrester and his staff, particularly during the legislative session as many CCCoLA issues are ones experienced by Lake Associations statewide. MLR provides excellent online resources, research, and connections with state agencies and decision-makers.	Kathy will continue to represent CCCoLA at statewide meetings and in the ABC collaborative which addresses Aquatic Invasive Species mitigation in the BWCAW. Rory will also attend these meetings.
Membership in Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations (MNCOLA)	The Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations formally brings together Lake Associations around Minnesota to provide education, stay informed, share strategies for addressing common issues, and lobby at the State legislative level for measures that protect Minnesota's waters and shorelands. It is important for CCCoLA to have one or more representatives attend the MNCOLA meetings and maintain communication with this organization.	Al Flieder attends the MNCOLA meetings and has been providing CCCoLA with Synopses of their meetings. Patti Craddock will join Al in representing CCCoLA at the MNCOLA meetings.
Legislative outreach and engagement	The legislative session will begin January 12. There are likely to be some monumental changes coming due to the outcome of the recent national election.	We decided to postpone the legislative meeting until February or March, considering the busy schedules of the representatives.

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		<p>Margre will reach out to Senator Hauschild and Representative Skraba to see if they will be available to meet with us in February or March. Kathy will send Margre contact information and correspondence to help with setting up this meeting.</p>
<p>Virtual Meeting Schedule and Action Groups</p>	<p>We discussed our meeting schedule for the months of January-May when we meet virtually. Every other month, we will meet in break-out groups to deepen work on specific issues.</p> <p>We discussed grouping water quality issues such as septic systems, shoreline management, and contaminants together. This will provide the group a more comprehensive look at causes for water quality issues and what can be done to address them. We hope Ilena Hansel will be able to meet with this group.</p> <p>The surface water group will work on addressing watercraft and lake association issues.</p> <p>The Land and trail use group would focus on ATV use and signage. Gary suggested that the land and trail use group should be designated as "trail use" to avoid being seen as anti-ATV.</p> <p>Aquatic Invasive Species group will continue to address strategies to mitigate AIS transmission and infestations in Cook County lakes.</p>	<p>The virtual meeting schedule will be as follows: December no meeting January 9, 2025 break-out groups February 13, meeting of the whole March 13, break-out groups April 10, meeting of the whole May 8, break out-groups</p> <p>Members agreed to these groupings and Kathy asked for volunteers to join the groups. A google form will be sent for members to sign up if they haven't already decided which action group they would like to join.</p> <p>Patti Craddock agreed to head up the <u>Water Quality Action group</u>. Others interested in joining: Rory Laiho, Ann Sullivan, Jerry Wilkes, and Betsy Blume</p> <p>Irene and Larry will serve on the Surface Water action group. They will also participate in the AIS group.</p>

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		Margre and John Mills will be on the Land and Trail Use Action group.
Steering Committee	With Carrie Framstad's move out of Cook County, Barb and John Bottger and Margre Lind Mills agreed to join the Steering Committee. Their terms would typically run for 2 years beginning in June when we hold elections. Al and Pete plan to step down from the Steering Committee when their terms are up in June of 2025, so it will work well to elect Barb and John and Margre to serve through June of 2026 thus staggering Steering Committee members' 2-year terms. Kathy and Gary's terms will also expire June 2025. At this point, the CCCoLA Board should vote to approve the slate of new members whose terms will run to June 2026.	Rory Laiho made a motion to elect Barb and John Bottger and Margre Lind Mills to the CCCoLA Steering Committee for a term running to June 2026. Patti Craddock seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
New Business	Rory raised a question about groundwater quality in the Arrowhead region, which led to a discussion about mining and pollutants. This is an issue we will keep on our radar. Dark skies: light and noise pollution are another emerging issue.	Dave Coleman is involved with the Dark Skies Festival and will send out communication on this topic to CCCoLA members.
Meeting Reflection	Very productive meeting. Goof for us to avoid overextending. Glad to see an expanded reach on water quality. I always learn something new. A great group. Keeps me informed and engaged. Appreciate everyone's thoughts and commitment. Appreciate Ann Sullivan's involvement. A group I look forward to meeting with.	
Next meeting.	Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 9 10-11:30 a.m. CST We will be meeting in break-out Action Groups. A zoom link will be sent out with the meeting agenda and supporting materials.	