

MEETING MINUTES: CCCoLA AUGUST 8, 2024

PRESENT: CAROL BERG, KATHY BOGEN, BARB BOTTGER, JOHN BOTTGER, JERRY CAPLE, BIZ CLARK, DAVE COLEMAN, PATTI CRADDOCK, LINDA ESPERSON, AL FLIEDER, JOEL HALVORSON, ILENA HANSEL, KATE KELNBERG, MARGRE LIND MILLS, JOHN MILLS, IRENE MULLSEN, LARRY MULLEN, RORY LAIHO, GARY MACIEJEWSKI, ANN SULLIVAN, JERRY WILKES **GUEST PRESENTER:** SUSAN PERRIN SCHUBERT

Item	Discussion	Action
Welcome and Introductions	All introduced themselves and their Lake/Road Association affiliations. Welcome new members Margre Lind Mills and John Mills from Pike Lake!	
CCSWD overview with Ilena Hansel.	<p>Ilena Hansel provided a comprehensive overview of the Cook County Soil and Water Division of which she is the Director. CCCoLA works closely with CCSWD providing volunteer support in the interest of preserving and protecting Cook County waters and shorelands.</p> <p>CCSWD’s work in Cook County includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site visits to landowners (shorelines, forestry, site inspections, (over 35 in 2024) • Water monitoring (lakes, beaches, streams, Lake Superior) • Tree sales • AIS outreach events • Work with youth in the Cook County Youth Exchange <p>One Watershed, One Plan Watershed planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rainy River Watershed (updating will begin in 3 years) • Lake Superior North (updating is beginning) <p>Note: Legislative language restricts SWCD’s from monitoring, but they can do civic engagement projects such as water testing. There will be an event in the Fall to share data on water monitoring for 2024. Regarding water testing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waters are warming • Calcium samples will be done on Tuesday, August 21 	<p>How can CCCoLA help to support consistent, adequate funding for CCCSWD?</p> <p>Send a letter to the Cook County Board of Commissioners recommending an increase in the County’s funding allocation for CCSWD.</p> <p>Work closely with MLR (Minnesota Lakes and Rivers) as they lobby for increases in funding for County Soil and Water Divisions statewide.</p> <p>Communicate the need for State support to our Senator (Grant Hauschild) and Representative (Roger Skraba)</p>

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	<p>Funding for CCSWD is a local subset of the State and is their own local unit. The CCSWD is funded through Federal, State, and local government sources, but lacks adequate consistent funding to guarantee financial support for its staff and the projects they implement. Therefore, CCSWD is dependent upon multiple grants which require complex management. The personnel costs are currently \$452,000. This covers, wages, health insurance, workers compensation, etc. Of this amount, 48% is soft money (e.g. \$221,000 must be raised to supplement staffing costs). The County allocation to CCSWD is currently \$60,000.</p> <p>Current funding supports 4 staff members: District Manager (Ilena), 2 Conservation Techs, a Financial Manager, and an Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator (Amanda).</p> <p>Q: Is there new funding targeting climate resilience? A: Hasn't become enough of a priority for robust funding, but Ilena is advocating for funding to protect waters and shorelands. Replacing culverts helps to protect stream health and build resiliency.</p>	
<p>Recycling and Waste updates- Ann Sullivan</p>	<p>Cook County passed a surface Water ordinance in May to make sure wake boats aren't stirring up sediments, destroying loon habitat, or eroding shorelines on Caribou Lake. In addition to protecting wildlife, waters, and shorelines, a wake boat ordinance Increases safety on lakes. Cook County is the first in the State to pass such an ordinance. Note: Additional signage must be added to the shoreline.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The possibility of working toward a similar ordinance was brought up at the Pike Lake Association and received vocal opposition from a member. • Hungry Jack Homeowners made a motion at the Association supported a motion at their meeting to pursue a wake boat ordinance. <p>Note: There are already restrictions on jet ski speeds and how close they can be to shorelines. See attached regulations.</p> <p>Q: Has the DNR ever considered restricting motor size on smaller lakes? A: DNR takes these lake-by-lake because of opposition statewide.</p>	<p>Contact City Administrator James Yorke if your Lake Association is interested in a similar ordinance. Ann Sullivan is also happy to work with you.</p> <p>Caribou Lake Association has put together a copy of scientific studies which would be helpful for any Lake Association interested in pursuing a similar ordinance. Contact Irene and Larry Mullen.</p> <p>Given the interest in this issue, CCCoLA could form an additional action group to address surface</p>

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	<p>Garbage and Recycling issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycling and garbage issues are prevalent in Cook County. • Contamination of recycling reduces return on cost. • Recyclables don't go into a landfill. • Don't leave recycling outside of the collection receptacles. <p>Septic Inspections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loon Lake and Birch Lake will have lakeshore property septic inspections next year (2025). 	<p>water issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biz made a motion to form a surface water action group. • John Craddock seconded the motion. • The motion passed unanimously.
Legislative engagement planning	<p>Kathy provided a summary of her conversation with Jeff Forester, MLR Director, regarding legislative engagement for the 2025 session.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeff noted that this is campaign season, so legislators are focused on fundraising and campaigning. It's a good time to meet with incumbents and candidates to share priorities and build relationships. Attending fundraisers and community forums. • Stay connected with MLR regarding legislative priorities and bills. Timing is critical when it comes to letter writing, providing testimony, and lobbying for specific bills. Jeff emphasized that we should continue to connect with MLR as some requests for support are "performative" meaning the timing serves to make a point rather than be effective. 	
OHV Bill and legislative process- Susan Perrin Schubert, Minnesota Public Lands Commission	<p>OHV (Off Highway Vehicles) is the umbrella term for ATV's (All Terrain Vehicles), ORV's (off-road vehicles), and ORM's (off-road motorcycles)</p> <p>Susan Perrin Schubert with Minnesota Public Lands Commission, which she leads, presented information about a bill requiring OHV use only on signed, designated trails. Note: in the Northern Minnesota Counties, any trail is currently accessible to OHV's unless posted. CCCoLA has supported this bill in previous legislative sessions.</p> <p>The OHV bill was heard in committee during the 2024 session but didn't make it into the omnibus bill.</p> <p>Important measures in the OHV Bill (it will have new numbers in the 2025</p>	<p>Barb Bottger made a motion for CCCoLA's continued support for the OHV bill when it comes up in the 2025 legislative session.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCCoLA continues to support the OHV bill in principal subject to members reading the full bill when drafted. • Carol Berg seconded • The motion passed unanimously.

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	<p>session).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. OHV's can only access signed and posted trails. 2. Required buffer zones for future trails (current guidelines are unenforceable, not required) 3. The bill says that "exceptional waters" shouldn't be near OHV trails. <p>Susan provided us with a useful guide to the legislative process which clarifies when and how it is important to provide input to legislators on specific bills. Quick summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note on the handout "How a Bill Becomes a Law" that where the MN public lands circles are, are when it is critical to contact legislators. • Anyone can propose a bill, but only a legislator can present it. • The bill is then sent to the revisors office to be converted to a legal format. • The bill gets assigned to a specific committee. • The chair of the committee has the prerogative to hear a bill or not. If a bill isn't heard, it's dead. Therefore, it's important to send letters of support to the committee chair. • A bill laid over for consideration will be included in the omnibus bill. • After reading in both house and committee, the bill is sent to the conference committee. This is another critical time to contact legislators. • Then, the finished omnibus bill goes to the House and Senate for a final floor vote. Note: no changes can be made to this bill—either yes or no. <p>Other notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tribal approval and local input is critical to OHV trail designs and routes. • Terrestrial invasives are a \$3 million problem for the State. • New increased weight limits pose problems of erosion, bridge structures, ATV State organization supports ATV's over \$3,000 lbs. but some local ATV groups oppose. <p>What gets the most attention of a legislator?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concise, succinct email and snail mail. Put the Please support... in subject 	<p>Because CCCoLA supports the bill, we could join a virtual meeting with Senator Hauschildt (10 people needed for this). We could ask him what we can do to help him support this bill. Issues for us to cite:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental degradation • Harm to wildlife • Spread of Terrestrial AIS • Private/public property <p>Let Susan know if you're interested in joining this virtual meeting.</p>

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	<p>line.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For property owners who are not residents of Cook County, it's valuable to mention to legislators that you're a Cook County property owner and property tax payer. <p>Senator McEwan will be carrying the bill this session. The bill being proposed isn't looking to ban OHV's, but to look for a balance</p>	
Treasurers Report	<p>\$610.00 in dues collected. T-shirt sales: \$719 expenses \$750 shirt sales Total revenue Balance \$701.34</p>	Motion to approve the TreasuresAI Secon
Meeting Reflection	<p>Heart and ethos in the right place, great collaboration statewide and regionally, very helpful info., appreciate everyone's work, very educational, cigarette butts and filters at portages are a problem-future action item?, Jerry Caple's book <u>The Moose Club</u> has been published.. congratulations! , value of collaboration, great meeting, great to see new faces and old faces, feels at home with this group, doing the right thing is never wrong, so informative, grateful for everyone's involvement, pointing out that waters in Northeastern Minnesota are a rare relatively pristine treasure, accelerating work, mutual support, January 1 boater training will take effect for 18-25 year-olds, new learning, support for Ilena's work with the County, nice meeting everyone in-person, Devil Track Lake Assn. President is frustrated with the lack of such a peaceful place to discuss important issues, energizing, Susan has made it clear that it's important to act on requests for letter to legislators, doing the history of this organization has shown that many of these issues have always been at the heart of CCCoLA, Happy Birthday to Barb!... and she's enjoying spending some birthday time with this group, impressed with engagement and work of this group.</p>	
September meeting and 30-year anniversary celebration.	<p>At our September 12 meeting, we'll be hearing reports from action groups, outreach events, collecting lead tackle, and (most importantly) celebrating 30 years of dedicated effort to preserve and protect the waters and shorelands of Cook County. Biz has been working on a history of CCCoLA which will be shared. Early CCCoLA members will be invited to join us. We'll have a celebratory meal together after the meeting. We discussed whether to do a pot-luck, catered</p>	Next meeting will be Thursday, September 12th, 10-11:30 a.m. at Community Center. Lunch will be at Voyageurs or catered (we'll pay for our lunch individually- not from CCCoLA funds) Kathy will look into

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	lunch, or go to Voyageurs for lunch. Pot-luck got the thumbs-down.	Voyageurs or catering and arrange.