

MEETING MINUTES: CCCoLA SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

PRESENT: CAROL BERG, KATHY BOGEN, JERRY CAPLE, KATE KELNBERG, MARGRE LIND MILLS, JOHN MILLS, IRENE MULLEN, LARRY MULLEN, RORY LAIHO, GARY MACIEJEWSKI, ANN SULLIVAN, GUEST: KAREN EVENS

Item	Discussion	Action
Action Group Reports	<p><u>AIS</u> Cook County AIS Advisory Committee met last week and had a presentation by Doug Jensen, researcher. Research grant to study AIS prevention in Minnesota and Michigan as well as Minnesota inland lakes. Boat manufacturers are trying to get involved in AIS prevention such as filters for ballast water. Only 8% of Minnesota lakes are infested with AIS. Among states, Minnesota is regarded as doing well with AIS mitigation. People are doing a good job of cleaning, draining, and drying, but bait disposal is a problem. Within the State of Minnesota, 30 lakes have Rusty Crayfish. In Cook County, West Bearskin, Pike, Caribou, and Seagull have AIS infestations. There is an Icelandic Fen (spring-fed) being protected 10 miles north of Grand Marais. Thank Kjell Anderson for her work creating the process for making the fen and SNA. She gives tours of the fen and is very knowledgeable.</p>	
	<p><u>GLO</u> The Get the Lead Out kiosks with collection buckets have all been placed in area resorts, outfitters, and Buck's hardware. Since the lead tackle is relatively small, the buckets should just be checked periodically to see if there's a need to empty them. They can be left over the winter so ice anglers can exchange their lead tackle for non-lead.</p>	
	<p><u>Septics</u> New residents can get a Septic Owners Guide from Cook County Land Services (Neva Maxwell). There is a Septic System care and maintenance webinar coming up on Tuesday, September 17 from 7-9 p.m. hosted by the University of Minnesota Onsite Sewage Treatment Program. For more information: z.umn.edu/septicmart2024</p>	

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<p>County Updates with Ann Sullivan</p>	<p>Tia Parks, Terrestrial Invasive Species Specialist has received an award for her work in Cook County. She works with the DNR and Federal agencies. Racoons have been spotted in Cook County due to Climate Change</p> <p>Betsy Bloom from Devil Track Lake Association reached out to Ann with concerns about water and shoreline quality on Devil Track Lake. Ann suggested Betsy and others on Devil Track bring this to the CCCoLA Board so that some planning can be done. Kathy Bogen has received this communication and suggested also that Devil Track residents concerned about water quality and shoreline issues connect with one another. She provided contact information.</p> <p>The letter of support from CCCoLA to add \$20,000 to the SECD budget was read at the September 10, 2024 Board meeting.</p> <p>CJ Ramstad Trail request to open the trail to ATV use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The section of trail in Cook County is currently used for hiking, biking, and equestrian during non-snow months and snowmobiles in winter. • May 22, 2024 the ATV Club asked Parks and Trails Commission to put on their agenda a request to open the section in Cook County to ATV use. This information from the Parks and Trails Commission wasn't shared with all of the County Commissioners prior to them seeing this as an agenda item for the August 27, 2024 Board meeting late on Friday, August 23. • Commissioner Storlie and Sullivan proposed a motion to further study the issue and get more public input which failed 2-3. • A motion from Commissioner Mills that the resolution be approved pending letters of support from hiking group, equestrian group, and biking group vote passed on a 3-2 vote. There was some discrepancy about whether the resolution referred to OHV's or ATV's. The resolution as passed refers to ATV's. • As things stand now, letters of support from the user groups to Parks and Trails Commission from the three identified user groups are 	<p>Ann will investigate getting answers to questions that were raised by Margre Lind, Pike Lake resident, in her letter to the Commissioners.</p> <p>Motion was made by Rory Laiho that we write a letter about whether due process and adequate information was provided to the public prior to this resolution being brought forward to the Board of Commissioners. The letter will be written from CCCoLA to the County Commissioners and County Administrator. Gary seconded the motion.</p> <p>Prior to sending the letter, Margre will send CCCoLA members the answers to the questions she posed in her letter to Ann Sullivan.</p> <p>The letter will focus on the need for more study and input from user groups as well as the public. (e.g. need to be broad in who's included in user groups so that interested community member</p>

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	<p>required. An EAW will be required as well.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No other user group was included in consultation about the proposal. • It is estimated that 10-15 years will be needed for the process to move forward. Pike Lake had a letter read at public comment. There are more than 60 properties on Pike Lake and none of the property owners knew about this. Everyone on Pike Lake is within a mile of the trail and the trail comes to within the shoreland of Pike Lake. Pike Lake residents are concerned about the noise that would result from ATV's on the Trail. Quietude is listed as a resource. <p>On a straw poll, CCCoLA members present agreed that allowing ATV use on the Cook County section of the CJ Ramstad Trail is problematic and not desired by this group. What should CCCoLA do at this point?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need more information about how this resolution was brought forward with little public awareness. • What is the role of Parks and Trails as it relates to State Trails on Federal Land? • If the EAW is triggered, immediately the tribes should be consulted. • Could we agree that 1st step is for us to get more information? • John Mills noted that among Pike Lake Association members, there were some in favor and some opposed. 	<p>input is also sought and considered.)</p> <p>Margre and Kate will draft the letter and send it to Kathy who will then put it on CCCoLA Letterhead and send out to CCCoLA members for review prior to signing and sending to the Commissioners and County Administrator.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p>
Treasurers Report	Profit on T-shirts of \$40. 3 of 5 owing Lake Associations have checks in the mail.	Carol moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Rory seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
CCCoLA Anniversary Reflection and Celebration	<p>We viewed a Power Point presentation about the history and current work of CCCoLA, shared some recollections, and created a "Word Quilt" on the question "What does being a member of CCCoLA mean to you?"</p> <p>Meeting adjourned followed by a lovely lunch at Voyageurs.</p>	Larry Mullen will post Power Point on the CCCoLA website. The word quilt will be converted to a digital version and post on our website.
Next meeting.	Next meeting will be in person Thursday, October 12 th , 10-11:30 a.m. Location TBA	Kathy will send out details closer to the meeting.

