

Cook County Coalition of Lake Associations Minutes

County Courthouse

September 14, 2018

9:00-11:00

Members Present: Poplar Lake: Peter Rauen, Biz Clark, Bob Peterson, Tait - Gary Maciejewski, Don Emery, Devil Track - Julie Carlson, Gunflint - Jerry Caple, Portage - Kris MacPherson, Aspen - Al Flieder, Caribou - Irene Mullen, Clearwater - David Colman, MPCA - Karen Evens, Guest: Arrowhead Electric – John Twiest

Minutes of 7/19/18 were approved. Treasurer's report balance 2526.23.

Presentation of Arrowhead Electric – John Twiest. Right of Way Process and Procedures

Why – insurance coverage requires it along with government funding, to ensure continual service,

How – on a 7 year rotation, need to get to a 5 year cycle. Hire contractors to do the work. Poplar trees fastest growing. 30 ft ROW for overhead wires, 15 ft ROW underground. First step is to identify trees to be evaluated - If less than 30% of the crown of a tree is there, it is cut down and check to see if trees are hollow and might fall onto wires. Meet with property owners to discuss findings. Gunflint Scenic Byway met with Jason from Arrowhead to discuss the process and added Arrowhead had a good approach to this process. Herbicides not used now, but will need to move to using to increase efficiency of ROW cleaning. Spot application only on alder and poplar. Property owners will be notified about the use of herbicides. Grasses and natives encouraged to grow in the ROW. Working on getting transformers with PCBs replaced. Cost of installing underground - \$75/ft, \$10/15 overhead a new load management system needed by 2025.

MPCA – Karen Evens – Karen shared that some COLAs have a resource table at their meetings. It's a good way to share materials. She shared the following as an example of resources: WRAPS report Summary, two page summary; Understanding Lake Ecology, a comprehensive overview along with a glossary; Water bookmarks and a sample of RMB labs reports. If members would like copies of these resources, please contact Karen at [Karen.even@state.mn.us](mailto:Karen.even@state.mn.us). EPA ads about septic use and care that could be used as public reminders were share by Karen. Last year COLA supported an ad which was printed in the paper. COLA voted to support a color ad for the paper to remind people how to take care of their septic systems.

Rainy Lake Watershed Meeting - Jerry Caple and Biz Clark – Jeff Forester main speaker, information shared: 30/40% lakes in MN unfishable, \$6.25 million is the value of Lake Associations work, larger lots are being sub divided due to higher taxes, mentioned adaptive management is needed for the changes to our lakes. Mining is a huge topic for their area along with rentals. They saw an example of a kit for realtors to share with new owners on Shore land Best Practices. An erosion model showing how shore land development affects lake water quality. Biz mentioned a water curriculum at Chik Wauk could be a good teaching tool. Karen added grants are available to do some of this work with matching funds.

Water Advisory Committee – Gary Maciejewski – reported the following from his meeting

Below is a list of septic system items from Mitch

1. There is typically a 30% failure rate every year for existing compliance inspections/existing systems.
2. There are no current existing compliance inspectors in the county. I receive a few inspection reports from one inspector in Lake County and one inspector in St. Louis County, otherwise I do the rest. I am close to 70 existing compliance inspections for the year.
3. Pete from G and G Septic is not an inspector, only a maintainer(pumper).
4. There is a big difference between an existing compliance inspection and an assessment of whether a tank needs to be evaluated for pumping or being pumped out in three years or less.
5. MN Rule Chapter 7080 states all tanks need to be evaluated for pumping or be pumped at least every three years. Due to limited resources, the

County cannot enforce this rule, leaving sole responsibility with the property owner. G&G Septic is the only maintainer who evaluates for pump

-ing or does pumping upon property owner request.

6. Septic inspections are only conducted through County triggers, requests from real estate agents, and lending institutions or complaints and only

by Certified inspectors. Compliance criteria for existing systems must be protective of public health and safety and must be protective of groundwater.

7. Existing compliance inspections are conducted for the purpose of issuing a certificate of compliance or a notice of noncompliance.

8. The lake shore inspection program has been suspended. Future existing compliance inspections may veer towards point of sale, but only in shore land areas.

9. Summing up, we are limited to how many inspections we can conduct, relative to the number of septic contractors and enforcement.

Lake Plan Workshop Follow Up – Irene asked members to use color dots to indicate the areas they were working on or will be working on over the winter, and to also note areas that they need SW assistance. Plan Goals is an area some lakes would like help with next year. SW assistance was noted for Water Quality and Water Vegetation Characteristics.

New Business –

Invitation to Dr. Mark Edlund to present his research on core sampling the lakes of Cook County. COLA voted to extend the invitation along with a \$500 stipend for his travel and lodging costs.

Submitted by Irene Mullen