

Cook County Coalition of Lake Associations. (CCOLA)
Schaap Community Center
6/4/21

<http://cookcountycola.mnlakesanddrivers.org>

Present: Biz Clark- Poplar, Jerry Caple – Gunflint, Gary Maciejewski – Tait, Carrie Framstad – Pike, Larry and Irene Mullen- Caribou, Barb and John Bottger – Hungry Jack, Dave Coleman - Clearwater

Adjustments to Agenda - include lake reports

Minutes from 9/20 approved.

Treasurer's report approved.

Introductions were made. Welcome Carrie!

REPORTS

Cook County Soil and Water - Ilena Hansel

Makaela has left the department and state funding may not allow to refill the position. Soil and Water Board needs a supervisor for District 1 (western edge of the county). Cook County will be monitoring 7-8 lakes this summer. Ward, Clara, Tom, Loon, Mayhew, East and West Twin and East Portage. New lakes for full analysis with RMB Labs are Seagull, Sag and Gull. Workshops for folks in the coastal area of Lake Superior. June 22, Rainy River Headwaters trivia at 6:00 p.m. Zoom. More information contact Cook County Soil and Water.

ilena.hansel@co.cook.mn.us. Septic and well owners workshop hosted by Lake county on June 24, 2-5:00 p.m. Zoom

Cook County AIS - Amanda Weberg

Calcium data on all the lakes that collected samples was presented in a handout. These will be posted on the CCOLA web page. For zebra mussels you need 15 parts per billion. For rusty crayfish you need 5 parts per billion. If you have specific questions, reach out to Amanda by email. **Amanda.weberg@co.cook.mn.us**. Discussion ensued around potential sources of calcium.

Irene commented the County AIS Task Force (on which she and Larry serve) reported that fish habitats were constructed from huge balsams that were put in Pike Lake in the winter. Inspectors - 3 seasonal workers averaging 96 hours per week. The sheriff has allocated a deputy who put in 118 hours last year. A new staff person will be hired to supervise the 3 seasonal workers. The DNR has resurrected the ambassador volunteer program so those volunteers will also be going out to help inspect boats. This program involves an online training and a background check. The main work of the volunteer is to educate the boaters. The July campaign for the spiny water flea will include a Swedish dish towel as it was found through research that wiping down with this towel will be effective in removing any spiny water fleas. This is put out by the University of Minnesota. The County will supply area kiosks with information on AIS.

DNR Fisheries - Matt Weberg -matthew.weberg@state.mn.us

Irene handed out Matt's summary of lake surveys and management plans along with individual reports for each lake. These will be posted on the CCOLA website. Discussion around the

negative aspects of the DNR use of gill nets. If you have any questions, please contact Matt. He emphasized that the DNR wants to hear from us!

MPCA - Karen Evans

No Report

Jerry Caple attended Citizens Advisory Group to the International Commission (CAG) meetings over the winter. One involved gold mining in Ontario using cyanide and basins for destroyed rock. In regards to the unorganized territories in Canada with no building restrictions, the Canadians are saying the US is just as bad. In regards to fishing in Lake of the Woods, it is being stated that the fishing rate is unsustainable. The other topic was microplastics. Turns out a big source is erosion of tires from the road. Styrofoam is another source - foam from docks, bait containers, swimming tubes.

DISCUSSION

A lot of discussion on variances gone awry.

Renewal of memberships

MN COLA for \$150. New this year is a round table with a topic to discussion on zoom. MN Lakes and Rivers - \$150 membership fee plus \$100. Moved and seconded to renew memberships. Passed.

Officers for 2021

Irene will complete her term this year. We will need a president and Vice President. Gary will continue as Treasurer. A roster will be voted on in July.

Format for our meetings this year

John suggests we meet live and offer attendance via zoom. Dave serves on the board of Cook County Higher Ed which has the electronic equipment to do this properly. He will ask the board to see if we can use the facility for our July meeting.

Possible presentations:

1. Irene will ask Amy Wilfahrt from Tofte USFS to present on the fish habitats on Pike Lake.
2. Biz will talk to John Craddock (retired professor of geology from Macalester) to talk about calcium data.

Lake Reports

Hungry Jack - quiet so far. Changeover in water monitors. We expect a lot of new visitors and homeowners coming to the Trail. Still deciding on format for homeowners meetings (zoom vs. in person). Communication via email has been used

Clearwater - BWCA permits on Clearwater are taken for the summer. The public landing is packed. Several new property owners with building plans. The homeowners want to meet in person this year.

Tait Lake - Homeowners will meet via zoom again this year. Quiet so far this year. Gary checks the public landing, not a lot of fishing traffic. Do have a pair of loons and a fox farm.

Caribou - Homeowners will meet in person for fall meeting September 4th. Communication via Facebook has been very effective, as well publishing e-newsletters throughout this past year. They are trapping for rusty crayfish now, before the females lay their eggs.

Poplar Lake - Surface water management with the influx of people is a top issue. Met with Commissioner Ann Sullivan to drop in a no-wake buoy. State statutes include a permit. Homeowners need to meet with businesses to gain consensus. Need to promote the quality of life that all want to adhere to. Biz reports more moose sightings around Poplar.

Pike Lake - Fourth of July weekend meeting at Jerry's garage for coffee and donuts. They will talk about County Road 45 with more traffic. They will also be putting out the newsletter.

Gunflint Lake - No canoe races this year. The community is repeating the electronic fundraising. Bob and Sharon Baker and Fred and Fran Smith are leaving the Gunflint Trail, leaving big voids. Homeowners will be meeting in person in June. Cross River quit running last year and the water quality improved by 3 feet! The water level last year was very low. This year Cross River is running well and levels are more normal.

Suggestions for presentations/needs of CCCoLA

1. The group concurred with Biz's recommendation that we get behind the effort to "get the lead out" of fishing tackle to save the loon population which is very threatened.
2. To promote "quality of life" materials to homeowners and businesses.
3. To present the results of wake study. Jeff Forester reports a lot of resistance to this report.
4. To support a position to hold the county accountable with the variances in the county, as this effects water quality in our lakes. Biz will head up this effort. Larry and Gary and John are interested as well.

Motion to adjourn. Passed. 11:15 a.m.