

CCCoLA minutes August 9, 2019, Schaap Community Center, 9:00-11:00 am

Attending: Irene and Larry Mullen (Caribou), Gary Maiejewski ,(Tait), Jerry Caple, Jim Triplett (Gunflint), Karen Evens,( [MN Pollution Control Agency Watershed Division](#)), Ilena Berg (Cook County Soil and Water), John Bottger (Hungry Jack), Kristin Welsh, Jerry Schliep (Pike Lake), Dave Coleman (Clearwater) Kate Kelnberger ( W. Bearskin).

We discussed our lake plans using template 1 in the lake plan book for about 15 minutes

Ilena said we should think about what we want the lake to look like in two generations.

Also look at accomplishments. As far as actions, there is a lot of data. Where does one start? Pick one place to start. For example, what can a few individuals do to start an action plan using the form that she handed shared.

Here is a recap of what the groups discussed:

One of the topics was septic systems. John B. said that Hungry Jack send out a survey asking the owners for age of septic and how often the system was pumped. It was mentioned that Cook County needs more septic installers. The current contractors are looking forward to retiring and there are few young contractors ready to take over.

Jerry Caples mentioned that the lake trout on Gunflint are twenty-five percent of what they were in 1990.

Caribou: Larry said that AIS boat inspections and the Border to Border Route were both concerns.

Ilena said that she has time to meet with individuals regarding action plans, part of the Lake Plan initiative.

Jerry Caples stated that the former Bunn Resort on Hungry Jack Lake is a perfect example of shoreland management: Tall trees with no branches that give a view of the lake with the benefit of the root system still intact.

Karen Evens: talked about the progress of the Little Rock Lake mitigation. It has been drained down and is being replanted with submerged plants.

The Fresh Water Society has a has a publication *Guide to Lake Protection and Management* available for purchase through the MPCA Ilena shared she has some copies available in her office and may have funds to purchase more for members to share with their lake association. Check in with Ilena for more information. It explains the science behind the protocols and provides checklists for the lake owner to follow.

Karen also has a chart to help think through lake management action plans- and organizational tool. There is also a “septic system calculator” which helps lake owners understand how much the nitrogen and phosphorous will diminish when the septic systems are up-graded or newly installed.

Jerry mentioned that within 10 years, a new way of disposing waste water will be available for implementation. In a recent issue of National Geographic, there was an article about these new systems. One is funded by Bill Gates, the other by NASA. The new systems may allow municipal systems to only have to deal with gray water.

Ilena has sheets which specifically target phosphorus goals for whatever kind of lake. Lake Trout require the lowest phosphorous readings. (This is a good persuasive point for W. Bearskin).

New Business:

The MN CCCoLA meeting with a representative from our group was tabled until the next meeting.

Outreach:

Irene: Use the shoreline resource guide as a source to encourage tree planting

Karen: concerned that we are losing rapid response due to poor funding to protect lakes. There was a bad odor coming from a lake but no DNR person responded. Karen had someone in the field the same day as the report, but is concerned that the agencies tasked with protecting water quality are not able to respond quickly to problems.

Jerry Caples has developed a book that describes best practices to maintain and improve water quality. The focus of the lesson plans and book targeting fifth graders. Jerry gave an example of one of the activities: collecting heat using a plastic baggie. Karen Evans said she read the guide and told Jerry that the plans are excellent. We will discuss them at the next meeting.

