

CCCoLA September 11, 2020

Attending: Gary Maciejewski (treasurer) Tait Lake; Al Flieder, Aspen; Larry and Irene Mullen, Caribou; Kris McPherson, Portage; Biz Clark, Poplar; Peter Rauen, Poplar; Joel Halvorson and Jerry Caples, Gunflint; David Coleman, Clearwater; Dan Fitzgerald, Saganaga; John and Barb Bottger, Hungry Jack; Carol Berg, mid trail chair and Leo Lake; Karen Evans, MCPA; Amanda Weberg, Cook County AIS; Kate Kelnberger, W. Bearskin (note taker)

Jerry Caples

Requests for variances on Gunflint not clear. Difficult to find information regarding Canadian development.

Irene

Try reaching out to Bill Lane

Biz

Bill would send requests for variances and always said that if I had further questions, I should contact his office. Rarely does Planning and Zoning send out complete information

Irene

The Planning and Zoning meeting notices are always published in the paper 2 weeks prior to each meeting

Al

I had a good conversation with Bill regarding variances

Gary

I have always had good help from Bill

Al

Written comments to Planning and Zoning are part of the record of that department

Irene

Good idea to stay on top of issues from the Planning and Zoning department

Carol

I requested that the agenda item "GTVFD" be moved up as I have a conflict and will have to leave early. The total raised for the fire department was \$58,000. Actually, more that raised by the two traditional events: canoe races and midtrial auction.

Gary

I sent our donation to the GTVFD and received a thank-you

Irene

Congratulations to Carol and her team

Carol

It was a unified effort

Planning committee thought we would make ½ of what we normally earn from the summer events. She added that GTVFD responds to more calls than any other in the county

Agenda Items

Minutes from 8/14 approved

Treasurer's report approved

Discussion as to whether to continue to support GTVFD exclusively

Biz: Which fire department covers Tait Lake?

Gary

Lutsen. Our fire department appears to be in good financial shape. He suggested that we take a look at the other county fire department's financial situations next year

John Bottger

Our expenses are great because most of our runs are ambulance runs. John also mentioned that there will be a Firewise brush pickup next week on Hungry Jack

Biz

Do you know when Firewise will start cutting on Poplar?

John

Cutting will be on East Bearskin, Okontoe, Adventurous Christians

There are no prescribed burns scheduled

Next item

Amanda Weberg, AIS

Irene

What can the Caribou Lake association do to impact our new rusty crayfish population?

Amanda

Amy Wilfarht was the trapper. The flow from Pike lake, where there is a large infestation, through Murmer Creek and on to Caribou was the carrier of the AIS. The Caribou is a manageable infestation. Rusty crayfish on Pike have responded to trapping. Minnow traps are used to harvest. The bait is white suckers. Spring trapping is most effective because that is when females are gravid. The Pike lake trappers just dump the crayfish in the gravel pit. Rusties are good to eat (because they are bigger than native crayfish).

Kate

Ruth and Zach Bauman have trapped the crayfish at the flowage between Hungry Jack and Bearskin. They boil them, pick out the meat and freeze.

Amanda

Keeping data is important: the date, how many, sex -if able to determine

Larry

How did they become AIS in Cook County?

Amanda

Rusties are native to the Ohio river valley. They were transported here as fishing bait

Besides the lakes at the West end, Hungry Jack, Bearskin, and Duncan have rusties

Al

How are they identified?

Amanda

Rusties have red spots on either side of their carapace- normally where you would pick up a crayfish- there is also a difference in their antennae.

They are also larger than native crayfish and more aggressive. They typically pose aggressively with claws extended and pincers open Besides out -competing and eating natives, they also eat vegetation. However, as indicated on Hungry Jack, bass eat them. The fishing on Hungry Jack and Bearskin has not been impacted by the rusties

Karen

The crayfish followed Murmer Creek to Bigsby Lake. Bigsby Lake is circled by wetland vegetation. I would hate to see that beautiful ecosystem destroyed by a rusty crayfish infestation

Larry

What can we do to prevent that?

Karen

Tom Ryder is a contact person. Poplar Lake is moving toward "protection". Poplar is connected to the same watershed as Tait. The more we can encourage young people to be concerned about AIS the more impact mitigation can have. Encourage trapping.

Larry

Caribou has networked with Tom and the Tribal community.

Gary

How is Tait connected to Poplar Lake?

Larry

Through the Tait river

Al

It is important to emphasize to young people the ecological threat posed by AIS. What is the danger of Rusty Crayfish/

Amanda

Rusties more aggressively eat vegetation, destroy native breeding habitat- as on Pike lake
Rusties are mostly carnivorous but they will eat, basically, anything

Gary

Question about calcium

Amanda

Calcium is low on Tait, around 5ml/million. That is good. Too low for zebra mussels

Jerry

Calcium Chloride on roads has a great impact on the calcium level of lakes by roads where this is applied

Amanda

On Caribou, I will be working closely with Irene and Larry as we recruit volunteers to trap rusty crayfish in the spring

Al

Are you acquainted with Bonny Shuty at Chik Wauk? The museum/nature center is a conduit for information about Cook county

Carol

That is where I send people to learn more about the county

Amanda

DNR does not have a good, user-friendly web-site.

Carol

What could CCCoLA do to inform folks about AIS?

Irene: use the CCCoLA website to post information. There could be a tab with AIS- Cook County information

Carol

I could put AIS information in our mid-trail newsletter

Irene

A link in your newsletter to CCCoLA would be good to add, as well.

Dan

The SeaGrant website also has information about invasives

Larry

How long will boat inspections continue?

Amanda

Through the end of September

Irene

Next spring, how long does the "trapping season" for rusty crayfish usually last?

Amanda

About two weeks of intensive trapping

Jerry

Piragis canoes in Ely sells crayfish traps

Added that Arizona Lakes have been impacted by vegetation loss and this increases the damage from boat wake action- it stirs up the bottom of the lakes and causes turbidity because there isn't any vegetation holding the lake bottom together

Irene

In just 2 years, rusties have made it from Murmer creek to Caribou Lake

Lake reports

John

Hungry Jack association has tried to share information with all the members. We have 46 households on the lake. This year, we have seen more and bigger boats on the lake probably due to Canada being closed

Gary

Boat traffic on Tait has been pretty normal this year

I am worried about the larger fishing boats also carrying ballast water just as the boats for wake surfing do.

Al

Matt did survey on Aspen and from what I could see, fish were scarce in the traps. I would like an update from Matt and Amanda next spring.

Biz

Be aware of the 2021 legislative session. Follow DNR legislation initiatives. There might be a push to license boat owners. It is important that we emphasize to our legislators the importance of Lake Quality. On poplar we are concerned about the bigger boats we are seeing this summer. Because of the pandemic, boaters are staying in the states.

Carol

Biz, can you suggest a link we could use to track legislation?

Biz

MNCCCoLA does lobby and stays informed on the bills that would be on concern to our group. I will give information to Carol.

Carol

Please send link to our communications person. We will get the word out to the 300+ members of the mid-trail association

Al

I appreciate the work that goes on in the county to protect our lakes and keep us informed Biz quoted Jeff Forester: " what happens at the end of your dock starts in St. Paul".

Larry

I feel I almost have to check daily into the MN Lakes and Rivers website and also check on tweets from Jeff

Gary

Please resend MNCCCoLA website information

Biz

I will do what I can to keep this group informed of what is happening at the legislative session

Barb

Our Hungry Jack group needs a young person who is good with IT.

Al

We need to get young folks involved- especially those majoring in Political science

Gary

Tait Lake uses the website "Next Door". A young couple manages it specifically for Tait Lake. It helps generate enthusiasm to get involved.

Joel

"Next Door" is a great way to stay in touch and be informed locally

Carol

How secure is the website?

Gary

I feel is it relatively secure

Irene

This has been good as a wrap up for the year. Thank-you for all you have done

Biz

Irene, are you continuing as chair?

Irene

Once again, as a team

Biz

I will keep you informed of any pertinent legislation

The group thanked Irene and Larry for their work as chair-persons

(Personal note: I felt a great sigh of relief when Irene and Larry agreed to continue- THANK-YOU- you have been great chairpersons (Irene) for keeping us on track and keeping the meetings moving but also allowing time for interesting discussion)

Al requested Biz to send any action alerts to the group

Irene thanked Dan for setting up the Zoom meetings

Joel thanked True North

Irene: hopefully, next summer we can once again meet in person

Motion to adjourn at 10:15

