

CCCoLA minutes September 13, 2019

Presiding as president for Irene Mullen (absent) Kris McPherson

Present: Carol Berg, Dave Coleman, Peter, John Bottger, Ilena, Kris, Gary, Karen Evens, Kate

Gary handed out his treasurer's report. Asked members to check for delinquent dues

Mark Edlund was an extra expense as well as the ad in the paper and Jerry's conference fee

Kris and Karen spoke about Mark Edlund. He has completed studies of deeryard and poplar (river?) in quality study. Karen spoke to the different standard for the aggregated lakes of Cook County. Shallow lakes turn over constantly as opposed to deeper lakes. Gary said that Tait is a shallow lake and a sentinel lake. His lake association has invited Dr. Edlund to take core samples.

Karen was pleased with the good turnout for the Edlund presentation.

Ilena is trying to get someone to talk about beavers. They have been busy in town in interesting ways, especially at the municipal campground.

On Wednesday there will be a Climate Change presentation by the Coastal Waters and Sea Grant

Next order of business: Lake Management tools and guidance sheets

John Bottger (Hungry Jack Lake) asked for guidance on how to engage the "outliers". One third of the lake is not engaged in the association.

Gary suggested that people who are at cabins periodically are there to "escape" responsibilities.

Carol Berg (Leo Lake) mentioned that a property owner at her lake does not want to be on contact list.

Peter (Poplar) suggested that shoreline management materials could be sent electronically. On Poplar many are philosophically opposed to septic inspections

Gary said that on Tait there are those who are opposed to CCCoLa because Tait has a lake association to which they are required to belong.

Kris McPherson (Portage) was concerned that as this generation of lake owners die or leave, how do we educate the new owners.

Dave Coleman (Clearwater) Social events have an effect on involvement. On Clearwater, they have a weekly flotilla that meets in the middle with stories and snacks.

Karen asked Dave how the association was changing on Clearwater. He said that they have moved away from being a one topic organization (controversy over the public landing) .

Gary mentioned that signs are being "stolen" esp. No Camping signs

Carol said that some on her lake are not willing to pay for water quality testing.

Ilena said the cost per lot is about \$0.50.

The discussion continued around the topic of lake association members becoming aware of the importance of lake quality and how to encourage more participation. It was agreed that social events engage more people.

Peter asked how can we get the DNR involved in lake issues, especially lake levels.

New Business: North Country Trail
Presenter Susan Schubert

The trail is proposed to be routed on Cook County roads, including Pine Mountain Road. The Grand Portage Band has blocked the trail from tribal lands. The promoter is Ron Potter who was a DNR roads and trails employee. He now works for Polaris.

The promotion for this "sport" is to travel by caravan on gravel roads. Susan displayed a poster from Wisconsin which showed an ATV caravan. Every vehicle which is proposed for this trail can already use these roads- the problem is the promotion as a sport to travel in large groups. There is no mandate for the DNR to establish this border to border trail. There is the directive that the DNR must maintain the non-county, DNR roads. The increased sedimentation for water abutting these roads as well as increased spread of AIS would both be among the reasons not to allow. Twenty-two of the twenty-nine streams which would be crossed by this trail in Cook County are designated trout streams and their water quality is pristine. Lakes are challenged by sediment. An increase of high impact vehicles would greatly increase sediment. Susan showed photos of how close the proposed trail is to susceptible lakes. Trout are very sensitive to sediment and cloudy water. Cloudy water increases water temperature.

Low maintenance roads are designed for dispersed travel during dry season. Wet season use is viewed as a challenge by these off-road drivers. Where there is no room to pass, they go "off road" and pick up seeds which would otherwise be dormant and distribute them where they will germinate and establish shallow root systems which do nothing to prevent erosion.

Half of the proposed route are forest service roads: 75 miles of USFS and 25 miles, MNFS.

Here are the main points of Susan's presentation:

1. Erosion and increased sedimentation will occur
2. The route will be nationally advertised to encourage caravans of vehicles
3. Pine Mountain Road was established in 1875. There is no environmental oversight on the road
4. Time to act is now to stop the establishment of a nationally advertised off road trail

Gary asked if the organization has been on the agenda for the county commissioners. The ATV club in Cook County is in favor of the trail.

The message best brought to the commissioners is that increased taxes would be needed to repair these roads, this increase would not be offset by increased tourism because these are off road caravans. They carry supplies and do not depend on local town.

John Bottger suggested both a letter to each of the commissioners and in person testimony at the county commissioner's meeting.

Action: A move to issue a letter and make a presentation to the county commissioners in opposition to the Border to Border Trail. Gary seconded and Peter made an amendment to have John Bottger be the representative at the County Commissioner's meeting.

The motion passed unanimously. It was suggested that the letter be forwarded to the lake associations.

Next business: Moose Club by Jerry.

Gary said he read the whole book and said it speaks to the north country experience and protection of state resources.

Ilena suggested using the activities for kids camps, tweak the activities and then forward to Jerry for editing.

Give the book to kids to read.

CCCoLA has funding to pay for supplies for the activities.

Final order of business: Dave suggested that CCCoLA send a letter of condolence to Biz Clark.