

MEETING MINUTES: CCCOLA AUGUST 12, 2022

PRESENT: IRENE AND LARRY MULLEN, CARIBOU; KAREN EVENS, MPCA; JIM TRIPLETT, GUNFLINT; JERRY CAPLE, GUNFLINT; DAVID COLEMAN, CLEARWATER; PATTI CRADDOCK, POPLAR; BIZ CLARK, POPLAR; KATE KELNBERGER, WEST BEARSKIN; JOHN BOTTGGER, HUNGRY JACK; JERRY WILKES, DEVIL TRACK; CARRIE FRAMSTAD, PIKE LAKE; PETE RAUEN, POPLAR; SUSAN HAGSTRUM LOON

GUEST: JEFF FORESTER, MINNESOTA LAKES AND RIVERS

Item	Discussion	Action
Agenda/Adjustments/ Ammendments/Approval	John Bottger called the meeting to order and asked for approval of the agenda.	The agenda was approved unanimously.
Approval of July 8, 2022 minutes	John asked for approval of the July 8, 2022 minutes.	The minutes were approved unanimously.
Treasurer’s report – Gary	<p>There was no treasurer’s report but John indicated that there has been no dramatic change.</p> <p>John asked for approval to extend the Minnesota Rivers and Lakes stipend which has been \$100. He indicated that he would send an email to Jeff Forester offering to extend the stipend. John asked for approval to increase the stipend.</p>	A motion was made and amended to extend the stipend, but not to exceed \$250. The motion was approved unanimously.
MN Lakes and Rivers - Jeff Forester (10:30 am)	<p>Guest speaker and Executive Director of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers, Jeff Forester reviewed the organization’s recent projects and activities. High points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The organization’s goal is to protect MN lakes and rivers and to forge local partnerships. The focus is local partnerships. The power is in local relationships. Minnesota is the highest average lake owner in the Midwest. The average is 38 years. • Basic water issues are now in partisan battles at the Legislature. No legislator takes the lead on water issues. No significant legislation has passed in the last several sessions. • Need to support people in local offices. • Need civic organizing to prevent spread of AIS in Boundary Waters. Pilot organization in Ely is working on preventing zebra mussel issues in the BWCA. Each member of the Chamber of Commerce in Ely has a different area of influence: translates to political power. • Now working with company that makes decontamination units on installing 	<p>Thanks for the information and support for the work of the organization were extended to Jeff.</p> <p>Petitions from owners to the Cook County Commissioners to limit wake boards and boats and establish no wake zones on lakes are options to consider. Even if lake residents are not full time, Biz recommend developing relationships with commissioners. Influence is</p>

	<p>inspection and decontamination stations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a grant for decontamination of starry stonewort on lakes. Decontamination units are being installed in every lake that has starry stonewort. One lake outside Ely is getting a station and there are several others on Burntside, White Iron and Vermilion. Cook County is trying to get units on high use lake access points for check in and check out. • The strongest recent advocates in the Legislature have either retired or been pushed out. This creates a gap but also an opportunity for us to call and support those running and note that we will be watching their work on issues we care about. No increase in state aid since early 2000's even though property taxes have increased, faster on lakeshore property than city homes. The environment bill requested an increase of funds but no action was taken. • The trend nationwide is to subdivide which drives property values higher. The Republicans put the brakes on spending; if/when they take over, they will spend the \$\$\$\$. Jeff and associates are letting them know that water people are informed, active and voting. • Karen offered that some lakes are doing management planning. But more lake core studies, including paleolimnology studies and algae studies are needed to help plan and manage lakes. No meetings with MPCA and other state agencies are planned; Jeff is too busy. None have occurred since 2018. Karen emphasized that there has to be consistency now with emphasis on systems. Now there is one watershed with \$\$\$ spread from Duluth to Grand Portage. • No organization in the state has the sole purpose of managing lakes. Jeff enumerated organizations asking for \$\$\$ from the Legislature: Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited and homeless issues. Lake owners need to come together to become a politically viable organization. • There are no statewide data for AIS plants. Each entity has reports which are not shared. A U of M faculty member, Mike Verhoven, is studying permitting data which has never been summarized and reported. This could help with management planning. • Forestry and Agriculture share data across the state because they are focused industries. Tourism is not a focused industry. 	<p>important.</p> <p>Dave suggested sending meeting notes with a summary of Jeff's report to the Herald.</p>
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<p>Plastics and Microplastics Discussion (11:00 am)</p>	<p>No report is available now. . A project next spring to work on reducing these materials, including styrofoam containers, in businesses and bait shops will take place.</p> <p>Carrie emphasized that many have concerns about plastic containers.</p> <p>Dave indicated that there are grants available and Biz noted that two in Cook County are the Coop and Arrowhead Electric.</p>	<p>John will send information regarding a meeting to understand plastic and microplastic use in the county</p> <p>John suggested that CCCOLA should make decisions about what we should promote, i.e. no styrofoam bait containers.</p> <p>Karen suggested that we have another workshop regarding plastic use and invite someone from a business that has eliminated use of these materials to speak to us.</p>
<p>Lake Survey – Ilena</p>	<p>Ilena reported that there are survey results on the website.</p> <p>Pattie suggested that the survey is a useful tool especially if a trend is noticed from local lakes and county-wide.</p>	<p>If you or your organization has not completed a survey, go to the website, download and print the survey form and complete it. This information is helpful in formulating lake management plans. Ilena will miss the next two meetings but will encourage West Bearskin to complete the survey.</p>
<p>Vacation Rental Committee - Al Flieder</p>	<p>John noted that the vacation rental committee runs through October. Al Flieder has volunteered to serve on this committee. At this point, we do not have any input.</p> <p>Tim Nelson sent out reflection of the meeting he attended. Cook County has a prototype, VRBO. VRBO is now faithfully checking up on all VRBO properties and requiring compliance to all health and water regulations. If we have input, we should provide it to Al. John will chat with him about the possibility of formulating</p>	<p>A WTIP follow-up was suggested regarding the land use workshop. It was suggested that a follow-up be included in Ilena’s soil and water report.</p>

	a mission statement. Several noted that there are numerous rentals that “fly below the radar.”	
Communications - Peter Paper article WTIP	<p>John noted that CCCOLA has a 30th anniversary coming up. It was suggested that we develop a communication plan like an annual report. Much information is on the website but it may be useful and more communicative to have a newsletter that goes out once a year.</p> <p>Carrie said communication is critical to build interest and momentum.</p>	<p>John suggested that the communication committee agenda include a request for volunteers. Anyone interested in serving on the communication committee should send John a note.</p> <p>Biz suggested that when lake associations join MN Lakes and Rivers, the number of members in the association should be included.</p>
Lake Signs	<p>Some grant \$\$\$ is available for posting AIS signs. Caribou had one approved but the DNR denied its format. Larry said that there will be a semi-permanent structure on Caribou. DNR will probably allow a 3 sided kiosk.</p> <p>Larry offered that Amanda Weberg (spelling ?) is a good resource for guidance on AAIS signage. John suggested that Amanda be invited to the next meeting. Swamper Lake has a sign but it took 2 years to get completed.</p> <p>Dave stated that the Gunflint Trail Scenic Byway group has been very focused on signage. Peter said the the Highway Department and the Scenic Byway group do not want to put a speed electronic monitor between Trail Center and Big Bear Lodge. Two moose were killed on the highway recently near there.</p>	<p>Carrie suggested that the Laurentian Divide sign have an added statement about the Rainy Lake and Lake Superior watersheds.</p>
Assign meeting leader for September meeting (John will be unavailable)	<p>John indicated we need a meeting leader for the September 19 meeting in Grand Marais. Susan offered that she would check with Kathy Bogen to see if she is available to lead the meeting.</p> <p>Other items that came before the group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dave suggested that we call out the numbers our associations require for annual dues. The range of responses included \$5, \$10, \$20, \$40 and Loon Lake, the outlier at \$200 for road maintenance (that association is a road 	<p>A motion was made to use Kathy Bogen’s format for meeting minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.</p> <p>Susan will let John know if Kathy Bogen is available to lead the September 9</p>

	association only).	meeting.
Adjourn (12:00 pm)	John asked for a motion to adjourn.	The motion to adjourn was passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.
Next Meeting - Friday, September 9, 2022 at Cook County Community Center		

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Hagstrum (hagst005@umn.edu) with valuable assistance from Kate Kelnberger