

MEETING MINUTES: CCCoLA JULY 10, 2025

PRESENT: CAROL BERG (LEO LAKE), LARRY BICK (POPLAR LAKE), BETSY BLUME (DEVIL TRACK LAKE), KATHY BOGEN (LOON LAKE), BARB BOTTGER (HUNGRY JACK LAKE), JOHN BOTTGER (HUNGRY JACK LAKE), JERRY CAPLE (GUNFLINT LAKE), BIZ CLARK (POPLAR LAKE), SUE CLEMMONS (DEVIL TRACK LAKE), PATTI CRADDOCK (POPLAR LAKE), AL FLIEDER (ASPEN LAKE),, WOLFGANG GREINER (DEVIL TRACK), RORY LAIHO (SOUTH GREENWOOD LAKE ROAD OWNERS), MARGRE LIND MILLS (PIKE LAKE) JOHN MILLS (PIKE LAKE), GARY MACIEJEWSKI (TAIT LAKE), MADDY MACINDOE (DEVIL TRACK), IRENE MULLEN (CARIBOU LAKE), LARRY MULLEN (CARIBOU LAKE), BOB SCHUCHARDT (TUCKER LAKE), RUTH SCHUCHARDT (TUCKER LAKE), JERRY WILKES (DEVIL TRACK), ILENA HANSEL (COOK COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT), ANN SULLIVAN (DISTRICT 4 COOK COUNTY COMMISSIONER) AMANDA WEBERG (COOK COUNTY AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES COORDINATOR)

Item	Discussion	Action
Review and approval of 6/12/25 Meeting Minutes	Question on whether Gail Gieske attended the June 12 meeting. Kathy will double check and correct the minutes if needed.	Gary motioned to accept the June 12, 2024 CCCoLA meeting minutes. Barb Bottger 2 nd the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
Review and approval of June 2025 Treasurer's report	<p>Balance forwarded 9/30/2024. \$920.41 Total Revenue 9/30/24-6/30/2025. \$487</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friends of Tait Lake paid \$50 in July • Poplar Paid \$50 in July • Pike paid \$100 in July for this year and next <p>Total Expenses 9/30/2024-6/30/2025. \$735.37</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MNCOLA \$150 • MLR \$235 • Zoom Account \$87 • Printing brochures 263.37 <p>\$683.94 available as of 6/30/2025 (current \$703.94)</p>	<p>Margre made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Rory 2nd the motion. No discussion Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>If you haven't paid your dues for 2025, please send checks to:</p> <p>Gary Maciejewski P.O. Box 323 Lutsen, MN 55612-0323</p> <p>Dues are \$50/annually for Lake/Road/Property associations and \$10/annually for individuals.</p>
Minnesota Lakes and Rivers partnership and promotion	At our June CCCoLA meeting, Jeff Forester emphasized the importance of building the membership base of MLR which advocates for the interests of Lakeshore property owners and preservation of waters and shorelands. MLR also addresses issues concerning property tax relief for lakeshore	<p>Action: consider inviting someone from MLR to present at your Lake Association meeting.</p> <p>To reach Lily Carr, <i>Lake Steward Program Coordinator</i> 612-751-2479 lily@mnlakesandrivers.org</p>

	<p>property owners and shares research findings critical to understanding the impacts of wake boats, AIS spread, microplastics, etc. What are some ways that CCCoLA can encourage more lakeshore property owners to join MLR? Note: MLR is both a 501 ©3 and a PAC. The cost of membership is determined by each member. Benefits of membership: keeping abreast of issues affecting waters and shorelands, learning how other Lake Associations are working to protect and preserve lakes and shorelands, MLR's work educate the public and advocate for healthy waters and shorelands in the State legislature.</p> <p>Lily Carr, a staff member from MLR, gave an exceptional presentation at the Devil Track Lake Association meeting on July 6. Since the meeting, 6 people signed up to participate in Lake Steward.</p>	<p>Encourage Lake Association members to sign up as MLR members. The link to MLR is: https://mnlakesanddrivers.org/</p> <p>If you are volunteering at the CCCoLA booth at the Gunflint Canoe Races or Fisherman's picnic, share the MLR brochure and highlight the value of becoming an MLR member.</p> <p>Kathy will mention MLR in an article for the Cook County Herald and on WTIP</p>
County Updates-- Ann Sullivan	<p>Construction projects:</p> <p>Bridge construction over the little Devil Track River is on track timewise --scheduled for completion by December 1st.</p> <p>The Heights Apartments construction project received approval on July 9. There is a contract between Cook County and the Developer. Staging of the 36 modules for The Heights WILL be at the airport starting as early as next week</p> <p>Courthouse basement is being transformed making it a usable space for offices. There will be 6 offices created in this space.</p> <p>Residential Open Space Overlay District (change to current county ordinance):</p> <p>Approved by the County Board on May 27, following unanimous approval of the Planning Commission and support of the HRA. This creates an option for a property</p>	<p>CCCoLA members expressed gratitude to Ann for providing this report and for her work as a County Commissioner representing District 4.</p>

owner to request this to allow higher density housing on FAR 2 or FAR 3 properties within a ½ mile of a state, county, or township road. The idea is to allow consolidation of infrastructure, like a septic system, to lower costs. The overlay district may NOT be closer than 1000' to a lake or 300' from a river or stream.

Invasive Species: Marsh thistle found on the GFT (near Gunflint Pines) and the Wild Parsnip on UT 48 (**No mowing in these areas to prevent spread**). Additionally, Leafy Spurge has been found on Pine Lake at the entrance to the BWCA. Leafy spurge is a highly invasive perennial which spreads rapidly through extensive root systems and seed production. It outcompetes native plants, reducing biodiversity. Leafy spurge is very difficult to control due to its deep roots and resilience.

Budget: Federal cuts will impact Medicaid and SNAP as well as cuts to WTIP (25% comes from CPB). \$47 million of federal funding for schools is being withheld. Title 1 funds students with disabilities, and students with food insecurity will be affected. HeadStart, Museum and Library Science, Arts and Humanities monies will be affected.

Rainy River Vermillion River 1Watershed 1Plan:
Septic review is being conducted on Loon and Birch Lakes and is paid for through that funding.

Events:
Gunflint Canoe Races next Wednesday, July 16, 4-7 p.m.
County will have a booth.

Saturday July 19th 9-1 Free Hazardous Waste drop off at the Cook County Recycling Center.

	<p>New County Administrator has been hired. Kristen Trebil-Halbersma currently lives in Danbury, WI and is working for the National Center for State Courts. She is an accomplished government professional with over 15 years of experience in judicial and county administration, operational management, and board development. She has a proven record of leading teams, overseeing court and organizational operations, and serving as an Administrator or Director. She has expertise in managing complex budgets, optimizing resource allocation, and enhancing operational efficiency. She has a demonstrated ability to develop and execute strategic plans, work with governing bodies, and drive organizational success. Kristen is committed to leveraging operational and leadership expertise to deliver impactful improvements, ensure smooth organizational functions and support both entrepreneurial and vision goals. The County Board of Commissioners is excited to bring her on board beginning August 4. She will be engaged in transition activities beginning July 7.</p>	
<p>CCSWD updates -- Ilena Hansel</p>	<p>Due to Federal and State cuts, the CCSWD budget is unsure currently. Staff are focusing on the projects at hand.</p> <p>Thanks to the Devil Track Lake Association group for outreach to their lake property owners. 22 people showed up for the Shoreline Planting project. This helps to demonstrate the impact of CCSWCD partnering with Lake Associations and other volunteers to accomplish common goals.</p> <p>Cynobacteria Workshop August 11 The NRRI expert on cynobacteria will be there—also Neva Maxwell from Land Services. Location TBD. Check the CCSWD Website. CCSWD will collaborate with Extension Service to sponsor a Spruce Budworm workshop in November.</p>	<p>There are no funds to support water analysis, so this cost needs to be picked by Lake Associations. It costs \$50 for Speedy Delivery to pick up the samples at your cabin. If those collecting samples bring the samples to the Court House by 10 a.m. on the 3rd Wednesday, it will be shipped with the drinking water samples.</p> <p>Thanks to Ilena and the CCSWD Staff for their work and partnering with CCCoLA in efforts to preserve and protect the waters and shorelands.</p>

	<p>Question: How long after an algae bloom can you swim in the lake?</p> <p>Answer: This can be variable depending on a number of factors so giving a specific timeline could be misleading.</p> <p>Technician site visits: Focus on reducing erosion along river banks—including Little Devil Track where trees are being planted. This will help reduce erosion and keep the river from changing course.</p> <p>Ilena or Max will be up the trail to pick up water samples on July 22.</p>	
<p>AIS updates— Amanda Weberg</p>	<p>The Brewery Event at Voyageurs went well. Over 200 people attended.</p> <p>DNR Watercraft check station on Highway 61 at the end of June near Taconite Harbor. 1st check station in Minnesota not staffed by DNR. 10 boats were checked. All 4 out of State boats had their plugs in and were issued a warning.</p> <p>Next week, Amanda will have a booth at the Gunflint Lake Canoe Races. She will also be at the Take a Kid Fishing event on Elbow Lake Saturday, July 19, 9-noon, and Fisherman's Picnic August 1-3.</p> <p>There are 3 watercraft inspectors working at boat launches in Cook County. Seems to be less boat traffic than during the pandemic.</p> <p>ABC Boundary Waters Coalition and State AIS Committee (includes state funded AIS efforts). The State fee on boat licenses pays for the DNR's AIS work. Funding for the County AIS programs is separate. Both are involved in public outreach and other efforts to mitigate AIS spread.</p>	<p>Thanks Amanda!</p> <p>The CCCoLA spinner quiz game will feature a number of AIS questions which encourage participants to explore the information at Amanda's booth.</p> <p>There are still some spots open for volunteers to assist at the Take a Kid Fishing event. Here is a link to the sign-up if you'd like to help at this event. Volunteer at Take a Kid Fishing</p>

<p>Summer Events sign up and focus</p>	<p>CCCoLA members will be doing some important public outreach at events this summer. Staffing the CCCoLA booth and helping at the AIS booth are great ways to engage others in efforts to preserve and protect the lakes and shorelands. The spinner game questions address our key action areas of water quality, shoreland stewardship, AIS mitigation, and Get the Lead Out. Our booth will be located adjacent to the CCSWDC and AIS booths so visitors can search for the answers in literature at those tables as well as the ones we will have at the CCCoLA table.</p>	<p>If you signed up to coordinate an event, your role is to set up the tent and tables, ensure the literature and supplies are brought to the event, coordinating with the event organizer (s), and calling other volunteers to remind them of their shift at the event.</p> <p>There are still a few spots open for staffing the Fisherman's Picnic Booth. You can sign up here: Volunteer at Fisherman's Picnic</p> <p>Thanks for volunteering!</p>
<p>Lake Steward Program report</p>	<p>Troubled Waters program on MPR inspired Betsy to become involved with water and shoreland preservation on Devil Track Lake. On Monday, July 7 the Devil Track Lake Association met and had Lily Carr gave an engaging presentation on the Lake Steward program. Shortly afterward, there were 6 inquiries about having a shoreland assessment.</p> <p>Dan Swenson-Klatt and Larry Montan have spearheaded the Lake Stewards program on Hungry Jack Lake.</p> <p>Every person at the South Greenwood Lake Road Association has expressed appreciation for the connection to valuable information they receive as the result of their membership in CCCoLA.</p> <p>The Trails and Lands action group discussed that the Conservation Officers have authority on issues that arise on State land and waters. Perhaps we could come up with some information about who to contact if there is a specific issue.</p> <p>"Don't worry about naysayers—focus on lake champions"</p>	<p>The Lake Stewards program is an example of how CCCoLA can engage property owners in best practices for lake and shoreland health in a positive way. If we present CCCoLA as an authority, people may misunderstand. The State of MN DNR has jurisdiction. We should be aware of shoreline regulations and State guidelines for shorelines. County regulations are posted on the Land Services website.</p> <p>The Trails and Lands action group discussed that the Conservation Officers have authority on issues that arise on State land and waters. Perhaps we could come up with some information about who to contact if there is a specific issue.</p> <p>This discussion brought up the idea of holding a CCCoLA lunch meeting about how to build consensus within our Lake Associations. We have a challenge to be diplomatic without being authoritative. Suggested times—September or next July.</p>

Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy /Sulfide Mining	<p>Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy has been working for 50 years to use law and science to protect Minnesota's environment, its natural resources, and the health of its people. MCEA works closely with Friends of the Boundary Waters, Minnesota Interfaith & Light, Sierra Club, and Duluth for Clean Water to address environmental threats through the law and legislative action. With the Federal push to open sulfide mining near the BWCAW, it is more important than ever to support coordinated efforts to challenge this practice which has the potential to permanently pollute waters that support diverse wildlife, human health, and recreational opportunities.</p> <p>Kathy donated \$100 (personal donation) to Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy to help defray the cost of printing 25 copies of Our Water is Our Strength—A Sulfide Mining Briefing Booklet for CCCoLA members to review. Should we donate to Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy and order some of booklets to share with people who come to our booth?</p>	<p>Al made a motion to order 25 of the booklets and make a donation of \$100 to MCEA. Gary seconded the motion. No discussion. The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>We'd like to devote more time to this topic and invite a guest presenter(s) to our meeting, perhaps in October or November. We could invite someone from MCEA, Save the Boundary Waters, Senator Jen McEwen since it will be Zoom.</p>
Meeting Reflection	<p>Fun to hear about lakeshore restoration. Energized and full of ideas. Community. Grateful. Informative, sweet connections. Accelerating. Appreciated donuts. Understanding that other lakes have similar issues. Very positive.</p>	
Adjournment		Meeting adjourned at 11:45.
Next Meeting	At our August meeting, we'll have a presentation about the Gunflint Trail Loon Project.	Thursday, August 14, 10-11:30 a.m. at the Schaap Center