

MEETING MINUTES: CCCoLA NOVEMBER 13, 2025

PRESENT: BETSY BLUME (DEVIL TRACK LAKE), KATHY BOGEN (LOON LAKE), BARB BOTTGER, PATTI CRADDOCK (POPLAR LAKE), TRACK), AL FLIEDER (ASPEN LAKE), RORY LAIHO (SOUTH GREENWOOD LAKE ROAD OWNERS), GARY MACIEJEWSKI (TAIT LAKE), IRENE MULLEN (CARIBOU LAKE), LARRY MULLEN (CARIBOU LAKE (HUNGRY JACK), MARGRE LIND MILLS (PIKE LAKE), JOHN MILLS (PIKE LAKE), JERRY WILKES (DEVIL TRACK), ANN SULLIVAN (DISTRICT 4 COOK COUNTY COMMISSIONER)

Item	Discussion	Action
Approval of October 9, 2025 Minutes		Patti made a motion to approve the minutes. Barb seconded the motion. Approval of minutes passed unanimously.
Approval of October 2025 Treasurer's Report	Gary noted that all member lake/road/property owner associations have paid their dues for 2025. Current balance is \$262.80 and all invoices have been paid.	Al made a motion to approve the treasurers report. Jerry Wilkes seconded. Approval of the Treasurer's report passed unanimously.
Adjustment of CCCoLA Annual membership dues	The CCCoLA fund balance is low this year due to expenditures for public outreach (AIS cards, prizes for game, and printing of new CCCoLA brochures). These expenses will not be incurred in 2026 to the extent they were in 2025. We also received an invoice for \$350 to cover mileage for Jeff Forester to attend our in-person meeting in June. At our September CCCoLA meeting, there was a discussion about increasing organizational and individual/family membership dues slightly to ensure we have adequate funds to carry out the same or more robust level of public outreach.	Margre made a motion to increase organizational dues from \$50 annually to \$60, individual/family membership dues to \$15, annually with a note that we encourage donations if people or organizations wish to contribute more than the minimum dues. Betsy seconded the motion. The motion passed 8-1 with Rory voting an amicable nay reflecting her desire to keep the dues accessible for all. Organizations or individuals/families who have already paid 2026 dues will not be expected to pay the increased amount. If we have in-person guest speakers in the future, we will be sure to ask ahead of time about any travel, lodging, fees we would be billed. We could investigate funding some of our AIS and educational expenditures through grants.

Copper Nickel Sulfide mining panel discussion highlights	We were happy to see that the organizations represented are working together in opposing copper nickel mining. Kathy shared some points made by Larry Montan of Hungry Jack Lake concerning CCCoLA's goals and approach on copper-nickel mining. We discussed Larry Montan's suggestions for CCCoLA's involvement in the copper mining issue, emphasizing the need to clearly define their goals and consider appropriate actions. They discussed the effectiveness of education in changing entrenched attitudes, with some feeling that people are already strongly positioned on the issue.	
County Budget	Ann Sullivan mentioned that the county budget will be discussed at the committee of the whole meeting coming up on Tuesday, November 18th. The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. and will be held in the Cook County Courthouse. Here is a link to the Commissioner's page https://cookcountymn.gov/government/county_board_of_commissioners/index.php She noted that the county will be impacted by state and federal funding and that it is important for many voices to be shared with county commissioners as well as legislators at the state and local level.	Ann encouraged individuals to contact their county commissioners about supporting AIS and Soil and Water Conservation District, as these programs may be targets for budget reductions. CCCoLA members are advised to attend or view the recording of the November 18 County Commissioner's meeting to hear the conversation among the Commissioners as they are doing budget planning. Here is the link to the Cook County You Tube channel where meetings are streamed and recordings are made available. https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5IZSKYskxOm6NrWj96o3gQ Attending subsequent meetings and sending letters to your representative commissioners by the end of November, ahead of budget finalization meetings in December is important.
Prioritizing Copper Nickel Sulfide Mining Issue January-May	CCCoLA members discussed the timeliness and importance of becoming more active in opposition to copper-nickel mining, creating a position statement on mining, and reaching out to their members about legislative actions they could take through using the civic engagement opportunities on the Friends of the	Gary made the motion to focus CCoLA meeting content and energy through April on copper-nickel mining issues which fall within the water quality and shoreland action groups, while maintaining connection with AIS and Get the Lead Out issues

	Boundary Waters, Save the Boundary Waters, websites. The flexibility of our organization allows for us to prioritize issues that require timely attention.	that may come up. Betsy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
Addressing Copper Nickel Sulfide Mining	<u>Legislative Engagement</u> Copper-Nickel mining will be an important issue during the 2026 Minnesota Legislative session and we could write letters to our legislators and to the Governor on behalf of CCCoLA and/or we could encourage CCCoLA members, those they represent, and Cook County residents to communicate with legislators using the guidance provided by Save the Boundary Waters, Friends of the Boundary Waters, Water legacy, and Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy. Note that Amy Klobuchar owns property in Cook County and is also an important voice for Minnesotans on the topic of copper nickel mining.	Ann will be attending the Minnesota Association of Counties meeting in December. She sits on the Environmental Committee and will send us the legislative priorities. Kathy will reach out to MNCOLA leadership to learn more about what other Lake Associations impacted by copper-nickel mining are doing.
	<u>Community Outreach and connection</u> Members discussed the draft position paper Kathy wrote on behalf of the CCCoLA Board members, how this paper could be strengthened, who it will be shared with and when, and how it will be used to communicate the position of the CCCoLA Board.	Kathy will revise the position paper to cite 1978 federal legislation on preservation of waters and wilderness and to reflect that the paper reflects the position of the CCCoLA Board members not inclusive of all lake/road/property owner association members they represent. A motion was made by Gary Maciejewski and seconded by Betsy Blume that the CCCoLA Board stands behind the position paper. The motion passed unanimously. The revised position paper will be sent out to all CCCoLA board members and those who didn't attend will be asked to vote electronically on whether they support the position. Kathy will write a cover letter to accompany the CCCoLA Board position paper to accompany outreach to lake/road/property owner association

		members. Kathy will contact Grand Portage leadership to learn what their position is on copper-nickel mining and how we might work together.
Outreach to DNR Commissioner regarding copper-nickel mining.	Betsy Blume suggested that we connect with one of the DNR Commissioners to discuss copper nickel mining and sharing the CCCoLA perspective.	Kathy will follow up with Barb Naramore to see if a small group of CCCoLA Board members might meet with her.
WTIP Interview and article in Cook County Herald about the lake Steward program	Betsy Blume had an interview on WTIP on the topic of the Lake Steward program that went well. She has also submitted an article to the Cook County Herald that will be published this week or next along with some good photos taken by Wolfgang Greiner.	
Meeting Reflection	Would like to move faster but this is a good first step. A good meeting—very informative. Overall great meeting. Important to focus on the County Commissioner’s meeting on Wednesday. Enlightening and civil discussion. Filled with joy because this group is full of camaraderie and integrity.	
Adjournment		Meeting adjourned at noon.
Next Meeting		Thursday, January 8, 10-11:30