

## MEETING MINUTES: CCCoLA JANUARY 8, 2026

PRESENT: LARRY BICK (POPLAR LAKE), BETSY BLUME (DEVIL TRACK), KATHY BOGEN (LOON LAKE ROAD ASSOCIATION), PATTI CRADDOCK (PIKE LAKE), Gail Gieseke (Greenwood Lake), Wolfgang Greiner (Devil Track), Lynda Hay (Seagull/Saginaw), MARGRE LIND MILLS (PIKE LAKE), JOHN MILLS (PIKE LAKE), GARY MACIEJEWSKI (TAIT LAKE), LARRY MONTAN (HUNGRY JACK), Kathy Schaaf (TOM LAKE), ANN SULLIVAN (DISTRICT 4 COUNTY COMMISSIONER), Daniel Swenson-Klatt (Hungry Jack)

Item	Discussion	Action
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	A chance to reconnect for the first CCCoLA meeting of 2026. Thanks to all who were able to attend!	
<b>County Updates, Ann Sullivan 3<sup>rd</sup> District Commissioner</b>	<p>Ann provided an outline of County updates (attached) and had some additional information to share focusing especially on her role as a member of the Association of Minnesota Commissioners (AMC).</p> <p><u>Federal</u> The AMC supports legislation to create a new non-regulatory geographic grant program which will provide federal planning and funding to enhance river restoration. This would support restoration and resilience of the Mississippi River.</p> <p><u>State</u> The AMC's top 3 priorities for the Minnesota legislative session are related to SNAP, Medicaid, and Federal programming changes. On the Environmental front, the AMC is supporting state funding to provide financial assistance to county agriculture inspectors, such as Tia Parks who works in our highway department, better control and to fund timely eradication of noxious weeds on lands and rights-of-way, and aid County planning and response to the loss of trees due to emerald ash borer. The AMC supports keeping environmental review. There have been groups throughout the state that have tried to get rid of environmental review. AMC strongly supports continuing that and opposes any efforts to lessen the review. Develop a statewide initiative to require individual sewage treatment systems to be regularly inspected and disclosed prior to the sale or transfer of property, and this would be statewide. So it would be, in addition to the lake-by-lake focus that we have here in the county, it would also include point of sale. There is no funding</p>	Ann encouraged members to reach out to her via email or phone regarding any questions about her written updates or this report.

	<p>attached.</p> <p>Betsy asked about manganese being in her water and asked about whether there is a State program for addressing the presence of manganese in water.</p>	<p>Ann will follow up with Betsy once she has more information.</p>
<p><b>Review and updates on CCCoLA's decision to focus on Copper Nickel mining this winter.</b></p>	<p>Kathy gave an overview of how CCCoLA Board members came to the decision to focus their efforts on learning about and addressing concerns about the harmful environmental and economic impacts of Copper Nickel Mining. In October, CCCoLA hosted a panel discussion with representatives of 4 organizations dedicated to studying and opposing this type of mining in Northern Minnesota. The CCCoLA Board members voted to support a position paper opposing the development of copper nickel mining in Northern Minnesota and have developed a strategy for action organized into 3 areas.</p>	<p>Members are encouraged to refer to the websites for Save the Boundary Waters <a href="https://www.savetheboundarywaters.org/">https://www.savetheboundarywaters.org/</a> Friends of the Boundary Waters <a href="https://www.friends-bwca.org/sulfide-mining/">https://www.friends-bwca.org/sulfide-mining/</a> MCEA <a href="https://www.mncenter.org/">https://www.mncenter.org/</a> and Water Legacy <a href="https://waterlegacy.org/">https://waterlegacy.org/</a> for updates</p>
<p><b>Action group discussions on addressing Copper Nickel Sulfide Mining</b></p>	<p><u>Legislative Engagement</u></p> <p>members: Daniel Swenson-Klatt, Ann Sullivan, Kathy Bogen</p> <p>This group discussed preparing for the Minnesota legislative session and how to engage others in our associations to tell their stories focusing on the importance of preserving clean water and environment and the negative impacts copper nickel mining would have on property owners and businesses.</p> <p>It's important to coach people who plan to testify so that their testimony is personal, factual, and concise.</p> <p>We will work with organizations already positioned to interact with legislators such as: Water Legacy, MCEA, Save the Boundary Waters, Friends of the Boundary Waters, Grand Portage Tribe, 1854 Treaty Authority.</p>	<p>Daniel is involved in a coalition of business owners through Save the Boundary Waters, and he will reach out to this group to include them in opportunities to testify at the legislature, write letters, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Claire and Dan Shirley from Sawbill</li> <li>• Dave and Nancy Seton from Hungry Jack</li> <li>• Carl Madsen and Stephanie from Rockwood</li> </ul> <p>It will be important to gather these stories ahead of time, so we're prepared when called upon to contact legislators/testify.</p> <p>Daniel is willing to testify since he lives in the Twin Cities.</p> <p>Kathy will reach out to the Tribes and key organizations mentioned so we are working together. Ann will send Kathy contact information for April McKormick,</p>

Summary of actions we can take in the next month		and 1854 Treaty Authority contact person.
	<u>Community Outreach and Connection</u> Margre Lind Mills, John Mills, Patti Craddock, Lynda Hay, Gary Maciejewski, Wolfgang Greiner, Kathy Schaaf  This group discussed the approach to take with outreach to the community. They discussed using non-polarizing language and a diverse approach including other water quality issues depending on the audience.	Distribute the position paper to everyone in our lake associations. Other avenues for community outreach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WTIP</li> <li>• Northern Wild</li> <li>• Cook County Herald</li> <li>• Cook County Higher Ed workshop</li> </ul>
	<u>Partnership with other organizations and governmental bodies</u> Betsy Blume, Larry Montan, Larry Bick, Gail Gieseke  This group discussed and will continue to identify new and existing organizations we can partner with like: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MN Lakes and Rivers</li> <li>• Lake County Coalition of Lake Associations</li> <li>• Friends of the BWCAW</li> <li>• Save the BWCA</li> <li>• MCEA.</li> </ul> Betsy has been in close contact with Lilly Carr of MN Lakes and Rivers and can continue to do so. <i>The group needs to decide how they can best stay connected to the other organizations.</i>	Gail will reach out to Lake County to learn more about what Lake Associations in that County are doing.  Betsy will reach out to Barb Naramore, MN DNR Commissioner to set up an informal conversation about how the DNR is involved in copper nickel mining and for them to get to know CCCoLA.  Larry Montan will send along information he has about how Cook County is exempt from mining.
	We want to engage people and listen to their concerns. We want to share our position clearly.	Kathy will reach out to 3 <sup>rd</sup> District Legislators Roger Skraba (Representative) Grant Hauschild (Senator) to see if they can join us for our February meeting.  CCCoLA members are encouraged to reach out to their organizational members to share the CCCoLA position paper and links to resources. Gentle encouragement to connect with Save the Boundary

		waters, Friends of the Boundary Waters, MCEA, and Water Legacy-- contribute if they are inclined to support their important work.
<b>Meeting Reflection</b>	I won't be sitting around in my retirement. Always energizing. New ideas. Engaging. Connection—helps keep us connected. Lots of great ideas. Very interesting ideas. Appreciate the time, thought, and energy everyone gives. Rollin- up my sleeves. Gratitude. Invigorating. Thanks for giving purpose. Enlightening.	
<b>Next Meeting</b>	Next meeting will be held 10-11:30 a.m. via Zoom <b>Thursday, February 12, 2026</b>	Please send along agenda items you would like included.