

MEETING MINUTES: CCCoLA MAY 14, 2026

PRESENT: LARRY BICK (POPLAR LAKE), BETSY BLUME (DEVIL TRACK), KATHY BOGEN (LOON LAKE ROAD ASSOCIATION), BARB BOTTGER (HUNGRY JACK), LARRY BICK (POPLAR LAKE), PATTI CRADDOCK (POPLAR LAKE), BILL DOUGLAS (CHIK WAUK LOON PROJECT), AL FLIEDER (ASPEN LAKE), GAIL GIESEKE (GREENWOOD LAKE), Wolfgang Greiner (Devil Track), Ilena Hansel (CCSWD), Lynda Hay (Saginaga), MARGRE LIND MILLS (PIKE LAKE), JOHN MILLS (PIKE LAKE), GARY MACIEJEWSKI (TAIT LAKE), LARRY MONTAN (HUNGRY JACK), ANN SULLIVAN (DISTRICT 4 COUNTY COMMISSIONER)

Item	Discussion	Action
County Updates, Ann Sullivan 3rd District Commissioner	<p><u>State and Federal Funding for Gunflint Trail improvements</u> \$ 1.2 billion was allocated in the State of Minnesota bonding bill. Letters of support for the Gunflint Trail project funding made an impression. Thanks for all who sent letters of support for this important project. Below is a link to the video greeting card developed to lobby for Gunflint Trail improvement funding. Bolton Beck was contracted to produce the video so that it's the quality needed for making project proposals to the State and Federal legislators.</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ejOQOOCg_ko&t=1s</p> <p>As a result of viewing the video greeting card, Senator Amy Klobuchar (D- Minnesota) advanced the request for Federal dollars to support improvements to the end of the Gunflint Trail.</p>	
	<p>At the Emergency Services Conference during the first weekend in May, stressing air rescue. The State Patrol has purchased a \$17 million air rescue helicopter with night vision and thermal. search capabilities. About half of the State's air rescues are done in Northeastern Minnesota, and about half in Southeaster Minnesota's Bluff Country. The helicopter is stationed at Holmon Field in St. Paul. It can reach the Grand Marais Airport in an hour and 40 minutes.</p>	<p>The State Patrol recommends that any time there's a need for this helicopter, they be contacted. There is no cost to individuals or the County for this service. 911 Dispatch makes the determination on when to send the helicopter out for a rescue.</p>
Updates from Ilena Hansel, CCSWD Director	<p>There will be training offered for people who want to do cynobacteria and chloride testing.</p>	<p>Ilena will send details about these trainings once plans are confirmed.</p>
	<p>Projects are being prioritized for cost-share requests for 2026-27.</p>	

	<p>There are 4 AIS Boat Inspectors working this summer, one being stationed at the end of the Gunflint</p> <p>Senate Omnibus Tax Bill 5052 contains a provision for an additional \$12-14 million for SWD's statewide. This would provide an additional \$20,000 for each SWCD unencumbered.</p> <p>There are still some oak trees available through CCSWD and protective tubes for \$8 each.</p>	<p>Betsy Blume made a motion to have Kathy end an email of support for the SWD funding in SF 5052 to Senator Hauschild. Gary Seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Kathy will send the email today. Also, if CCCoLA members will call or email their Senators to encourage support for this provision in the Senate Omnibus Bill, that would be great!</p>
<p>Updates from the Steering Committee: Formation of a Water Sampling Task Force</p>	<p>Thanks to Ilena Hansel and those at CCSWD who are providing some support for Lake/property associations that are coordinating water sampling and delivery to RMB labs.</p>	<p>Patti has sent out information to all who are sampling and we continue to have the option of using the RMB courier if we deliver samples on ice to the Courthouse by 10 am on Wednesday mornings.</p>
<p>Updates from the Steering Committee: Formation of a Get the Lead Out Task Force</p>	<p>Get the Lead Out has merged with the Chik Wauk Loon project. Bill Douglas is meeting with the Get the Lead Out! Action group today so we can go over details of coordinating lead tackle collection, education and outreach, and encouraging non-lead tackle use.</p>	
<p>Updates from the Steering Committee: Communications</p>	<p>CCCoLA receives communication to share with membership as a means of getting the word out to lakeshore property owners and others about matters not specific to CCCoLA but perhaps of interest. Examples include: emergency updates, communication about Zoning variances, conservation topics from like-minded organizations, MNCOLA and MLR (of which CCCoLA is a member.</p>	<p>To strike a balance between getting out information that some members may wish to receive and clarifying CCCoLA-specific information, Kathy will continue to send email from outside groups individuals with a succinct subject line and we will post events on our website.</p>
<p>Action group discussions</p>	<p><u>AIS</u> members: Irene Mullen, Larry Mullen, Gail Gieseke this group discussed initiatives and outreach Amanda has planned and they would like to support her efforts, especially at events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voyageur's Brewing AIS Event Saturday, June 20th, 2-4 p.m. • Take A Kid Fishing at Elbow Lake Will be held in July • Gunflint Canoe Races Wednesday, July 15, 4 p.m. 	<p>Contact Amand Weberg if you would like to volunteer at any of these events. amanda.weberg@cookcountymn.gov</p> <p>Gail will help out at the Voyageur's Brewing Event</p> <p>Amanda Weberg will be speaking at the</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fisherman’s Picnic , Thursday, July 30 – Sunday, August 2, 2026 (booth is typically staffed Friday-Sunday) 	<p>PLAA meeting on July 25th 11:00 am at the Schaap Center</p> <p>Larry will post the events on the CCCoLA website under the tab <i>Current Events</i>. Members can send event information to: Lmullen001@msn.com</p>
	<p><u>Get the Lead Out partnership</u> members: Gary Maciejewsky, Ann Sullivan, Wolfgang Greiner, Kathy Bogen Bill Douglas joining from the Chik Wauk Loon project.</p> <p>The Chik Wauk Loon project has developed a robust program for education, outreach, and action to protect loons in our area. One important aspect of this work is encouraging anglers to discontinue the use of lead tackle, turning it in at the lead collection sites, and exchanging lead tackle for non-lead. They have invested \$5,000 into purchasing non-lead tackle specific to fishing for species in Northern Minnesota, packaging, and educational materials. CCCoLA is contributing collection pails and mini-kiosk posters.</p> <p>Bill Douglas shared that 25% of loon deaths are attributed to lead tackle ingestion. We can make a difference by increasing awareness of this impact and encouraging anglers to discontinue lead tackle use. He notes that the only State where the loon population is stabilized is Maine where lead tackle is banned.</p> <p>We received notice from Steven Yang, Get the Lead Out! Program Coordinator at MPCA that “due to funding, the Get the Lead Out program is set to end in June 2027, so this is our last full summer of operation.”</p>	<p>Kathy will deliver lead tackle collection pails and kiosk signs to Chik Wauk on Sunday, May 24 and start an email communication with Devil Track Lake Association members Wolfgang and Ann to ensure they have the needed supplies for their Lake Association clean-up on June 6. She will bring a lead tackle collection can to Andrea Hofeldt for use at the Gunflint Clean-up event lunch.</p> <p>CCCoLA members can contribute to the effort to prevent loon deaths from lead tackle ingestion by promoting use of non-lead tackle only, collecting lead tackle for proper disposal at Lake/Road/Property Owner Association meetings, serving as a “kiosk steward” for collection pails placed at resorts and outfitters, and staffing informational booths. We will coordinate communication with Steven Yang at MPCA.</p> <p>Volunteer sign-up and collection pails will be available at the June 11 CCCoLA meeting.</p>

	<p><u>Surface Water Uses</u> members: Larry Bick</p> <p>Larry shared that the Poplar Lake Association has been working on 2 documents for distribution to lakeshore residents on Poplar Lake. These documents provide “best practice” guidelines and tips for lakeshore and lake use. One is a brochure, and one is a flyer.</p>	<p>Larry will share these documents with CCCoLA members and welcomes any feedback. They may asl be helpful for other Lake/Road Property owner Associations looking to create something similar.</p>
	<p><u>Water Quality</u> Members: Patti Craddock, Betsy Blume, Al Fleider, Larry Montan, Margre Lind Mills, John Mills.</p> <p>Lake Stewards Betsy and Wolfgang reported that there’s been an expansion of this program on Devil Track Lake with more property owners reaching out for assessments.</p>	
	<p>Thursday, July 16th 12:30-3:30 at Cook County Higher Education, CCCoLA will be sponsoring an educational workshop in partnership with Cook County Higher Education on the topic of Copper-Nickel Sulfide mining. There will be 3 subject matter experts giving presentations on the process of copper-nickel sulfide mining, hazards to the environment, wildlife, and human health, and economic impacts. The workshop will be conducted in a “World Café” style facilitating small group discussion after each topic is presented. A list of themes and questions generated will be posted.</p>	<p>Please contact Patti patticraddock@msn.com if you plan to attend the workshop and /or would like to volunteer to help with this event.</p>
Meeting Reflection	<p>Busy and thankful, encouraging, good to know we’re getting started with our efforts on our lakes, gratitude for everybody’s good energy and contributions, good to be engaged, hats off to everybody,</p>	

	synergy—our interaction produces better results together than any of us can do alone, these meetings are so wonderfully energizing, informative and makes it fun keep all these projects moving in the right direction, impressed with all of the important work you are doing—keep it up, very informational and helpful, generating a different level—a more refined in-depth level of doing what our purpose is, an exciting meeting—stronger connections.	
Next Meeting	Next meeting will be held 10-11:30 a.m. at the Schaap Center Thursday, June 11th, 2026	Please send along agenda items you would like included.