

MEETING MINUTES: CCCoLA JULY 9, 2026

PRESENT: KATHY BOGEN (LOON LAKE ROAD ASSOCIATION), DANIAL SWENSEN-KLATT (HUNGRY JACK LAKE), LARRY BICK (POPLAR LAKE), AMANDA WEBERG (COOK COUNTY AIS SUPERVISOR), ILENA HANSEL (COOK COUNTY SWCD MANAGER), LARRY MULLEN (CARIBOU LAKE), IRENE MUILLEN (CARIBOU LAKE), LINDA HAY (SEAGULL/SAG), JERRY WILKES (DEVIL TRACK LAKE), AL FLIEDER (ASPEN LAKE), PATTI CRADDOCK POPLAR LAKE), RORY LAIHO (SOUTH GREENWOOD LAKE ROAD OWNERS), ANN SULLIVAN (COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS), GARY MACIEJEWSKI (TAIT LAKE), MARGRE LIND MILLS (PIKE LAKE)

Item	Discussion	Action Items
Welcome and introductions		
Ilena Hansel - Water sampling data and analysis	SWCD: Still working on projects, but don't know what they will look like next year. Will be looking for grants and other new funding opportunities. Projects might take longer. Excellent staff. Water Quality & Monitoring Update: All water sampling data get fed into a model for 10-yr evaluation of watersheds. Cook County has some lakes with phosphorus sensitivity (Loon, Devils Track), some with no trend, insufficient data, or trends – degrading or improving. Lot of variables affecting water quality and need 4-5 samples/year, for 8 consecutive years, in the same spot (deepest parts of lake). Please reach out if you have questions. - Data Can be found on the following websites: RMB/services/lake monitoring (RMB data updates can be slow) - MN DNR Lake Finder: lake reports & water quality - MCPA website – very good data, reports and maps Upcoming Events: MN Native Plants – Chik-Wauk, August 15, 11a-12p Woods & Water – Chik-Wauk, August 24, 11a-12p	For Ilena (1-8) & Patti (9-11): - Rory is willing to help with data analysis - Send out Water Quality & Monitoring Presentation, including maps, links, and directions. - What is sensitivity index? - Prescribed burn is still burning on East Greenwood – how does that affect phosphorus? - Does wildlife impact phosphorus in lakes? Yes, related to beavers in streams - Clarify abbreviations - No trend = not enough data - Share how to get water temp, dissolved O2 and water column profile - Water monitoring requires permit – need to carry when sampling...on DNR website –

	Northwoods Neighbors Woods Walk – see MN Higher Ed website for details	Patti will follow-up on this and provide links and instructions. 10. If your lake has identified AIS, such as spiny water fleas, you ...MUST have “AIS” printed on every bottle in RED so water is properly disposed at RMB. Patti to provide instructions. 11. Water Quality Subgroup will consider presenting details of sampling data
Amanda Weberg - AIS updates, volunteer opportunities, and outreach efforts	AIS funding is scheduled to be cut throughout the state. Cook County is in a relatively good spot due to less infestation. Caribou lake has received a grant to manage rusty crayfish. Levels have been reduced considerably though the lake associations’ efforts. Equipment is available to monitor AIS. Contact Amanda if interested. Visited all 5th, 7th, 9th, and 11th grade students this past spring. Outreach Events: The Voyager Brewery event this past June was the 4th annual event to feature an aquatic invasive species (this year’s was the Mystery Snail) and the special brew was the Mystery SnALE Ale. Be aware of Spiny Water Fleas (from Caspian Sea) on fishing lines and tackle. Local fish cannot digest the spine and will starve.	
Copper Nickel Workshop, July 16 —	About 25 people have registered. Speakers set: JD Lehr	All:

Patti Craddock and Margre Lind Mills	(retired mining geologist), Margaret Watkins (water quality specialist for Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa), and Bill Hansen (former owner of Sawbill Outfitters). World Café-style event with 20 minutes of information from speakers, followed by small group discussion. Still in need of folks to host discussion tables. Please see Patti or Margre with questions, or to volunteer as a table host.	Please register to attend on the Cook County MN Higher Ed website.
Summer Event Outreach Booths— Gunflint Canoe Races and Fisherman’s Picnic	Gunflint Canoe Races have been cancelled due to fires. See Gunflint Firefighter website for other donation opportunities. Fisherman’s Picnic is Friday, July 31- Sunday, August 7. Our booth is N8, next to Friends of the Boundary Waters and AIS. We specifically ask to have our booth next to Amanda’s AIS booth as many answers to our game can be found at the AIS booth, which encourages visiting both. Many openings to available to volunteer, especially afternoon shifts, on Friday and Saturday. Many thanks to Ann Sullivan for donating the funds to print CCCoLA AIS playing cards that can be used for fundraising. Thanks to Kathy Bogen for designing the CCCoLA AIS cards and coordinating the printing so cards would be available for upcoming outreach events.	All: Please sign up to work at the CCCoLA booth (or assist Amanda with AIS efforts) at any outreach event by contacting Margre
Approval of June 11, 2026, minutes	Gary moved to accept the minutes, Al seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.	
June 2026 Treasurer’s Report	See attached report. As of 7/7/26, Advantage Checking Balance is \$874.87 Al moved to accept the treasurer’s report, Patty seconded, and the report was approved unanimously.	All: Send Lake Association dues to Gary Maciejewski at PO Box 323, Lutsen, MN 55612. Recall that Lake Association dues

		are now \$60, and Individuals/Family dues are \$15
Ann Sullivan - County Updates	If you are in County District 4, and want Ann to attend your lake association meeting, please contact her with as much advance notice as possible. Emergency Management: • There is a statewide helicopter available for rescues, and in fact did execute a rescue in the BWCAW last week. With enough usage, will ask for 2nd helicopter. • BW Collaborative proposal for a new cancellation policy is out for public comment: 50% refund up to 1 month prior to entry, 25% refund 1-4 weeks prior to entry, no refunds in the last week prior to entry. Response has been positive so far. Would take effect in 2027 if adopted. Fire management: • Current Federal Government strategy is total suppression, though this is not good for boreal forests. Next steps to develop and propose alternate strategy for boreal forests. • Recent prescribed burns efforts included continued good communication with residents. Fires will burn for a long time and are in fact still smoldering along South Greenwood Lake. [Note that 1 foot of snow is required for county to burn brush pits.] • A fire started on July 4th at the Airport/Devil Track brush pit. It is still smoldering and expected to continue for the next 6 months. Signage is up not to dump brush, but folks still trying. Will be adding a gate to keep unauthorized out. Currently there is no threat to structures. • A reminder to test sprinklers monthly. [A CCCoLA member suggests watering your garden to test sprinkler system.] • Firewise has grant funding for fuel reduction in the Mid-	All: 1. Pack Go Bags, including N95 masks, to prepare for any evacuation. 2. Contact Firewise Coordinator if your property is in the Gunflint mid-trail area and you are interested in a possible fuel reduction grant from Firewise.

	Trail area of the Gunflint Trail. Public outreach is focused on educating property owners on how to improve the health of their forest along with how to prepare their property for the next wildfire. Outreach involves communications such as this one along with attending community events. Cook County Firewise also has a website, cookcountyfirewise.org, to provide property owners with resources.	
Meeting Reflection	Wonderful, informative, thanks to county partners, great data, all of members that take information and engage others on our lakes,	
Adjourn	Gary moved to adjourn, Rory seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.	