

MEETING MINUTES: CCCoLA August 13, 2026

PRESENT: KATHY BOGEN (LOON LAKE ROAD ASSOCIATION, GARY MACIEJEWSKI (TAIT LAKE), LARRY MULLEN (CARIBOU LAKE), IRENE MULLEN (CARIBOU LAKE), JERRY WILKES (DEVIL TRACK LAKE), WOLFGANG GREINER (DEVIL TRACK LAKE), RORY LAIHO (SOUTH GREENWOOD LAKE ROAD OWNERS), DANIAL SWENSEN-KLATT (HUNGRY JACK LAKE), LARRY BICK (POPLAR LAKE), JERRY CAPLE (GUNFLINT LAKE), LINDA HAY (SEAGULL/SAG), PATTI CRADDOCK POPLAR LAKE), ILENA HANSEL (COOK COUNTY SWCD MANAGER), BETSY BLUM (DEVIL TRACK LAKE), BOB & RUTH SCHUCHARDT (TUCKER LAKE), CAROL BERG (LEO LAKE, MID-TRAIL), MARGRE LIND MILLS (PIKE LAKE)

Item	Discussion	Action Items
Welcome and introductions		
County Update – Ilena Hansel, Cook County SWCD Supervisor: Cyanobacteria update, with presentation by Hilarie Sorensen, MN Sea Grant, MN Natural Resource Research Center Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (via Zoom)	Testing for blue-green algae blooms: Blooms on Seagull and Two Island Lakes; fast test strips for yes/no answers, and citizen testing kits available for sample collection to send for detailed analysis. Hilary Sorenson: The Lake Lookout Program focuses on rural MN lakes that have episodic algal blooms, but no way of identifying or testing if there is toxicity. Purpose is to build a collaborative network that can observe water quality problems immediately. Project launched this summer (pilot year+2). If you observe blooms, they will send sampling kits to volunteers with prepaid return envelopes. Volunteers collect Chlorine data & surface water temp, water sample, and mail in. Note: Algal bloom should be frozen and sent within 1 week via FedEx for overnight delivery. There is no weekend delivery, so please time drop-off to arrive overnight M-F. If interested, an agreement form and a training video are available online & there is a helpful app for smart phones. If interested in participating, contact: Hilarie Sorensen at: soren360@d.umn.edu or, Visit: https://seagrants.umn.edu/programs/healthy-coastal-ecosystems-program/mn-lake-lookout	Ilena: 1. Send digital photos of algal blooms, see link at MNPCA. Note: keep sample in shade 2. Follow up with Hilarie regarding Chlorine levels.

	Ilena Hansel: Algal bloom sampling is parallel to our lake water sampling program. If you spot a bloom, or are not sure, you can call for test strips or complete a simple “<u>Jar Test</u>” (instructions on the MNPCA site) to test for toxicity. More comprehensive tests can be done with the above noted test kit via the Lake Lookout Program. If in doubt about an algal bloom, MNPCA’s message is, “when in doubt, stay out”. County is still working on messaging, with desire to inform, not panic. Some causes of algae: warmer water, nutrients, some linkage to forest fires. Prevention by reducing nutrients, management of the lakeshore management, fire management.	
County Updates – Ann Sullivan	Ann could not attend. See attached for detailed update. Key highlights and reminders from Ann: • The Airport Firewise Brush Pit is closed indefinitely for drop off due to a 7/4/26 fire that is still smoldering and continues to be monitored. Note that other nearby pits may see increased use. • Due to many dead and dying balsam trees across the county due to spruce budworm, Cook County remains vulnerable to wildfire. Please use extra caution with campfires. Burn barrels, fireworks, cigarettes, and equipment that can create sparks. Follow current fire restrictions, make sure every fire is completely extinguished, and report any sign of smoke immediately. • Although fire season is just starting, the emotional, physical and financial toll on our neighbors and businesses is significant. Please be kind and supportive. Be a good listener. • Working toward data collection, discussion, and collaboration with other NE MN counties to see if an economic relief can be provided to fire-affected communities during the regular 2027 legislative session.	

Lake Steward Program – Irene Mullen	Lake Steward Workshop, organized by MNLR (Lily) + CC Soil & Water (Max and Amanda), held on Wednesday, August 12 at the Log Cabin. MLR offers very good and easy to access online training to become evaluator. Only 6 people attended, which was disappointing, though this workshop was rescheduled from July 15th when wildfires, smoke and ash were high. Some folks who registered were unable to make new date, and new date could have been publicized better. How could we encourage more participation and use our expert resources more efficiently? (Note that one presenter drove round trip from the cities that day.) A suggestion was to take advantage of our online meeting technology to reduce travel and involve a wider group. This could be used for workshops, as well as regular CCCoLA meetings. Noted that the mid-trail equipment was excellent for Hilarie’s Cyanobacteria update.	Kathy + Sterring Team 1. Consider how we might connect with members and expert presenters using online resources.
Lake Steward Program – Daniel Swenson-Klatt (Hungry Jack) and Betsy Blum & Wolfgang Greiner (Devil Track)	Daniel: 10 folks from Hungry Jack attended a Lake Steward program. He and others introduced the concept, timed to align with another event. 7 properties were evaluated: principles to follow includes no lake lawns down to shore, no spraying for pests and weeds, check septic systems (regular maintenance, check for leakage, regular pumping, reminders of what should or should not be put in septic systems), use gutters, improved watercraft storage (on racks versus ground), leave dead trees on the lake shore. Betsy, Wolfgang: 16 properties were evaluated on Devil Track in 2025, and so far, 2-3 in 2026. Working with MLR regarding issues with signage. The biggest challenge is with lawns to the lake and trying to educate people. Must be a soft sell, no enforcement of shoreline compliance, need to engage county in the compliance activity.	Jerry, Kathy, Margre/Wolfgang/Betsy: 1. Jerry to provide research he summarized regarding property waste treatment systems for short and long term to Kathy Bogen. 2. Kathy will follow up with Neva Maxwell about Land Services representation/partnership with CCCoLA, like SWCD and AIS. 3. Follow up with Land Services to understand regulations, regulation updates, and enforcement – meet with

	Jerry noted tank and composting systems as alternative to septic. He has summarized research that he has shared with county and can be shared with CCCoLA. Margre mentioned discussions with Mitch Travis last year related to rewrites of county shoreline regulations to make them easier to enforce. No status on this. Larry Mullen suggested that CC Land Services be invited to attend CCCoLA as a regular attendee.	Wolfgang, Betsy and Margre...get clarification with Kathy before meeting – who/how to approach, etc.
Approval of July 9, 2026, minutes	Gary moved to accept the minutes, Irene seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.	
July 2026 Treasurer's Report	See attached report. As of 8/13/26, Advantage Checking Balance is \$1255.89 Larry moved to accept the treasurer's report, Jerry W 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 Gary to put name and address on all financial reports
Community Outreach and Education • Cu-Ni Sulfide Mining Workshop • Fisherman's Picnic Booth	<u>Cu-Ni Sulfide Mining Workshop</u> Margre & Patti worked with Kelsy Rogers at CC Higher Ed, Kathy led workshop, Betsy helped with table hosting. Patti: 38 people including 3 speakers. We lost a lost speaker a week ahead but were able to find replacement. Main takeaway was people wanted to learn more. Kathy: This event was a springboard. Main evaluation takeaways were that folks want to meet again, it is a complicated issue, more in-depth presentations desired, more info & more time, more about economic impacts, the importance of non-profit advocacy. One strong	Kathy + Steering Team: Consider if we need a tax ID number and, if yes, how/who will attain.

	recommendation was to include a mining perspective. We will follow up with requests, next steps, future workshops, and continue to find ways to make an impact. <u>Fisherman's Picnic Booth</u> The spinning wheel game is still a hit and continues to be a draw into the booth. Folks liked the choice of fruit stick or granola bar and loved playing for the AIS playing cards. The lead tackle poster kept falling over and there was confusion as to which non-lead tackle to give away. Had hand painted rocks and a hand foraged & made flower arrangement (all made by Youngsoo Bick) as well as CCCoLA AIS cards available as gifts upon donation. Needed letter to Lions verifying that we are a non-profit. Should we have tax ID?	
Supporting Best Practices for Lake/Road/Area/Property Owner Associations and CCCoLA – Kathy Bogan	How can we provide guidance to Lake/etc. organizations, or folks that want to start one? Would like to discuss this in length at next meeting (September 10, Community Center in Grand Marais). Some things to think/talk about: What do we already do that is very effective? • Lake Steward program engages others • connections with community/governmental partners • Cook County Higher Ed partnership – Workshops Creating standardized brochure (generic template) and how it could be implemented on our unique lakes Understand/include economic impact of declining water quality How can we be more cohesive on specific issues, yet consider our individuality (personal and as lakes) Intentional partnerships	Kathy: Adds to September agenda – • a look ahead to the virtual season • CCCoLA infrastructure, info sharing mechanism, coordinating information sharing to engage more people • What is our mission and how do we accomplish? • How to deal with frustrations and burnouts (soft side of our work)

Meeting Reflection	Good planning, excellent info, outside speakers interesting, wonderful to see support, moral support, lake steward success, so much info and great speakers grateful for the community, well organized lots of people who care, appreciate the partnerships, grow with intentional partnerships, pull in Land Services	
Adjourn	Gary moved to adjourn, and Patti seconded. Approved unanimously at 12:03 pm.	Next meeting – in person: Thursday, September 10 at 10am at the Log Cabin Community Center in Grand Marais.