

MEETING MINUTES: CCCoLA SEPTEMBER 10, 2026

PRESENT: KATHY BOGEN (LOON LAKE ROAD ASSOCIATION, GARY MACIEJEWSKI (TAIT LAKE), LARRY MULLEN (CARIBOU LAKE), IRENE MULLEN (CARIBOU LAKE), RORY LAIHO (SOUTH GREENWOOD LAKE ROAD OWNERS), NOAH MITTLEFEHLEDT (HUNGRY JACK LAKE), LARRY BICK (POPLAR LAKE), JERRY CAPLE (GUNFLINT LAKE), PATTI CRADDOCK (POPLAR LAKE), ILENA HANSEL (COOK COUNTY SWCD MANAGER), BETSY BLUM (DEVIL TRACK LAKE), MARGRE LIND MILLS (PIKE LAKE), ANN SULLIVAN (COOK COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 4), JOHN MILLS (PIKE LAKE), AMANDA WEBERG (COOK COUNTY AIS SUPERVISOR), AL FLIEDER (ASPEN LAKE), GAIL GIESKE (GREENWOOD LAKE, SWCD BOARD, DISTRICT 4)

Item	Discussion	Action Items
Meeting was called to order at 10:03 AM by Patti Craddock. Kathy Bogen was delayed due to a flat tire.		
County Update – Ilena Hansel, SWCD Manager	Finishing up field season, including site visits, but no more in 2026. Will be on WTIP week of 9/14. Waiting to hear back from 4-5 federal grants (\$250k), so no final budget yet. Please keep talking and encouraging legislators to maintain budget. MPCA has chosen Devil Track and Dyers Lake to be part of a special monitoring program next year – paid for by (319 EPA program – understanding stressors).	
	Two Cyanobacteria Programs ongoing to understand causes and early predictors of Blue-green Algae: 1) MN Lake Lookout (if you see algae) pilot year. Training available online. See Ilena if interested. More info on this program in August minutes. Can do a jar test (instructions on MNDNR website) to give early indication. Wear gloves! Samples taken on Sag-Seagull in mid-August, but still no results. 2) UMD + IRRI are trying to develop a predictive model for blue-green algae, with baseline sampling in as many lakes as possible. This is a surface grab sample using 3 bottles (testing will include microbial, toxin, nutrients in the water). Will distribute bottles, instructions and papers to identify time,	[Note: Sign up on google doc what lake you will be sampling...see QR Code on handout for program.] Bottles and info will also be available in the SWCD office after

	location and sampler will be distributed to those interested. Note that samples can only be held for 24 hours, so no sampling before 12 noon of the day prior to pick up.	the meeting. Patty and Ilena will get bottles and info up the trail for those interested. Please let program admin (Nora) know when you will be sampling to coordinate pickup (in google doc). Be sure to wear nitrile gloves when sampling.
	County has noted that people are being targeted for property deed fraud. Sign up for an auto alert if there is a change to your deed through county website.	All: Sign up for deed alerts on county website if interested.
County Update – Ann Sullivan, Commissioner, District 4	• No decision on Boundary Waters recommendations on cancellation policies, more info expected from USFS in October. • July 4 brush fire that closed the airport brush pit will reopen later today (9/10). This will reduce pressure on other pits. Brush will be picked up for Firewise. • BWCA fires almost out, with \$70k submitted to state for firefighting costs. An additional \$9.5 M lost from businesses. • A gratitude gathering was held to thank Fire Fighters. Construction is going well and on track with plan. Old asphalt being reclaimed, seeds germinating, Crew very good at listening to residents. Some areas are very dusty, please use lights. Some washboarding on road. New guardrails are to be installed and road striped in fall. • Federal Government closed the remote communications outlet at airport without notification, causing pilots to land with no communication in late August, causing an aviation emergency. County board communicated to Amy Klobachar, who communicated to FAA. FAA assumed that pilots could use cell phones for communication. • Working on the 2027 budget, supporting AIS and SWCD, with focus on keeping our water clean.	See Ann Sullivan's notes (attached)

Welcome and introductions – Kathy, All	New attendee: Noah Mittlefehledt from Hungry Jack Lake	
Approval of July 9, 2026, minutes - Kathy		Patti moved to accept the minutes, Irene seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.
July 2026 Treasurer’s Report - Gary	As of 9/10/26, Advantage Checking Balance is \$913.32	Rory moved to accept the treasurer’s report, Al 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
County Update – Amanda Weberg, AIS Supervisor	It is time to sample water for Spiny Water Fleas – contact Amanda if you want to become a spiny water flea detector. Hungry Jack Lake has an infestation of invasive cattails, see Amanda if you want to know more. Natives have broader leaves, and the seed pod is a greater distance above the leaves. The invasives have narrower leaves, and the seed pod is a shorter distance above the leaves. AIS boat inspections were slower due to fires, ~1000 so far this summer. MLR is planning an AIS summit March 2027. Individual sponsor funding goes directly to AIS work.	Amanda will send link to description and photos of invasive cattails for identification. (maisrc) Sign up to be a Spiny water flea monitor at the county extension and SWCD websites. Kathy suggests we all sign up for MLR and MNCoLA newsletters individually. They are a free source of good information, in and out of Cook County.
Cu-Ni Sulfide Mining Workshop - Follow Up - Kathy	36 people attended. There was strong interest in continuing to meet and learn. Patti: Summary of event sent to all participants and original panel from our October 2025 meeting. Currently setting up a Q&A session for our mining	Kathy/Patti – Make sure to send the meeting summary to CCCoLA members, as well as include them in future follow up zoom meetings

	and water quality experts. Working to identify someone that could provide a mining community perspective (pursuing a local mining geologist). Note that Betsy talked to a participant that suggested we should explore understanding the mining community and culture.	
Mission - Kathy	Educate ourselves first so that we are credible and well-informed, educate others through community outreach, take direct positive action because of what we know (volunteer, legislative)	
Preview and Input for the Virtual Season (October 2026-May 2027) - Kathy	Picture of ideas: • Land Services – regulations for shoreline/land, how enforced, partner with Neva Maxwell, beginning in Jan, then every other month • Best practices – Learning from each other building sustainability and strength for CCCoLA • Having breakout sessions every other month • Blue-Green Algae and other water quality monitoring(MPCA) – October (Jesse Anderson) • Legislative Session (Budgets, Trail markings for ATVs – S. Perrin Schubert) review again in November • Develop positions so that CCCoLA can take quick action to support various topics	Kathy: Send out best practices template – see next topic.
Strategies to organize supporters of water quality best practices on our lakes.	Gary mentioned that “Friends of Tait Lake” was organized as a subgroup of the Tait Lake Association which has a required covenant for all property owners. Noted by Larry Mullen: Official title of Caribou Lake Association is now “Friends of Caribou Lake”. A positive, inclusive title.	
Supporting Best Practices for Lake/Road/Area/Property Owner Associations and CCCoLA - Larry Bick	Launching a program to share successes, challenges, and best practices of individual CCCoLA member associations with the goal to help each other be better, both as individual associations, and as a CoLA board.	Kathy: Send out Info Gathering Template All: Fill out Template and return by 10/1

	We can document as a blueprint, and post on our website. Consider electronic surveys for additional feedback. Definition of a coalition is to work together to help each other.	
Meeting Reflection - All	Great meeting, thanks to: Patti for coffee pickup and starting meeting, Larry B for work on best practices initiative, Ann for fire season work, Kathy for working through flat tire, excited, focus on key topics, county agencies and offices provide excellent info and networking, another great summer, helpful and healthy, exciting year ahead, evolving, whole is greater than sum of the parts, synergy, positive feeling, expect to continue to build on what we have, positive action counteracts all the negativity, optimism, impressed with work going on, looking forward to share with lake, we all do better when we all do better	Kathy will send out MNCola membership meeting info. Betsy to send water legacy mining presentation to steering team for discussion
Meeting Adjourned	Gary moved to adjourn, and Al seconded. Approved unanimously at: 11: 47 am.	Next meeting – Virtual: Thursday, October 8 at 10am via Zoom