



HUBBARD COUNTY COLA
P.O. BOX 746
PARK RAPIDS, MN 56470

WEBSITE: www.mnwaters.org/hubbardcola



From our President – Ken Grob

As I sit here trying to decide what to write in my last message after five years as President of COLA, my mind flips between reflecting and looking ahead to the challenges of the future. Focusing on the many issues ahead is sometimes discouraging, but looking back at the accomplishments gives encouragement for meeting the challenges of the future. It gives hope that “We can do it - COLA can make a difference”!

First of all, I want to thank Judy Novak for encouraging me to be president five years ago. I didn't know what I was getting myself into, but she had set a good foundation of goals and objectives that made the transition easier. I want to thank Dan Kittilson for stepping up to be your new president. Dan has been extremely supportive and involved in all aspects of COLA. The transition will be seamless. His passion for preserving the water resources of Hubbard County is arguably unmatched. He will continue to move us forward. I hope to be as helpful to him as he has been supportive of my leadership of COLA.

As I reflect, one can only look at our meeting agenda to see the richness of work that is on going, and the dedication of all of the committee members and COLA Board.

Comparing the July 2009 and the July 2004 agendas, the progress is evident.

More projects, more committees, more people leading and participating, more lake association members, more partnerships with local government, DNR, and civic organizations ...all focused on our COLA charter to protect and preserve our lakes and rivers.

Highlights of Successes:

- Eleven lake associations (representing 17 lakes) have completed Lake Management Plans as part of the HLRP partnership. Another group is planned for 2010. Several shoreline restoration projects and vegetation mapping projects have been completed with special grants.
- A statewide recognized initiative on Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention, including DNR grant funding for several projects.
- Established a COLA email communication network.
- Water Quality Monitoring continues to provide excellent data on our lakes.
- Active participation with Minnesota Waters Policy and forums.
- Active participation in several state level advisory committees on shore land standards.
- Formation of an Executive Committee to set policy and goals for COLA
- An outstanding Website for information sharing
- Expanded partnerships with Northwest Minnesota Foundation, DNR Divisions, County Government, SWCD, and civic organizations.

My sincere thanks to the lake association members and the COLA Board for their work in achieving these successes.

Our challenges ahead are clear: We need to build capacity and member involvement, and continue to build an organization to last. We need to work hard at insuring that the goals and objectives of COLA have relevance to all lake association members. We need to help form new lake associations and to provide support to existing associations. We need to continue to build partnerships. Most of all, we need to meet the challenge of preventing the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species to our lakes. Thank you for your support.

Upcoming Events

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Attend These Upcoming COLA Events!

Hubbard County to Conduct Public Hearing on Sewage Treatment Standards

A public hearing will be held on Wednesday, August 19, 2009 at 12:30 p.m. in the basement County Board meeting room to consider and take comments on the **Subsurface Sewage Treatment System (SSTS) Ordinance draft**. The County is updating this ordinance per a State Rule mandate to do so. Hard copies of the draft are available for review at the Environmental Services office or online at www.co.hubbard.mn.us/environmental.htm

Hubbard COLA Annual Meeting

Hubbard COLA's Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, August 27, 2009, 6:30 social hour, 7:00 pm meeting in the Basement County Board meeting room. The August meeting will include election of officers for 2009/2010.

Big Sand Lake to Host Rain Garden & Buffer Zone Workshop

A Rain Garden/Buffer Zone Workshop will be sponsored by the Big Sand Lake Association on Friday & Saturday, August 28-29, 2009. This workshop will include classroom instruction on Friday, August 28 from 5:30—9:00 PM & Installation of Rain Garden on Saturday, August 29 from 9:00 AM—3:00 PM. **For further information, contact Jo Judson at 218.732.5981, or Karen Nelson at 218.732.0560.**

COLA to Co-Sponsor Healthy Lakes & Rivers Partnerships in 2010

Hubbard COLA, Hubbard SWCD, and Northwest Minnesota Foundation (NMF) are pleased to announce that we will be partnering to sponsor a Healthy Lakes & Rivers Partnership Program in 2010 to help lake associations develop lake management plans. **We are inviting area lake associations to join the 2010 class & commit to participate by completing the application form by August 31, 2009.** The Healthy Lakes & Rivers Partnership training & plan development will occur during the summer of 2010. For further information contact Ken Grob at 732-0364 or Dan Kittilson at 732-5566.

COLA Announces Deadline for "Restore the Shore"

Order your shoreline trees & shrubs through COLA's Restore the Shore program by **September 15, 2009**. Please contact your Lake Coordinator to request a Restore the Shore order form.

Hubbard COLA Welcomes Minnesota Waters Executive Director Marian Bender

Marian Bender, Executive Director for Minnesota Waters, will be the featured speaker at the COLA meeting on September 24, 2009. COLA urges all lake reps & presidents to attend this informative meeting to learn about the strategic goals & direction of Minnesota Waters for 2009-2010.

Shore land Rules Changes

STATE SHORELAND AND PUBLIC WATER STRUCTURES RULE MAKING UPDATE

The Preliminary Draft for updated shore land rules is the result of an extensive public participation process that included input from advisory committees, public meetings, and forums over the past year. The proposed state standards incorporate the latest reliable knowledge and are based on the need to protect Minnesota's water quality.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is posting the Preliminary Draft at this point in the process to allow for greater public access. Included in the draft are the statewide minimum standards and criteria for Wild and Scenic rivers as they might appear if they were merged with the shore land rules

The proposed standards include, but are not limited to: better water quality standards through improved rainwater runoff management; increased drain field setbacks and higher shoreline buffer standards for new development; greater protection for sensitive shorelines & trout streams; and improved standards for planned unit developments.

Other updated standards include more flexible resort standards, higher standards for new developments, & stronger subdivision control including conservation subdivisions. For more information on the Shore land Standards Update, visit: <http://mndnr.gov/waters/shoreland.html>

The DNR is revising the rules that regulate structures in public waters, which include most of Minnesota's lakes, rivers and many wetlands. The preliminary draft of the "Structures (docks) in Public Waters Rules" has been completed & will be released soon. For more information on Structures in Public Waters, visit: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters>

Both rule making documents must go to the DNR Commissioner for approval and then to the governor's office for approval to proceed to formal public hearings. Public information/input meetings will be held statewide in late summer, followed by approval & completion of the final draft early in 2010.

The COLA Website

OUR COLA WEBSITE: [http:// www.mnwaters.org/hubbardcola](http://www.mnwaters.org/hubbardcola)

Please take a minute to check out our website. There is a lot of information available for you to read and learn about as well as answers to many of your questions.

Contact information Updating

Lake representatives and lake association presidents – please be sure to update any changes you have in your contact data, especially your email address information so our COLA communication can be fast and efficient.

Also, please work on getting your lake association members email addresses updated and as many as will give you their information. We would like to start distributing our COLA newsletter via email to lower the cost of distribution. This would give us a better usage of our money and make for a lot faster and easier method of communicating. Thank You!