

HUBBARD COUNTY COLA MINUTES

November 4, 2010

Hubbard County COLA; Stewards of the Lakes P.O. Box 746. Park Rapids, MN 56470

www.minnesotawaters.org/group/hccola/welcome

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 7:00 P.M. by President Dan Kittilson

√¹ **Round Table Introductions**

√¹ **President Dan Kittilson** passed around card from Rosa Stolzenberg, widow of Gary Stolzenberg. A COLA memorial has been started in Gary's name.

√¹ **Representatives:**

Bad Axe:

Belle Taine:

Big Mantrap: Lyle Laske, Helen Marsh,

Big Sand:

Blue: Melodee Monicken

Boulder: Steve Hall

Lower Crow Wing:

Middle Crow Wing:

8th & 9th Crow Wing: Shirley Koltas,

Jeanne Gaston

10th & 11th Crow Wing:

Duck: Deb Rogers

Eagle: Janine Weideman

Emma/Bottle/Stocking:

Fish Hook: Marvel Haynes, Jan Rumpza

Gilmore:

Island South:

Ham:

Hinds:

Kabekona: Rolf Smeby

Little Sand: Dan Kittilson, Jim Thomsen,
Maggi Yerkes, Mary Jo Groehler

Long: Bill Cowman

Mow:

Palmer: Bert Ahern, Janet Ahern

Peysenske:

Plantagenet: Bruce Wilson

Portage: Jerry Knoblich

Potato: Ken Grob, Chuck Diessner, Bob
Berdahl

Spider: John Weber,

Stony: Dennis O'Connell

Tripp: Theora Goodrich

Twin Lakes: Don McIntosh

Guests: Doug Kingsley, DNR

Shane Foley, SWCD

Previous Meeting Minutes: MSP September 30, 2010 minutes

Treasurer's Report: John Weber

- The only lake association not paid for water testing is the 10 & 11th Crow Wing. John Weber is checking to make certain bill was sent out.
- The final payment of \$1440.00 for water testing was mailed.
- \$150 deposit was sent for the Restore the Shore Project
- There are 2112 paid COLA members as of November 2, 2010.
- Island South and Peysenske are the only lakes that have not yet paid their dues (**update as of November 9th: Island South and Peysenske dues check has been received**).

- Ken Grob stated that the negative balance in the AIS Fund will become positive as we are due to receive \$2200 total AIS grant monies from Emma and Arago Townships
- MSP to accept the Treasurer's report

Guest Speaker: Doug Kingsley, DNR

- **LaSalle Lake Acquisition**—Doug Kingsley stated that the DNR is working with the Trust for Public Land (TPL) to acquire nearly 1000 acres of outstanding biodiversity habitat in the northwest corner of Hubbard County that contains all of Lower La Salle Lake, which is the state's second deepest lake, over half a mile of the Mississippi River and over half a mile of a coldwater stream La Salle Creek.

The TPL was able to obtain an option to purchase the property in two phases; the first phase in December 2011 and the second phase in fall 2011. Funding is lined up for phase 1 and over 3/4 of the funding for phase 2 has been recommended by the LCCMR and the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. Balance of the funding for phase 2 will be sought during the winter and spring from the Parks and Trails Fund.

Hubbard County and Fern Township approval is required before acquisitions are made. Doug stated that some board members questioned the impact to the county if the property is taken off the tax roles; however, it has been determined that the county would receive far more through State PILT payments (payment in lieu of taxes) than it is currently receiving through property tax payments.

A document written by Bob McGillivray from TPL was distributed including a request for written support from COLA and lake associations for this acquisition. Doug indicated that there is public input meeting on November 30 at the Fern Township Town Hall at 7 PM and encouraged COLA attendance at the meeting. This item will be discussed by Hubbard County on December 1st at 3:30 PM.

MSP to send a letter expressing COLA support to Bob McGillivray and copy to Fern Township and Hubbard County Boards.

Dan Kittilson will send a letter to lake association presidents encouraging lake associations to also send a letter of support.

Committee Reports:

A. Lakeshore Education & Communications (J. Kingsley/S. Hall):

- Email Coordinator, Presidents, Reps. and AIS Coordinator lists were passed around for changes. Contact Ken Grob with any further changes. Ken stressed that the reps. work with their respective lakes to make sure these lists are accurate.

- The fall newsletter was coordinated by John Hastings. *Dan expressed his thanks to John for a great job.* 1108 newsletters were emailed and 1305 were sent through regular mail for a total of 2413.
- Ken distributed to each lake in attendance, a letter of instruction and a mailing list for each lake association to update and return. The packet will be mailed to those lakes not in attendance.

B. Government Liaison – Civic (J. Knoblich):

- **Restore the Shore:** Jerry Knoblich is handling the tree orders for the Restore the Shore project due to Gary Stolzenberg's death. Jerry will complete the order and submit to Shane Foley by Monday, November 8th. A chairperson is needed for 2011 to replace Gary. Mary Jo Groehler expressed interest and will discuss further with Jerry.
- **Water testing:** Jerry Knoblich. The cost for 2011 will remain unchanged at \$200 maximum for each lake with a minimum of \$145 for smaller lakes. Jerry distributed the lake monitoring registration form to be filled out by each lake.
- **Local Water Plan: Shane Foley.**
Shane Foley from the SWCD talked about the local water plan and their plans to publish a Hubbard County Shoreline Guide. The state contributes \$12,000 to Hubbard County for their Local Water Plan projects which are then administered by SWCD. One such project for which these funds are used is a \$1000 subsidy of the lake water testing. Shane indicated that they would like to partner with COLA and other parties to print 10,000 Hubbard County Shoreline Guides to educate shoreline property owners on shoreline stewardship. Approximately \$8500 is needed to fund the project of which \$3500 will come from the Local Water Plan. Additional funds to cover the remaining \$5000 will be needed from other sources such as COLA, lake associations, grant monies or private advertising.

MSP to use the \$1000 Hubbard County COLA Quality of Place Award from the Northwest Minnesota Foundation toward this project.

Shane also asked for one or two COLA volunteers to assist with 4-6 Hubbard County specific pages to be included in the guide. Steve Hall and Marvel Haynes from the Lakeshore Education and Communications Committee agreed to work with SWCD. Dan Kittilson will look for one additional volunteer from the strategic planning team to work on the project.

C. Government Liaison – State/LGU (K. Grob):

- **County meeting sign-up:** sheet was passed around. COLA is in need of increased representation at the County meetings. If you are able to attend please do.

- **Chuck Diessner**, Chairman of the Impact Political Action Committee (IPA) gave a brief update on the committee's work. He indicated that they need to get the message out to the public that COLA is not opposed to variances in general, only those which are illegal under the ordinances. Chuck commented that COLA was in agreement with 50% or 10 out of 20 recent variance requests. In his review of these 20 requests, Chuck found that Eric Buitendorf, Administrator of Environmental Services made recommendations against the same requests as those opposed by COLA. He also stated that Eric is never asked at the BOA meetings for his recommendation and misstatements regarding ordinances are never corrected publicly.

Chuck stated that they are working to revise the communication process at Board of Adjustment meetings. They plan to divide the speaking responsibilities between the 5 IPA Committee members and also ask lake associations to get more involved.

Chuck asked that lake associations contact the IPA Committee if they have any concerns related to the committee's work. They want feedback so that it can be appropriately addressed.

- **Bob Berdahl**, Strategic Planning Committee member reviewed their discussions with Michael Goldberg of Action Media related to how they can assist COLA in communicating our message to the community and influence the Board of Adjustment to do the right thing. Bob requested approval from the Board for their Committee to spend ½ day in Grand Rapids with Action Media to discuss strategy and an action plan.

MSP to spend \$600 for the meeting with Action Media in Grand Rapids.

D. Meeting Attendance & Representation (M. Erpelding):

- **Attendance:** The meeting attendance sheet was passed around. 19 out of 30 lakes were represented at the September 30th COLA meeting.
- **Representative Reference Book updates:** Deb Rogers will provide Rep. Reference books to new board members

E. Invasive Species/Exotics Task Force (K. Grob):

- **Watercraft Inspections for 2010:** the 10/29/10 updated watercraft inspection report was handed out to all reps. Lyle Laske discussed the inspection program on Big Mantrap and gave credit to three lake association members for their efforts to revive the program and collect funds. A final watercraft inspection report will be completed by the DNR.
- **AIS Conferences:** MN/WI AIS Conference is November 8-10, St. Paul, MN, www.minnesotaswcs.org.
- **Ken Grob** provided handouts on the resort/campground AIS packets and indicated 60 resorts in Hubbard County have been contacted.
- **Handouts** were distributed on the DNR Phase II AIS Stakeholders Project.

Executive Committee:(Dan Kittilson)

- Executive Committee initiatives have focused on Strategy Management.

President's Updates/Announcements:

- Dan reported that the Emma Township Board is very supportive of the work being done by COLA and has provided COLA with grant monies for AIS prevention. Dan encouraged lake associations to work with their respective townships and determine if grant monies are available. The Little Sand AIS project is a template that other lakes can use. Melodee Monicken talked about the successful shoreline project on Blue Lake made possible with grant monies from Minnesota Waters and the township board.

Special Topics:

- If you have suggestions for future speakers, please contact Dan Kittilson.

Unfinished Business:

1. Hubbard County Lawsuit:

- **Lawsuit summary:** A hearing is scheduled for November 10, 2010 regarding the motion to require that the county provide requested discovery documents. **(Hearing has been re-scheduled for November 23, 2010)**
- **Fund Raising Update:** Dan stated that fund raising plans will depend on the outcome of the November 23rd hearing.

2. Strategy Management:

- Dan stated that a leader is needed for the committee for Multiple Revenue Streams Action Group.

3. A Vice President candidate is needed.

4. Proposed Bylaw Amendment to change meeting time: Dan provided the proposed bylaw change in writing in advance of the meeting. The change would allow for more flexibility in scheduling the time of day for COLA (Proposed Bylaw Changes attachment dated 10/31/10).

MSP to amend the proposed bylaw change to revise the third sentence in Article VI-Meetings, Section 1 as follows:

If the President considers that circumstances warrant it, the President may change the date of the regularly scheduled meetings above and may also call a special meeting of the Board of Directors. A change of the date of a regularly scheduled meeting shall require at least 10 days prior written notice to the Lake Association Presidents and COLA representatives. A special meeting may be called upon a written or oral notice stating the purpose, time and place of the meeting given to each representative at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

MSP to make the bylaw change by unanimous vote. (Bylaw change dated 11/4/2010)

New Business

1. **Gary Stolzenberg Memorial Fund**
 - Send memorials to Rosa Stolzenberg, 1249 8th St. N., Fargo, ND 58102-2609 with donations going to Hubbard COLA, P.O. Box 746, Park Rapids, MN 56470
2. **La Salle Lake Acquisition**—motion approved to support acquisition following program by Doug Kingsley. Send letters of support to Bob McGillivray, The Trust for Public Land, 2610 University Ave., #300, St. Paul, MN 55114 and copy to Hubbard County Commissioners and Fern Township Supervisors.

Initiatives for next four months:

- HLRP Class for 2010 should complete lake management plans and explore special project grants. Deb Rogers gave a brief review of the Duck Lake management plan.
- The regional/statewide COLA Partnership discussion will be held on November 16, 2010 to be facilitated by Minnesota Waters

What's Happening on Your Lake:

- **Lake Association Newsletters:** Please send newsletters to John Hastings for the COLA newsletter
- **Please provide updated contact information for Presidents, representatives and email coordinators if they change for your association. Contact Ken Grob.**
- **Bill Cowman reported that Long Lake** had a very successful fall road clean-up day

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 3, 2011, 7:00 p.m. meeting, 6:30 p.m. social gathering at Hubbard County Courthouse

Respectfully Submitted by Janine Weideman/acting secretary

Dan Kittilson: 732-5566; Ken Grob: 732-0364; John Hastings: 732-3260; Julie Kingsley: 652-4878