



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

WEBSITE: www.mnwaters.org/hubbardcola



From our President – Dan Kittilson

Wow! What a wonderful spring. Open water came early this year with the ice leaving most lakes by early April. COLA has had an interesting, busy and productive winter. Yes, COLA doesn't go south for the winter. Our COLA Executive Committee has met monthly throughout the winter planning numerous activities, projects and grants for the upcoming summer season.

Sometimes I hear questions about what does COLA really do and who does COLA represent? The answer to the second part of the question can be found in our name which is Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations. COLA simply represents our "member" lake associations.

Let's look more closely at what COLA does. Our purpose is noted in our bylaws which say that "COLA is organized to facilitate cooperation among member lake associations and to assist in fostering appropriate and legal use of lakes and watersheds". Gee, that sounds pertinent as we reflect on the Rice Bay PUD lawsuit. COLA is comprised of Lake Associations whose primary purpose is to protect and improve their lake environments. Currently, we have 30 member lake associations (40 lakes) that **share our same purpose**. COLA and our lake associations are the voice of our lakes in Hubbard County.

When reflecting on what COLA does and who COLA represents, we need to evaluate COLA's internal capacity, its ability to be effective and to sustain itself over the long-term. Consequently, COLA will conduct a strategy management process in August to assess and improve our organizational effectiveness. COLA in building its organizational capacity through strategic planning hopes to focus on engaging new members and promoting new leaders.

COLA's strategic planning event will be held on August 6, 2010. We are requesting that each lake association presidents (or designee) and COLA Reps (or designee) attend our planning event on August 6. I would ask that you please consider stepping forth to serve your organization and participate in our strategy management planning process. Further information will be provided when available.

COLA continues to develop and implement our electronic communication abilities. We request that lake associations continue to keep their email data base current for presidents, COLA reps and email coordinators. If your lake does not have an email communication network, I would urge you to develop an electronic email data base for your membership. This will provide a quick communication link to all our COLA and lake association members.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the Lake Emma Township supervisors for their leadership role in forming the Lake Emma Township Healthy Lakes Partnership Grant Program. COLA recognizes that we must start forming partnerships with townships, especially those dominated by lake property. Lake Emma Township has been the leader and we encourage more local township partnerships for water quality preservation.

In closing I would like to thank our many active COLA volunteers! I would encourage others to please consider stepping up to serve our COLA organization in some fashion. Together we can work to protect our lakes in Hubbard County.

DNR Shoreline Habitat Grants

We have exciting news for all shoreland owners interested in protecting their water quality and developing habitat for wildlife!Minnesota DNR Shoreland Habitat Grant money is being made available to Hubbard County residents this year by the Cass County ESD. Project funds can be used for re-establishing vegetation for fish and wildlife habitat, re-establishing native vegetation along shorelines, shoreline erosion control projects and developing educational materials/forums to promote shoreline restoration and native aquatic plantings.Riprap projects are not eligible for these grant monies.

Projects will have a 50/50 funding match and in kind labor, at the rate of \$10.00 per hour, can be used as part of the match. Approved projects will have a ten-year contract, which will allow the site to be viewed by the public as a demonstration site. The site must be made available to the DNR and Cass County during installation and for the ten-year contract period for promotion and evaluation. Also, the project must be maintained for the ten-year contract period.

For those interested, please contact Steve Hall at Shoreline Creations—218-732-8907. Residents may also call Shane Foley at Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District at 218-732-0121.

Cola and lake Associations Benefit from Financial Grants

Our lakes are benefiting from several grants in 2010. Financial support from DNR Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention grants, DNR watercraft inspector grants, Lake Emma Township Healthy Lakes Grants, MN Clean Water Legacy funds, and several Townships is helping to leverage several initiatives to preserve and improve or lakes.

- The DNR AIS grants to COLA totaled \$15,290, with the DNR supplying half the cost and COLA the other half through cash and “in-kind” labor. The projects include 1) AIS awareness through roadside billboards and radio public service announcements, 2) AIS awareness and education materials for Hubbard County Resorts, and 3) Watercraft inspections using DNR interns for Lake Emma and Arago Township lakes (620 hours).
- In addition to the 620 hours of inspection time for Lake Emma and Arago, Long Lake (280 hours) and Big Mantrap (280 hours) were awarded DNR AIS Prevention Grants for watercraft AIS inspections. Big Mantrap Lake Association is privately funding an additional 500 inspection hours.

- Lake Emma Township through its Healthy Lakes Partnership Grant Program sponsored three projects; 1) A Native Species restoration project on Blue Lake, 2) An AIS Early Detection monitoring project on Little Sand Lake, and 3) Support of the watercraft inspection work on Lake Emma Township lakes.
- In addition to the Lake Emma Township grant, Arago Township (\$720), Hubbard Township (\$840) and Henrietta Township (\$840) have provided funds to support watercraft inspections.
- Minnesota Conservation Corps labor (\$6600), funded through the Clean Water Legacy Amendment, was leveraged by the Blue Lake project.

In total, project funding of almost \$40,000 is planned: \$17,250 through State matching funds, \$7,400 from Townships, and the remainder through COLA and lake association cash and “in-kind” labor. This is a remarkable success for our efforts to preserve and protect our lakes.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT YOUR LAKE

A message from the North Central Lakes Collaborative

- Keep your shoreline natural – Restore your shore
- Know your lake rules
- Appreciate aquatic plants – Don’t remove them
- Reduce your lawn
- Maintain your septic system
- Properly dispose of animal waste
- Reduce impervious surfaces
- Be considerate of all lake users
- Support land conservation
- Show up – Speak up – Financial support



E-mail Newsletters are progressing - by John Hastings

Hubbard County COLA is continuing to transition to E-mail newsletters. Your lake association email coordinators are working to complete their lists of members that have access to e-mail newsletters. The e-mail addresses will be kept by your lake association’s email coordinator and they will be responsible for sending the COLA Newsletters to you.

The advantages are numerous. It is much less expensive to send newsletters via email. They can be sent immediately after completion instead of waiting for printing, processing, and then mailing by third class. We can continue to make our newsletters more informative and interesting by including more content and pictures – plus they can be in color. Multiple copies can be sent for no additional costs.

If you do not want to receive a newsletter, you can ask your email coordinator to take you off your list. For those of you that do not have access to email or just want to continue to receive them in the mail, we will continue to print and mail them to you.

HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF AIS

❖ Know the Rules:

- **Do not transport aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or other invasive species on public roads.**
- **Do not launch a boat or place a trailer in the water if it has aquatic plants, zebra mussels or other invasive species attached.**
- **Do not transport water from infested waters (bilge, live well, bait buckets, etc.)**

❖ Use TIP line to report violations: 1-800-652-9093

MARILYN BERRY RETIRES FROM SWCD

HUBBARD COLA WOULD LIKE TO THANK MARILYN FOR HER WORK IN COORDINATING THE FRESHWATER FESTIVAL AND ORGANIZING OUR COLA VOLUNTEERS FOR THE FESTIVAL.

Marilyn has worked with the Freshwater Festival since 1999 and more recently has been the coordinator for the festival. Marilyn's efforts have been crucial to the great success of the Freshwater Festival and toward the development of future stewards for our lakes and waterways. Marilyn, we thank you for being such a critical part of this very worthwhile environmental education program.

LAKE DATA ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP—June 26th

Becker, Hubbard and Otter Tail County COLA's have partnered with Minnesota Waters to sponsor a free Lake Data Assessment, Interpretation & Action Workshop.

WHEN: Saturday, June 26, 2010
Registration 1 pm to 1:30 pm
Workshop: 1:30 pm to 5 pm

WHERE: Minnesota State Community and Technical College
900 Highway 34 East, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

Examples of lake data and how to assess and interpret that data will be shared, along with factors to consider when planning for action.

Please pre-register by June 15th with Dan Kittilson at drkittil@msn.com or 732-5566.

