

## HUBBARD COUNTY COLA MINUTES

February 2, 2012

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

[www.minnesotawaters.org/group/hccola/welcome](http://www.minnesotawaters.org/group/hccola/welcome)

*“COLA is the Leader in Protecting Hubbard County Lakes and Rivers”*

### Call to Order:

**Introductions/ Welcome guests & new members/additional agenda items**

**Announcements: Donations for goodies and clean up help needed.** Thank you to  
Ruby, Mary Jo and Theora!

**Program:** no program

### Representatives:

**Bad Axe:**

**Belle Taine:**

**Big Mantrap:** Lyle Laske

**Big Sand:** Irene Weis

**Blue:**

**Boulder:** Lynn Berry

**Lower Crow Wing:**

**Middle Crow Wing:**

**8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Crow Wing:** Julie Kingsley

**10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Crow Wing:**

**Duck:**

**Eagle:**

**Emma/Bottle/Stocking:**

**Fish Hook:** Jan Rumpza, Don Sells

**Gilmore:**

**Island South:**

**Ham:**

**Hinds:**

**Kabekona:** Rolf Smeby

**Little Sand:** Dan & Ruby Kittilson, Mary Jo  
Groehler

**Long:** Bill Cowman

**Palmer:** Dan McCorry

**Peysenske:** Jeff Sievers

**Plantagenet:**

**Portage:**

**Potato:** Bob Berdahl, Ken Grob

**Spider:** John Weber

**Stony:**

**Tripp:**

**Twin Lakes**

**Guests:** Doug Kingsley – DNR Fisheries, Mark Sommer – Hubbard SWCD

**Approval of Minutes from November 3, 2011:** MSP Nov. 3, 2011 Minutes

### **Treasurer’s Report:** John Weber

- This is a three month report from November, 2011 through January 2012.
- All lakes had paid for 2011 water testing by the November meeting.
- The board had approved up to \$2,200.00 to cover AIS shortfall. The money actually needed was \$1,922.66. The Treasurer’s report shows a deficit due to copies made from Sept. 11 – Aug. 12.
- Envelopes have been made with the COLA logo and are available.
- There is a need to know how many lakes use the GIS program available to COLA. The cost per year to have this service available through Ed Mutsch is \$250.00
- MSP Treasurer’s report for February 2, 2012.
- By going to emailing the newsletter COLA saved \$1500.00

## **2011/2012 Proposed Budget – John Weber**

### **A. Proposed Resolutions:**

- a. Approve commitment of \$1,200.00 to SWCD for Freshwater Festival.
- b. Approve increase in multi-tier water testing fee from \$200/\$155 to \$210/\$155.
- c. Approve \$100 for dues & \$100 for website to MN Waters in 2012.
- d. Approve \$250 for GIS Access in 2012
- e. Approve \$125 for Park Rapids Chamber of Commerce
- f. Approve \$2400 for AIS Prevention Grant
- g. Approve recognition gifts to Rich Rothermel (\$50) and Judy Novak (\$50)
- h. Approve payment to Jerry Knoblich (\$100) for water testing mileage in 2012.
- i. Approve \$150 for membership dues to MN COLA Collaborative in 2012.
- j. Resolution to adopt 2011/2012 budget as proposed

**MSP the budget** for 2011/2012 resolutions as listed above.

- B. **COLA receives \$1,000 subsidy from SWCD for water testing.** This offsets the costs for lakes unable to pay the full amount for lake testing.

### **Committee Reports:**

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

- a. **Need for a new leader for this committee.** Please contact Dan Kittilson if you are interested.
- b. **COLA Call – Steve Hall and other volunteers.** These are the articles that appear in area newspapers. If you have a topic or would like to write an article please contact Steve Hall.
- c. **COLA Education Initiatives:** partnership with Hubbard County Extension and Sally Shearer.
- d. **Hubbard County Shoreland Guide:** there are still copies available
- e. **Website:** [www.minnesotawaters.org/groups/hccola/welcome](http://www.minnesotawaters.org/groups/hccola/welcome)

#### **B. Government Liaison – Civic (P. Tuomisto):**

- a. **Restore the Shore:** Mary Jo Groehler. The 2013 tree order forms are in. This years tree orders should be in the first week in May.
- b. **Water Quality Monitoring:** Jerry Knoblich
  - i. **Training/lake trends/equipment pickup:** Will be Wednesday May 16, 2012 at 7:00 pm at the Hubbard County Courthouse. There will also be a little workshop on water trends in our lakes that have been tested by RMB labs for monitors to take back to their associations.
  - ii. **May water testing dates:** May 20 or 21, 2012
  - iii. **2012 water testing registration forms:** are available at the end of these minutes, attachment 1, and should be filled out for each lake

doing monitoring this summer and returned to Jerry Knoblich by MAY 8<sup>th</sup>.

- iv. **Multi-tier Fees for water quality testing:** This year fees will increase for the upper level of water testing by \$10.00 to \$210.00 per lake. Last year the lower tier of testing was raised to \$155.00 per lake

**c. Children’s Freshwater Festival:**

- i. The Festival will be May 9, 2012. Volunteers are needed please contact Melissa Koebernick at 732-0121.
  - ii. Send lake association contributions for the Children’s Freshwater Festival to Hubbard COLA at P.O. Box 746, Park Rapids, MN 56470 and note in the memo line: Children’s Freshwater Festival.
  - iii. The \$1,200.00 needed by the SWCD has already been collected for this year, any additional contributions will go into this fund for next year.
- d. Hydro Lab:**
- i. Contact Mark Sommer at 732-0121 at the SWCD or [mark.sommer@mn.nacdnet.net](mailto:mark.sommer@mn.nacdnet.net)

**C. Government Liaison – State/LGU – Impact Political Action (C. Diessner):**

- a. **Summary of Board of Adjustment (BOA) actions:**
  - i. **Variances are granted by the BOA 76% of the time.**
  - ii. **53% of all variances are granted when the BOA disagrees with Environmental Services Office (ESO) and COLA. .**
  - iii. **The BOA approved “after the fact” variances 74% of the time going against the advice of ESO and COLA.**
- b. **Recommendations for BOA process changes.**
  - i. Education/training for BOA members/other
- c. **Lawsuit:** Oral arguments before the Court of Appeals were held Feb. 1, 2012. The MN Center for Environmental Advocacy gave an Amicus Brief supporting COLA. The Court has 90 days in which to present its ruling which should be around April 30, 2012.
- d. **New Appointee on BOA:** Ken Grob has been appointed by Kathy Grell to the Board of Adjustment.

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

- a. **Attendance history report/Committee Report:**  
18 lakes were represented at the last COLA meeting.
- b. **Update COLA Reps., Presidents & E-mail coordinators:** If your association has any changes to these lists please contact Dan Kittilson.
- c. **Lake Association membership:** There was an 81 person decrease in membership from fiscal year 2010 – 2011 to fiscal year 2011 – 2012.
- d. **New Lake Association Membership seed money:** \$100.00 is available for any new Lake association that is trying to form. This fund has not been used as yet.
- e. **Ongoing work:** promote membership within each lake association.

- f. COLA will determine how many lakeshore owners on each lake are members of your lake association by utilizing the Hubbard County GIS program.

#### **E. Finance Committee:**

- a. **Fund Raising letter:** A fundraising letter/Lawsuit Appeal summary will be sent out in February to all Friends of COLA. The money should be sent to the Northwest Foundation.
- b. **“Friends of COLA” database:** is being compiled.
- c. **Long term sustainable funding strategy:** is being looked at and developed.
- d. **Committee:** Lynn Goodrich, John Weber, John Hastings, Tony Platz, Dennis Winskowski, Dan Kittilson and Ken Grob.

#### **F. Invasive Species/Exotics Task Force (K. Grob):**

- a. **COLA AIS Task Force 2012 proposed project list:** see attachment 2
- b. **Hubbard County AIS Task Force:**
- c. **DNR AIS Grants for 2012** – (watercraft inspection & AIS Prevention grants)
- d. **Zap the Zebra Mussel** – [www.100thmeridian.org](http://www.100thmeridian.org)

#### **Executive Committee Report:**

- **Executive committee actions** focus on budget planning, committee matters, communication strategies, MN COLA Collaborative & routine COLA tasks.
- **Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations (MN COLA) is in the process of organizing.** Through the MN COLA, we will have an opportunity for concerted action and a much stronger voice to influence state legislation and advocate for shore land protections that preserve water quality and everyone’s right to enjoy the water. See COLA News and Announcements attachment for further information.
- **Lakes & Rivers Policy Group (LRP):** The LRP is a forum for communication among representatives of organizations interested in the protection, restoration and enhancement of Minnesota’s lakes and rivers. Participating organizations include MN Waters, Minnesota Seasonal Recreational Property Owners (MSRPO), Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA) and the Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations. The LRP will be focusing on 2012 legislative issues on AIS and Shoreland Rules.

#### **President’s Updates/Announcements:**

- Accessing Legacy Act Funds for Local Projects, Feb. 9, McIntosh Community Center 4 – 6 pm
- Lake Emma Township Healthy Lakes Partnership Grants due March 1, 2012. \$10,000.00 is available.
- Attend township annual meetings on Tuesday March 13, 2012: support initiatives for lake protection.
- DNR Roundtable – See COLA News & Announcements attachment.
- COLA Newsletter Editor – Diane Manlove, Long Lake

- COLA Public Relations Advisor – Deanna Frazier, Long Lake.

### **Special Topics:**

- **Future Speakers/Topics:** forward any suggestions to Dan Kittilson.
- **“For Love of Lakes”** – book by Darby Nelson. The Center for Lifelong Learning will host Darby Nelson on March 6 at the Northwoods Bank Community room at 1:30 pm.

### **Unfinished Business:**

- COLA vs. Hubbard County Lawsuit – Oral arguments were held on Feb. 1, 2012.
- Strategy Management Plan – see COLA News & Announcements attachment.
- VP Candidate search

### **New Business:**

- Minnesota Seasonal Recreations Property Owners (MSRPO) [www.msrepo.org](http://www.msrepo.org) are looking for new members. If you are interested please contact Dan Kittilson
- Chili Challenge – March 7, 2012. If anyone is interested in participating and representing COLA contact Dan Kittilson.

### **Initiatives For the Next Four Months:**

- Executive Committee initiatives (Strategic Action Plans, MN COLA Collaborative, COLA Data base)
- Impact Political Action - Monitor LGU's and Lake & River Policy group.
- Fund raising for lawsuit & long term sustainability funding
- AIS Task Force Initiatives
- Action Media (COLA's Story)
- Increase COLA/lake association membership

### **What's Happening on Your Lake:**

- Please send Lake association newsletters to John Hasting & Dan Kittilson
- Please provide updated contact information to reps, presidents & e-mail coordinators
- **Long Lake:** Long Lake association along with DNR is looking into making the north access handicap accessible.
- **Potato Lake:** The Potato Lake association is working at their board level to try and get the lakes within their chain under a unified AIS plan. They are planning on doing fundraising to do 1500 hours of inspections including Eagle and Island lakes which will cost \$20,000.00.

### **Next Meeting:**

**Thursday, April 26, 2012;** 6:30 pm social gathering; 7:00 pm meeting at Northwood's Bank Community Room.

**MSP to adjourn meeting at 9:21 pm.**

Respectfully submitted February 20, 2012

Julie Kingsley, COLA Secretary

**Contact Information:**

Dan Kittilson: [drkittilson@msn.com](mailto:drkittilson@msn.com) , 732-5566, President

Julie Kingsley: [kingsley@unitelc.com](mailto:kingsley@unitelc.com), 652-4878, Secretary

John Weber: 652-2535, Treasurer

Steve Hall: [steve@shorelinecreations.net](mailto:steve@shorelinecreations.net), 732-8907, Education & Information

Ken Grob: [Grobak@q.com](mailto:Grobak@q.com), 732-0364, AIS

John Hastings: [johnhastings@live.com](mailto:johnhastings@live.com), 732-3260, Newsletter

Judy Novak: [birdsongbay@unitelc.com](mailto:birdsongbay@unitelc.com), 652-2229, website

**Hubbard County COLA Lake Water Monitoring Program Registration**

**May thru September 2012**

**Lake Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Sampler:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Alternate:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Return Form on or before May 8 to:**

**Jerry Knoblich**  
**21186 Fox Dr.**  
**Park Rapids, MN 56470**  
**Tel #: 732-7687**  
**[jjknoblich @unitelc.com](mailto:jjknoblich@unitelc.com)**

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**Important Date:**

**May 16, 2012 at 7:00 pm in the Hubbard County Basement to pick-up equipment and receive training. A representative from the RMB lab will give a presentation (7:00 – 7:30 pm) on lake trends based on the lake data. The sampler, alternate or a rep. from each monitoring lake NEEDS to be at the meeting. THIS DATE & TIME ARE A MUST!**

**Sampling dates for 2012:**

**May 20 -21**

**Aug. 19 -20**

**June 17 - 18**

**Sept. 16 -17**

**July 15 - 16**

**Samples need to be in assigned coolers and returned to Charlie's Marine in Park Rapids by the underlined sample date above.**