

HUBBARD COUNTY COLA MINUTES

April 26, 2012

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

www.minnesotawaters.org/group/hccola/welcome

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

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Dan Kittilson

Introductions/ Welcome to guests and members, other agenda items

Announcements: Donations for goodies and clean up help needed.

Thank you to Mary Jo, Theora and Ruby for the treats.

Program: Mark Sommer, Hubbard County SWCD, Lake Assessment grants- Lake water quality report. The report is available on line from RMB labs and will be posted on the COLA website. For detecting trends, a minimum of 8 – 10 years of data with 4 or more readings per season are recommended. Most lakes had enough data for trend analysis for total phosphorus, chlorophyll a and transparency. Eight Hubbard County lakes with improving water quality trends were identified while seven lakes were found to have declining water quality trends. Zebra mussels are not found in any Hubbard county lakes but are in neighboring counties. Curly Leaf Pondweed is found in 3 Hubbard county lakes and Faucet snails are found in 3 Hubbard County lakes. Protection is cheaper than mitigation. Recommendations were to continue monthly monitoring of water quality, try to avoid gaps in testing, especially with secchi disk readings. Continue best management practices for natural shorelines, septic upgrades and monitoring, rain gardens, and no use of fertilizers near the lake.

Representatives:

Bad Axe: Mary Ann Erpelding, Tom Molin,

Belle Taine:

Big Mantrap: Lyle Laske

Big Sand: Ellis Jones, Barb Kimer, Irene Weis

Blue: Peter Tuomisto

Boulder: Steve Hall

Lower Crow Wing:

Middle Crow Wing:

8th & 9th Crow Wing: Julie Kingsley, Pat & Jeff Hrubes

10th & 11th Crow Wing:

Duck: Deb Rogers, Tom Mooney

Eagle: Jerry Grudem,

Emma/Bottle/Stocking: Kathy & Chris, Bosch, Mike Luppess

Fish Hook: Jan Rumpza,

Gilmore: Tom Thielges

Island South: Brad Benson

Ham: Paul Jensen

Hinds:

Kabekona: Ken Shively

Little Sand: Mary Jo Groehler, Ruby & Dan Kittilson, Wayne Swanson,

Long: Sharon Nantzel, Larry Roberts

Palmer: Dan McCorry, Bert Ahern

Peysenske: John Clauer, Jeff Sievers

Plantagenet: Lin & Joel Ward,

Portage: Jerry Knoblich

Potato: Ken Grob, John Hastings, Bob Berdahl

Spider: Don Marg, Everett Miller, John Weber

Stony: Greg Johnson,

Tripp: Theora & Lynn Goodrich,

Twin Lakes: Dan McIntosh, Chuck Tritz,

Guests: Mark Sommer – SWCD; Doug Kingsley – MN DNR Fisheries; Christine Herwig – MN DNR AIS; Darren Hoverson – MN DNR Hydrologist

Approval of Minutes from February 2, 2012: MSP

Treasurer's Report: John Weber

- A. This report covered three months: February, March and April 2012
- B. Dues were set at \$4.00/member of each lake association for 2012 - 2013 with a cap for a lake association at \$600.00.
- C. The budget was approved in February. 90% of the budget is generated by dues.
- D. MSP Treasurer's report.

Committee Reports:

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

- a. **COLA spring newsletter/COLA Call** will be coming out; please send your lakes newsletters to John Hastings and Dan Kittilson.
- b. If anyone has articles they would like to include in the newsletter please contact Dan or John.
- c. **Tri Watershed Expo** will be held June 9, 2012 at the Park Rapids High school from 8:30 AM to noon.
- d. **Hubbard County Shoreland Guide and Initiative Quarterly- Mighty Our River Resurgence:** copies are available for hand out. Contact Dan Kittilson
- e. **Website Review:** www.minnesotawaters.org/groups/hccola/welcome
Check out our website.

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

- a. **Restore the Shore:** Mary Jo Groehler
 - i. Pick up tree orders on May 3rd after 3:00 P.M.
- b. **Water Quality Monitoring:** Jerry Knoblich
 - i. **Training /Lake Trends/equipment pickup:** will be Wednesday May 16 at 7:00 PM at the Hubbard County Courthouse.
 - ii. **May water testing dates:** May 20 or 21, 2012
 - iii. **2012 water testing registration forms:** please return to Jerry on or before May 8th.
- c. **Children's Fresh Water Festival:** will be held May 9, 2012 at Camp Wilderness Boy Scout camp near Emmaville. Volunteers are still needed please contact Melissa Koebernick at 732-0121
 - i. **Send lake association contributions:** for the Children's Freshwater Festival to Hubbard COLA at P.O. Box 746 and write Children's Freshwater Festival in the memo line on the check.
- d. **Zebra Mussel Monitoring:** Peter Tuomisto
 - i. Costs for water sampling for Zebra mussels will cost \$90.00 per sample from RMB labs. Training will be provided by COLA and will be conducted in June. If your association chooses to participate the samples should be taken in July and August and can be done in conjunction with your water quality testing. Special sampling nets, Wisconsin net 64 micron, are needed to capture the veligers. Cost of the net is around \$275.00. There was discussion on how to purchase the nets, and if each lake sampling should have their own net. The samples taken would also be sent in with the water quality samples to RMB labs.

- ii. **Cinder blocks:** Dan Kittilson has some cinder blocks available for hanging off your dock a couple inches off the bottom on the shaded side of your dock to check for Zebra mussels.
- e. **Hydro Lab:** Mark Sommer at the SWCD has the schedule for the hydro lab. You can contact him at 732-0121 or mark.sommer@mn.nacdnet.net

C. Government Liaison – State/LGU (C. Diessner)

- a. **Board of Adjustment (BOA): The IPA Committee continues to monitor BOA actions.**
- b. **COLA vs. Hubbard County Lawsuit**
 - i. John Hastings stated that the results of the law suit should be out by April 30. COLA still has the obligation for the bills accrued.
- c. **Education and training for BOA/PC/County Commissioners**
- d. **A “Practical” Guide to Variances in Shorelands and Floodplains:** will be held May 10, 2012 1 – 5 pm in Brainerd. Contact Dan Kittilson for more details.

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

- a. **Attendance history/Committee Report:** Perfect attendance for 5 years are Little Sand, Potato, Spider and for 2 years perfect attendance to COLA meetings: Big Mantrap and 8th & 9th Crow Wing Lakes.
- b. If you have any great ideas on how to increase membership please contact Mary Ann.
- c. **Update list** of COLA reps, Presidents & e-mail coordinators will be emailed when available.
- d. **Lake association membership:** There was a decrease of 81 members from FY 10-11 to FY 11-12.
 - i. Lake associations will be encouraged to promote membership within their associations.

E. Finance Committee:(L. Goodrich)

- a. John Hastings gave a brief presentation about paying our legal fees followed by a question/answer session. In an effort to pay for COLA’s legal fees the Finance Committee have determined that each lake association’s fair share is \$20 per association member. This contribution would be tax deductible for individual donors.
- b. Money for the lawsuit should be sent to the Northwest Minnesota Foundation – Hubbard COLA Fund and note in memo line that our donation is for “Hubbard COLA General Project Fund”.
- c. **Trust Fund Advisory Board:** is made up of Lynn Goodrich, John Weber, Tony Platz, Dennis Winskowski and Dan Kittilson.
- d. **Fund raising ideas:** if you have any ideas please contact Dan Kittilson

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

- a. **COLA AIS Task Force/Hubbard County AIS Task Force**
- b. **Task Force Report to County Commissioners on May 2nd at 10:45 am.**
 - i. Task Force fully staffed

- ii. Hubbard SWCD awarded DNR watercraft inspection grant and are hiring 13 full time/part time inspectors which covers the Potato/Fish Hook/Mantrap chain.
 - iii. County Sheriff has three staff trained in AIS enforcement.
 - iv. COLA received DNR Public awareness grant for billboards, PSA's, Resort folders and restaurant placements.
 - v. Watercraft Inspection training in Park Rapids June 15.
 - vi. Zebra Mussel monitoring of water samples planned. Cost of \$275.00 for sampling net and \$90 for analysis per sample.
 - vii. Distribute MN COLA published document "What can be done to halt spread of AIS"
 - viii. 18 Local service providers have permitted to date. Few resort owners have been permitted.
 - ix. The Chamber has placed AIS information on their website. Enterprise "Summer Scene" will have AIS information.
 - x. UMN Extension sponsored NEMO workshop on March 22, 2012
 - xi. UMN Extension planning Tri-watershed Expo June 9, which includes two sessions on AIS.
 - xii. Major presentation on AIS to Townships.
 - xiii. To date 6 Townships have contributed nearly \$20,000.00 to watercraft inspections/Zebra Mussel monitoring for 2012.
- c. Issues to work on in the future:**
- i. Crow Wing chain of lakes has not participated in watercraft inspection program... This needs to be corrected.
 - ii. More direct contact with Plantagenet and Kabekona in the future
 - iii. Need a better solution to watercraft wash stations/decontamination. A fixed and a mobile station as a minimum
 - iv. Develop the capability for more lake association's volunteer watercraft inspection events.
 - v. More direct communication and participation with fishing tournaments and clubs.
 - vi. Long Term Sustainable funding for AIS Prevention at County level: County AIS Coordinator position, watercraft decontamination stations, inspectors.
- d. MN COLA AIS flyer**
- e. Volunteer Watercraft Inspection Training**
- i. May 8th 5-8 PM at Walker Community Center, Walker
 - ii. June 5th 5-8 PM – MN State Community College, Detroit Lakes
 - iii. June 15th 4:30 – 7:30 PM, Northwood's Bank Community Room, Park Rapids.
- f. Zap the Zebra Mussel – www.100thmeridian.org

Executive Committee Report:

- Executive committee minutes – 2/28/12
- Upcoming work will focus on 2012 strategic action priorities, committee matters, communication strategies, fund raising, MN COLA & Advocacy for stronger lake protection at local and state levels.

President's Updates/Announcements:

- **COLA Newsletter Editor** – Diane Manlove, Long Lake
- **COLA Public relations advisor** – Deanna Frazier, Long Lake
- **Dock signs** -\$5.00 to COLA, \$5.00 to lake association – contact Dan Kittilson
- **Park Rapids Downtown Business Association;** Park Rapids Chamber of Commerce

Special Topics:

- **Future Speakers/Topics:** Doug Kingsley will discuss lake stratification, turnover & its effects on fish, and dissolved oxygen and temperature sampling at the June 28, 2012 COLA meeting/

Unfinished Business:

- **2012 Strategic Action Report**
 - 2012 COLA Strategy Map (dashboard)
 - 2012 Strategic Action Priorities
- **Engage New leaders and volunteers**
 - Vice President candidate search – contact John Hastings at 732-3260
 - Day time recording secretary – contact John
 - **Minnesota Seasonal Recreational Property Owners (MSRPO)**
www.msrepo.org
 - Lake associations are encouraged to join MSRPO to help influence lake friendly legislation at the state level.

New Business:

- Each lake representative should email Dan Kittilson for the dates of their annual meeting if they would like someone to speak about COLA.
- Larry Roberts discussed the importance of a COLA presence at lake association meetings – The executive committee will coordinate with COLA Reps.

Initiatives For the Next Four Months:

- Executive Committee initiatives (Strategic Action Plans, MN COLA, Fund Raising for legal fees.
- Impact Political Action – Monitor LGU's and advocate for stronger regulations and policies at the state level.
- AIS task force initiatives
- Increase COLA. Lake association membership

What's Happening on Your Lake:

- Lake association newsletters should be sent to John Hastings and Dan Kittilson
- Please provide updated contact information to reps, presidents, e-mail coordinators
- **Portage Lake:** the public access will be blacktopped.
- **Palmer Lake:** will have Hubbard and Cass county do a Shoreland restoration to help catch runoff at their access.
- **Duck Lake:** Tom Mooney reported that helicopters were drawing water out of their lake for fighting the Nimrod fire. Those firefighting agencies do have special regulations for obtaining water and for decontamination of their equipment when going from lake to lake

- **Little Sand:** had a 32 foot secchi disk reading
- **Long Lake:** has three nesting loons
- **Spider Lake:** is building an information kiosk at their access.
- **Big Sand:** has signs in eight locations around the lake for AIS.

Next Meeting:

Thursday June 28, 2012; 6:00 pm for social gathering, meeting starting at 6:30 pm at Northwood's Bank Community room

MSP to adjourn meeting at 9:12 PM

Respectfully submitted Julie Kingsley COLA secretary May 16, 2012

Contact Information:

Dan Kittilson: drkittilson@msn.com , 732-5566, President

Julie Kingsley: kingsley@unitelc.com, 652-4878, Secretary

John Weber: 652-2535, Treasurer

Steve Hall: steve@shorelinecreations.net, 732-8907, Education & Information

Ken Grob: Grobak@q.com, 732-0364, AIS

John Hastings: johnhastings@live.com, 732-3260, Newsletter

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