

HUBBARD COUNTY COLA MINUTES

June 28, 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: President Dan Kittilson called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

Introductions/ Welcome to guests and members, other agenda items

Announcements: Donations for goodies and clean up help needed.

Thank you to Ruby and Mary Jo for the wonderful goodies!

Program: Doug Kingsley, DNR Fisheries “Lake Stratification, turnover & effects on fish, Dissolved oxygen – temperature sampling on Big and Little Sand lakes.”

Representatives:

Bad Axe: Kaye Molin, Mary Ann Erpelding

Belle Taine:

Big Mantrap: Helen Marsh, Lyle Laske,
Bernie Fischer

Big Sand: Irene Weis

Blue: Peter Tuomisto

Boulder: Steve Hall

Lower Crow Wing:

Middle Crow Wing:

8th & 9th Crow Wing: Julie Kingsley

10th & 11th Crow Wing:

Duck: Deb Rogers

Eagle: Janine Weideman

Emma/Bottle/Stocking: Kathy & Chris
Bosch

Fish Hook: Marvel Haynes, Jan Rumpza

Gilmore: Tom Thielges

Island South:

Ham: Paul Jensen

Hinds:

Kabekona: Mike Dudley, Ken Shively

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

Long: Larry Roberts, Sharon Natzel,

Palmer: Dan McCorry, Bert Ahern

Peysenske: Jeff Sievers

Plantagenet:

Portage: Charlie Pieper,

Potato: Chuck Diessner, Ken Grob, Kevin
Brauer, John Hastings

Spider: John Weber, Hillary Stoltz

Stony:

Tripp: Michael Van Guilder

Twin Lakes: Donnie McIntosh,

Guests: Doug Kingsley – MN DNR Fisheries

Approval of Minutes from April 26, 2012: MSP

Treasurer’s Report: John Weber

- The billings for dues from each lake association will be mailed the 2nd or 3rd week in Aug.
- MSP to balance the Restore the Shore deficit of \$8.26 from the General Fund.
- MSP the Treasurers report.

Committee Reports:

A. Lakeshore Education & Communications (Richard Sederstrom):

- a. **COLA Spring Newsletter/Publicity**
 - i. Send pictures/graphics to John Hasting for future newsletters.
 - ii. Arrange for newsletter articles to be printed in the Park Rapids Enterprise
- b. **COLA/Lake Association websites:** for a \$100 membership fee COLA can partner with Conservation Minnesota and will offer web service, this is the same amount as Minnesota Waters offered us. Who to continue the service under is under discussion
- c. **Boating and Loons:** Judy Novak An information brochure was handed out on Boating and Loons provided by Judy Novak
- d. **Publications:** Hubbard County Shoreland Guide and the Initiative Quarterly – Mighty River are still available

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

- a. **Restore the Shore:** Mary Jo Groehler
 - i. The 2013 tree order forms are out, also available on line and they are due to each lakes coordinator by Monday, Sept. 17, 2012 along with payment made out to Hubbard County COLA.
- b. **Water Quality:** Jerry Knoblich
 - i. Billings for water quality monitoring will be going out June 29, 2012. Full cost is \$210.00 per lake or \$155.00 for subsidized lakes. 30 lakes are monitoring this year.
- c. **Children’s Freshwater Festival:** At this point in time the Freshwater Festival account is in need of funding. Please support the continuation of this project and send in your contributions for the Children’s Freshwater Festival to Hubbard COLA at PO Box 746, Park Rapids, MN 56470 and write Children’s freshwater Festival in the memo line.
- d. **Zebra Mussel Monitoring:** Peter Tuomisto
 - i. Training for Zebra mussel monitoring will be July 9, 2012 at 7:00 PM on Blue Lake.
 - ii. Lakes will conduct their own sampling and will need to purchase their own plankton net which is approximately \$200 per net. These samples when taken can be labeled and included with the water quality monitoring samples to go to RMB labs when those samples go in.
 - iii. Sampling through the SWCD will only include 5 lakes in Mantrap Township
 - iv. The cost for each sample to be analyzed is \$90.00/sample.
 - v. There are 12 -13 lakes participating and there is room for up to 20 lakes.
 - vi. Contact Peter Tuomisto if you have any questions or would like to participate in this program.
- e. **Hydro Lab/Aquatic Plant Mapping:**
 - i. Contact Mark Sommer at the SWCD at 732-0121 or mark.sommer@mn.nacdnet.net
 - ii. Participating lake associations will need to provide a boat and an operator for either project.
- f. **Lake Assessment Grants:**
 - i. The second part of this grant will be completed by RMB labs

- ii. COLA will pursue a feature article in the “Enterprise” on this grant program.

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

a. Rice Bay PUD:

- i. 28 months ago the lawsuit against Hubbard County and the Board of Adjustment was brought by COLA, Ed Mutsch and Middle Crow Wing Lake association. The lawsuit was over on April 30, 2012. Two issues that COLA was concerned with were the allowance of 8 more boat slips than the County ordinance allowed and that the County did not follow the correct procedure of evaluating variances under the state standards (the 6 Stadsvold standards) and the county standards. Judge Rasmussen found in favor of COLA/Mutsch/Crow Wing Assoc. but the County appealed it.
- ii. In the appeal the Judge needed to answer the questions – did they satisfy the facts for state standards, which they said they did, and did the BOA follow the county rules which the Judge said they didn’t and they are to re-do it and remanded the case back to the BOA.
- iii. BOA refused to allow public comment on whether to open the record on the Rice Bay PUD.

b. BOA to hear Rice Bay PUD Variance request on July 16, 2012 at 9:00 AM

- i. It is important to have a strong COLA/Lake Association presence at this meeting, please attend if you can. If you can not please write letters to the members of the BOA. Dan Kittilson will email the list of members.

c. COLA’s Impact Political Action Committee impacts BOA

- i. **The County will now follow the correct procedure in considering variances – facts must satisfy both the state and county standards.**
- ii. **ESO is doing a better job analyzing variance requests.**
- iii. **BOA is doing a much better job in its consideration of variances.**
 - 1. **August, 2010 through December, 2011 the BOA acted on its own and contrary to ESO and COLA recommendations 48% of the time.**
 - 2. **January, 2012 to June, 2012 the BOA acted on its own and contrary to ESO and COLA recommendations only 15% of the time.**
- ii. **During part of 2010 and 2011 the variance requests averaged 7.5 variances per month while from January, 2012 through June, 2012 the variance requests are down to 3.0 per month. We are making a difference!**
- iv. Ken Grob has been appointed to the Board of Adjustment
- v. **Important Commissioners Election this year:** Please get informed on the stands the candidates have on the issues and get out and vote.
- vi. **COLA will co-host a get to know the Candidates with the League of Women Voters.**

d. Hubbard COLA partnered with other statewide organizations including MSRPO to achieve the following legislative successes from 2010 – 2012:

- i. **Pull the Plug – 2010** : removing your boat plug when leaving MN waters
- ii. Increased authority for inspections and decontamination – 2011
- iii. Double funding for 2 years, 2011-2013
- iv. Doubled penalties for AIS – 2012
- v. 21 day waiting period for lakeshore equipment
- vi. Authority for the DNR to remove contaminated equipment
- vii. Funding for AIS research center at University of Minnesota
- viii. Sticker/training for boat trailers/operator's effective in 2015.

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

- a. 25 lakes were represented at the last COLA meeting.
- b. A new handout on the responsibilities of a COLA representative was handed out by the committee.
- c. Deb Rogers will be updating the Presidents/Representatives/email coordinator lists. If you have any changes within your association please contact Deb.
- d. COLA Social event: At Zorbaz on Sept. 12, 2012 at 5:00 PM
- e. Each lake association is encouraged to increase their lake association membership.
- f. Lynn Goodrich will identify the number of unduplicated property owners on each lake. John Weber will use this data to determine what percentage of lakeshore property owners are lake association members.

E. Finance Committee :(L. Goodrich)

- a. **Update on Fund Raising Campaign for Legal Fees:** John Hastings
 - i. 16 lake associations have contributed, 14 have not. Lake association Presidents are encouraged to promote this and if an association is unwilling to contribute then individual contributions would be appreciated.
 - ii. If funds are not raised by members of the lake associations then other methods of fund raising will be needed and then volunteers will be needed. Examples would be fish fries etc.

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

- a. **Hubbard County Task Force Status:**
 - i. Report to commissioners on May 2 went well
 - ii. All initiatives underway – business-PRDBA, Resort folders, Lake Service provider training, watercraft inspectors.
 - iii. Looking ahead to 2013: decontamination stations, funding, Crow Wing watershed, resort, and Kabekona inspections.
 - iv. Task Force to meet late summer to plan 2013
 - v. Tri-Watershed Expo- that was held in June was not well attended.
- b. **COLA Task Force Report:**
 - i. Billboards, PSA's, Restaurant placemats, Flyers and AIS ID Cards complete and distributed.
 - ii. Flyer provided to lake associations as requested that COLA paid for. Lake associations can donate to this project.

- iii. Task Force to meet in late summer to start planning for 2013
- iv. LGU, Level 1 Watercraft inspector, Resort owners, Volunteer inspection training sessions sponsored.
- v. 27 Resort owners have attended LGU, volunteer or Resort AIS training.
- c. LGU Watercraft inspections:**
 - i. 13 level 1 certified inspectors have been hired and are inspecting 18 lakes
 - ii. The inspections are going well
 - iii. Jeff Bjorkman had an article in the COLA newsletter regarding this topic.
- d. Resort Folder Distribution**
 - i. Folders have been assembled and distributed to Representatives tonight
 - ii. Representatives please distribute as soon as possible, fill out the paper work and return to Ken Grob.
 - iii. **PLEASE EMPHASIZE INSPECTION AT RESORT LAUNCH SITES!!**
 - iv. Folders were given to the lake association AIS coordinator for reference.
- e. DNR Video**
 - i. An excellent 1, 10 or 25 minute version is available. Lynn Goodrich is ordering copies for all lake associations. Every lake association should consider showing them at their meeting.
- f. Awareness Materials Available:**
 - i. AIS flyer, AIS ID sheets, Placemats

Executive Committee Report:

- Upcoming work will focus on 2012 strategic action priorities, committee matters, communication strategies, fund raising, MN COLA, engaging new volunteers and advocacy for stronger lake protection at local and state levels.

President's Updates/Announcements:

- **Dock Signs:** Raise money for your lake association and COLA: \$5 to lake association and \$5 to COLA for each \$40 sign made. Contact Dan Kittilson at 732-5566.
- **COLA visits** to lake associations: Planned meetings for Eagle, Fish Hook, Ham, Kabekona, Belle Taine and Palmer.

Special Topics:

- If anyone has future topics for presentations please contact Dan Kittilson.

Unfinished Business:

- 2012 Strategic Action Report – completion of strategic actions #4 and #6: Larry Roberts/John Hastings
- Engage new leaders and volunteers: VP Candidate search and day time recording secretary.
- Minnesota Seasonal Recreational Property Owners (MSRPO) www.msrepo.org.

New Business:

- 2013 Governor's Fishing Opener: Larry Roberts/John Hastings: Volunteers will be needed and also boats and fishing guides. The opener will be centered on Fish Hook, Eagle, Island chain.

Ledger for Action Steps:

- Lake Associations make commitment of \$20/member fair-share contribution to legal fees
- COLA Leaders (COLA reps & Presidents) make commitment for financial contributions to the legal fund.
- Completion of Strategic actions #4 and #6
- AIS resort folders, COLA placemats, AIS Flyer to be distributed
- COLA articles in Park Rapids Enterprise.
- Zebra Mussel monitoring training on July 9 at 7:00 PM on Blue lake
- Strong COLA/Lake Association attendance at Rice Bay PUD variance hearing on July 16 at 9:00 AM at the courthouse.
- Increase lake association membership
- MN COLA meets to identify 2013 legislative initiatives on July 25, 2012
- Determine what percentage of lakeshore property owners are lake association members.
- Opportunity for Aquatic Plan Mapping/Hydro lab through Hubbard County SWCD.

What's Happening on Your Lake:

- Please send lake association newsletters to John Hastings and Dan Kittilson
- Please provide updated contact information for reps, presidents & e-mail coordinators
- Lake Association updates/current news/other.
- Spider Lake: has installed an information kiosk
- Duck Lake: AIS sign has been put up at the access
- Big Sand: Has put in a composting unit for bait at the access. Also they have planted trees around the lake. The Conservation Corp helped plant the trees and the extras were donated to the Boy Scout Camp.
- Palmer Lake: Steve Hall did a restoration project
- Long Lake: Put in an information kiosk at the South access
- Portage Lake: has a new parking lot and public access
- Little Sand: Completed an AIS inspection and they didn't find any AIS.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, July 26; 6:30 PM social gathering, 7:00 PM meeting in Northwood's Bank community room.

MSP to adjourn meeting at 8:55 PM

Respectfully submitted Julie Kingsley, COLA Secretary

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

Judy Novak: birdsongbay@unitelc.com, 652-2229, website