

HUBBARD COUNTY COLA

BOARD MEETING MINUTES – August 30, 2012

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

www.minnesotawaters.org/group/hccola/welcome

1. Call to Order: President Dan Kittilson at 7:00 P.M.

Representatives:

Bad Axe: Mary Ann Erpelding,

Belle Taine: Chuck Blair, Dick Boehmer

Big Mantrap: Barb Fischer, Dennis Ulm,
Helen Marsh, Linda Johnson

Big Sand: Richard Sederstrom, Irene Weis

Blue: Peter Tuomisto

Boulder: Steve Hall

Lower Crow Wing: Jennifer Pidde

8th & 9th Crow Wing: Julie Kingsley

10th & 11th Crow Wing:

Duck: Deb Rogers,

Eagle: Janine Weideman

Emma/Bottle/Stocking:

Fish Hook: Jan Rumpza

Gilmore:

Island South:

Ham: Paul Jensen

Hinds:

Kabekona: Pat Dechaine, Cheryl Hoium

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

Long: Larry Roberts, Sharon Natzel

Palmer: Dan & Betty McCorry,

Peysenske: Jeff Mosner

Plantagenet:

Portage: Jerry Knoblich

Potato: John Hastings, Bob Berdahl, Chuck
Diessner, Ken Grob

Spider: John Weber, Hillary Stoltz

Stony:

Tripp: Theora & Lynn Goodrich,

Twin Lakes: Don McIntosh, Chuck Tritz

Guests: Dan Stacey, running Dist. 4 Commissioner; Matt Dotta, running Dist. 2 Commissioner; Sarah Smith, Park Rapids Enterprise.

2. There was no Guest Speaker.

3. Approval of Minutes from July 26, 2012 meeting: MSP

4. Addition to Agenda: Under new business – Sponge Fund.

5. Treasurer’s Report: John Weber

A. September 1, began the new fiscal year for COLA

B. All lake associations have paid for their water testing for the year as of Sept. 7, 2012.

6. Unfinished Business:

A. Hubbard County COLA Legislative Agenda: Topics identified were: Aquatic Invasive Species, Shoreland Protection, Septic issues, water quality/agriculture concerns, Funding for AIS prevention, Legacy Amendment funding, Land Protection and Accountability. Fishing tournaments on infested waters was another concern.

B. All associations are to contact their boards and see if there are any additional legislative concerns and send them to Dan Kittilson.

7. New Business:

- A. Election of Officers:** This does not need to be done this year as the President's term is for one more year. The secretary and treasurer are both appointed positions.
- B. Vice President:** COLA is still in need of a Vice President. A motion was made to form a three person committee for a VP search. John Hastings, Chuck Diessner and Dan McCorry volunteered for the committee. **MSP.** Dan Kittilson will come up with a job description for the Vice President.
- C.** Julie Kingsley will compile the Committee reports and Announcements as part of the Secretary duties. Each Board will then need to get their reports to her before the next COLA meeting.
- D. Executive Committee** is discussing strategies to engage more volunteers and leaders.
- E. Hubbard COLA Presidents Round Table:** The suggestion was made that this meeting be held the last Thursday in May as COLA does not have a regular scheduled meeting at that time. The Executive Committee and the Lake Association Presidents would meet and discuss issues pertinent to the lake associations. It was also determined that COLA would conduct a President's Round Table this fall. Round Table Talking Points are being developed. A suggestion was made to offer a variety of evening or morning sessions – one during the week in the evening, one Saturday morning and one a weekend evening. Lake association Presidents can attend any Round Table that is more convenient for them.
- F. 2012 Upper Mid-West Invasive Species Conference:** Oct. 20 – 31 in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. Ken Grob will be attending. Motion made, seconded and passed to have COLA pay for Ken's registration for this conference.
- G. Sponge Fund:** John Hastings. COLA has identified a Sponge Fund sales campaign to help raise funds for COLA's mission to protect the quality of our lakes and the economic values of our shore lands. On one side of the sponge the DNR AIS message of "Clean, Drain and Dry" would appear with the COLA logo. The other side could be used for advertising for any corporate sponsors. A suggested donation of \$5.00 would get a sponge, a \$10.00 donation would get a sponge and could be tax deductible and \$20.00 would get 4 sponges and go to the COLA fund at the Northwest MN Foundation. The number one AIS violation is residual water in live wells. **MSP** for a motion to go ahead with this project. Suggestions for sponsors were Cabelas, Gander Mountain, and 3M.

8. Committee Reports:

A. Leadership Committee:

1. Executive Committee Report: The executive committee is in the process of merging the strategic action committees with COLA's standing committees. When this process is completed the COLA Committee Structure will be distributed to COLA Reps, President's and will be available at the November 1st COLA meeting.

2. President's Report and Announcements:

- a. Candidate Forums are going to be held in conjunction with the League of Women Voters:
 - Oct. 16th District 2, Hubbard County Candidates at the Northwood's Bank Community Room in Park Rapids from 6:30 – 9 PM
 - Oct. 25th – Local Senate and House races – Northwood's Bank at 7 PM.
 - Oct. 30th – Laporte School Board and District 4 Hubbard County candidates at Laporte School Commons at 6:30 PM.

B. Improve Internal Communications committee: Larry Roberts

- 1. Do a monthly summary of reports and meeting Minutes. The Secretary will

do this.

2. COLA reps and Executive Board will attend annual lake association meetings and provide updates on COLA.
3. Recognition of members who have made significant contributions to the improvement of lake water quality within Hubbard County.

C. Lakeshore Education: Richard Sederstrom

1. The committee has been re-organized. COLA will continue its website with Conservation MN/MN waters through June 2013.
2. **Jeff Forester**, Executive Director of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MSRPO) will speak at the Sept. 27 COLA meeting, 6:00 PM at the Northwood's Bank Community Room. Please contact Mary Jo Groehler if you are able to bring cookies or bars for the meeting.
3. Local realtors and abstract companies will be encouraged to disseminate Lakeshore Guides to lakeshore property owners.
4. Monthly articles in the Park Rapids Enterprise to inform residents and visitors to the area about our lakeshore environment and ways to maintain its health and beauty.
5. **Celebrate Lakes 2013:** A major education event for the public next summer is being developed.

D. Manage Public Image committee: Larry Roberts

1. Increase visibility of HCOLA, through billboards, PSA's, articles in area newspapers, school involvement with lake issues, individual and group recognition for improving the areas water quality, and the 2013 Governor's Fishing Opener.

E. Membership Committee: Mary Ann Erpelding

1. Social event on Wednesday Sept. 12, 2012 at Zorbaz at 5 PM.

F. Finance Committee: Lynn Goodrich

1. Raise funds to retire the legal expenses and develop long term funding to ensure that Hubbard COLA will be able to continue its good work in the future. This will include sales, donations, grants, bequethments and business/corporate sponsorships.

G. Impact Political Action Committee: Chuck Diessner

1. **Review monthly variance requests.** The IPA committee will notify lake associations if a variance request is being made on their lake so they can become involved and attend the BOA meetings. COLA will offer help to lake associations especially if the variance involves a PUD or subdivision, a major matter as determined by the IPA or if the lake association is concerned about a variance request.

H. Civic Service Committee: Peter Tuomisto

1. **Restore the Shore:** Mary Jo Groehler. Orders are due to lake association coordinators by Sept. 19 with checks payable to the individuals' lake association. The Coordinator will turn them into COLA on Sept. 27th.
2. **Water Quality Monitoring:** Jerry Knoblich. All lakes have paid for their 2013 water testing. The last testing date for the season is Sept. 16.

3. **Children's Freshwater Festival:** Funds are needed for next years Freshwater festival, please make checks payable to Hubbard COLA, P.O. Box 746, Park Rapids, MN 56470 with Children's Freshwater Festival in the memo line.
4. **Zebra Mussel Monitoring:** Peter Tuomisto. Testing is on going
5. **Hydro Lab/Aquatic Plant Mapping-** Contact Mark Sommer, SWCD, if your association is interesting in using the hydro lab.

I. AIS Task Force: Ken Grob

1. DNR Stake Holders meeting was held Aug. 23, began with 20- 25 people, now is up to 50 people.
2. Veliger monitoring on-going. Last water samples are to be done Sept. 16 and sent with the water quality samples to RMB Lab in Detroit Lakes.
3. DNR roadside checks are occurring
4. Local Units of Government (LGU), Level 1 (watercraft), volunteer inspection training sessions have been completed for the year.
5. Local Units of Government (LGU)watercraft inspections continue into Oct.
6. **Resort AIS** information folders have been distributed
7. **A DNR video** is available to all lake associations to show at their meetings.

9. Governor's Fishing Opener: Larry Roberts

- A. Volunteers** are needed to help with the Governor's Fishing Opener on May 11, 2013. If you can help with ticket sales for the raffle items contact Larry Roberts, 732-0118 or email: lrobertsmn@gmail.com
Sign up information is also posted on the Park Rapids, Chamber of Commerce website: www.parkrapids.com

10. What's Happening on Your Lake:

- **Little Sand:** had their annual picnic and are doing vegetation sampling.
- **Bad Axe:** Has 100% lakeshore owner participation in their lake association! Congratulation to the Bad Axe lakeshore owners.
- **Palmer Lake:** is hosting a volunteer AIS watercraft inspection this weekend.
- **Long Lake:** is hosting a fund drive to raise funds for next year's watercraft inspectors.
- **Big Mantrap Lake:** has completed their vegetation sampling.
- **Belle Taine:** membership has increased from 124 members to 191 members.
- **Lower Crow Wing association:** has a representative attending the meeting.

11. Next Meeting: Thursday September 27, 2012, Please note time change: 5:30p.m. Social gathering, 6:00 p.m. meeting, Northwood's Bank Community Room. Jeff Forester, Executive Director, MN Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MSRPO) will be speaking. There is a need for help with setting up for this meeting. If you can come early and help set up chairs it would be much appreciated.

12. Adjourn Meeting: MSP to adjourn meeting at 8:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Julie Kingsley Hubbard COLA Secretary, Sept. 9, 2012

Contact Information

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

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

John Weber: Treasurer, 652-2535

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

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

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

Larry Roberts: Governor's Opener: lrobertsmn@gmail.com 732-0118