

**HUBBARD COUNTY COLA**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES – September 26, 2013**

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

[www.hubbardcolamn.org](http://www.hubbardcolamn.org)

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

**Representatives:** (Each self-introduced at meeting commencement)

**Bad Axe:** Mary Ann Erpelding

**Big Mantrap:** Helen Marsh, Bernie & Barb  
Fischer, Sue Ryan

**Big Sand:** Irene Weis, Candy Malm

**Blue:** Peter Tuomisto

**Boulder:** Steve Hall, Lynn Berry

**Lower Crow Wing:**

**8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Crow Wing:** Judy Novak

**5/6/7 Crow Wing:** Karl Luomala, Keith Bemis

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

**Duck:** Tom Mooney

**Eagle:** Janine Weideman

**Fish Hook:** Don & Jan Rumpza

**Gilmore:** Tom Thielges

**Ham:** Paul Jensen

**Kabekona:** Ken Shively

**Little Sand:** Mary Jo Groehler, Dan Kittilson  
Ruby Kittilson, James Thomsen, Marshall Howe

**Long:** Larry Roberts, Sharon Natzel, Jeff Bjorkman

**Palmer:** Dan & Betty McCorry, Burt Ahern

**Peysenske:** Jeff Mosner

**Portage:** Jerry Knoblich

**Potato:** Kevin Brauer, Bob Berdahl, Chuck Diessner

**Spider:** John Weber, Hillary Stoltz

**Tripp:** Lynn & Theora Goodrich

**Twin Lakes:** Don McIntosh, Chuck Tritz

**2. Agenda:** Added to New Business, at request by Bert Ahern, discussion of “Sandpiper Pipeline Project” MSP

**Additional Announcements by President:**

- “Thank You” to COLA by Kids Fishing Program at Gov. Fishing Opener
- Next Month’s COLA Hosts are Fish Hook Lake, Palmer Lake, Gilmore, Blue Lake, Hinds Lake and Lower Crow Wing
- “Thank You” to Membership Committee for organizing enjoyable Zorbaz Social on Sept 18<sup>th</sup> and invitation to all to attend with spouses in the future.

**3. Hubbard County COLA website:** Please check it out at: [www.hubbardcolamn.org](http://www.hubbardcolamn.org)

**4. Approval of Minutes from August 29, 2013 meeting:** Corrected spelling of Karl Luomala’s name. MSP

**5. Special Presentation:** Judy Novak, who was past COLA President prior to Ken Grob, was

presented with Certificate of Appreciation by Dan Kittilson on behalf of Hubbard County COLA for all of her years of valuable contributions to the organization.

**6. Treasurer's Report:** John Weber (Delayed until later in the meeting)

- Executive Committee is working on the coming year expense budget and would like all committees to submit their requests, if any.

**Approval of Treasurer's report. MSP**

**7. Guest Presentation: "Buffer 101" by Steve Hall, owner of Shoreline Creations**

**Landscape Company**

Topics included: Natural Shorelines, Development, What can we do? Fertilizer and Pesticide Use, Septic Systems, and Buffer Zones along shoreline.

Questions and answers followed presentation.

**8. What's happening on your Lake?**

- **Spider Lake:** Approved for 8 individual restoration and erosion remediation project grants (aggregate grant of approximately \$25,000) which will commence this Fall and continue in the Spring. Association just began a successful seed and plant exchange.
- **Potato Lake:** Bob Berdahl shared information about a lake in Michigan where the loss of the walleye population has occurred due to Zebra Mussel infestation.
- **Long Lake:** There are several Restoration Projects underway on their lake.
- **Lake Kabakona:** There were large Protect the Lake and AIS signs installed by the DNR on Kabakona at no cost to the Association. Placement was in prominent locations.
- **Portage Lake:** Dan distributed a Portage Lake report prepared by Marilyn Peterson to everyone in attendance. It explained in detail the 10 year total cost to the Lake Owners for control of Curly Leaf Pondweed on Portage, and what the treatments included and the success/challenges in treating this invasive.
- **Fish Hook Lake:** Consensus theory is that the spread of Curly Leaf Pondweed to their lake from Portage Lake may be "filtered" by the Fish Hook River.

*Mid-Meeting Break at 8 PM until Meeting Resumed at 8:11 PM*

**6. New Business:**

**a. Review and Implementation of Capstone Report**

**i. Lake Association reports on how using the Capstone project**

**Big Sand Lake:**

- Updating Website & how members can pay dues online.
- Review lake management plan & fill two committee vacancies.
- Continuing Water Testing Program & strategies to keep lake clean.
- Recruiting for AIS Volunteer Inspection Training
- Expand paperless communications utilizing website and email.

**Palmer Lake:** There were 20 respondents. Studies and action projects include:

- Communication-Emails, website, newsletters, Facebook Page.
- Fundraising: Primarily accomplished through Dues and Grants
- Volunteers: Vegetation Mapping may have to be done by contracting with professionals that specializes in such mapping vs. Volunteers.

Their Lake Association includes 84% of the lakeshore owners.

**Ham Lake:**

- √<sup>1</sup> Putting together a "Welcome Packet" to promote our Lake Association to non-members and new property owners.
- √<sup>1</sup> Setting up a Membership Team to encourage and promote new memberships.

√<sup>1</sup> Of the 56 families that own property on Ham Lake, which does not have any Public Access, 46 are members of the association. There seems to be a feeling of apathy from many who are in the arrears on their Annual Dues.

**Tripp Lake:** There are 15 owners on Tripp Lake and 90% are members of the Lake Association.

- Communication includes emails to 100% of the Owners
- Monthly Social Gatherings are planned to continue over the Winter months
- Saturday Afternoon “Pontoon/Rafting Parties” have been successful in bringing together the “weekend” lakeshore owners

**ii. Committee reports on the Capstone project:**

- **Education Committee:** Do more with youth through partnership with 4-H. They have a number of other ideas that they are planning to implement and asked for a “show of hands” from those COLA Reps that would be willing to work with youth on their self-directed water related projects.
- Hubbard County SWCD has four designated volunteers going to the University of Minnesota Extension/MN Pollution Control Agency Brainerd program. They will be attending the Crow Wing Watershed Leadership Program’s first meeting on October 5th. Dan Kittilson offered his position to another party if there was anyone else interested.
- **Communication and Executive:** Per Dan Kittilson and the Executive Committee, the Communication Committee will be consulting with Peter Pierson, a free lance writer from Big Sand Lake who is studying in Arizona, about broadening COLA’s communication strategies. If you have photos of your lake, questions or comments about the website contact Jeff Mosner [jlmosner@gmail.com](mailto:jlmosner@gmail.com). The website also contains a Blog and Facebook feature.
- **Membership:** Created and printed a COLA bookmark, placed a number in area book stores and plan to make these available PRIMARILY for the use of our COLA Lake Members and their Associations. Handed out to Representatives to use in New Owner Packets and at their meetings.

**b. Promote purchase of wild rice products and accessories for upcoming holiday season.** Order forms are available on the COLA website.

**c. New officers needed:**

**i. President and President Elect:** Dan Kittilson continues for 1 year with President-elect Lynn Goodrich is taking over the second year.

**ii. Serious need for COLA Secretary, Treasurer and Water Monitoring Coordinator.**

Temporarily, the minutes continue to be taken by one of the volunteers from the Heavenly 7 Host Lakes. John Weber agreed to continue the office until a new treasurer is appointed. Jerry Knoblich would also like to retire from the water monitoring coordinator which he has headed for many years.

**7. Committee Reports:**

- See handout on committee reports
- **Restore the Shore Tree Orders:** Orders and checks were turned in to Project Coordinator, Theora Goodrich.
- **Political Action:** The Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council is

recommending a \$3.65 M to MN COLA for statewide aquatic invasive species facilities and equipment.

- **Oct. 5 Septic Care class** offered by Extension office 9 am at Northwood's Bank community room.

**Additional New Business:**

- \* \* John Weber had just attended a presentation regarding the Alberta Clipper Pipeline (Enbridge/Sandpiper) Project. It is a high pressure oil pipeline that will skirt around Hubbard County near Itasca and down south around Palmer Lake. John noted that 80% of the oil is committed to Europe and Japan. Enbridge, the company that will build and control the pipeline, has a history of accidents with their pipelines. The Indigenous Environmental Network sent Marty Cobenais, as tribal representative at the meeting. Marty said that the tribal nations will only allow access over their lands subject to a 20 year agreement, after which renegotiations will be required. However, Enbridge is approaching farmers individually and offering one-time payments for easements over their properties. Individually they may be gullible and unaware of their rights.
- Bert Ahern stated that the high pressure pipeline will be near Palmer Lake and there are many concerns regarding the dangers to the watershed. Enbridge has a history of accidents. The pipelines are never removed, even if the project is discontinued or abandoned. Any economic benefits to Hubbard County will be minimal and temporary. Motels and restaurants may see increased business temporarily, but there will be very few jobs offered to the community. If any, they will be temporary at best. Bert, et al, would like to see more honest information made public and a stand taken by the County and the Newspapers. The final agency decision regarding this project is made by the Minnesota PUC.
- Chuck Diessner suggested that Hubbard County COLA might consider sponsorship of a Forum for the Park Rapids Area residents to get further information from all concerns (pro or anti) regarding the Enbridge Sandpiper Pipeline Project. Executive Committee to discuss further.

**8. Next Meeting:** Thursday October 31, 2013, 6:30 p.m. social gathering, 7:00 p.m. meeting at the Northwood's Bank Community

*Heavenly Seven lakes responsible for the Minutes and the social gathering include Fish Hook, Hinds, Blue Lake, Gilmore Lake, Palmer and Lower Crow Wing.*

**9. Adjourn Meeting at 9:00 PM MSP.**

Respectfully submitted: Hillary Stoltz

**Contact Information**

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