

HUBBARD COUNTY COLA

BOARD MEETING MINUTES – April 24, 2014

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

<http://hubbardcolamn.org>
hccolamn@gmail.com

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

Representatives:

Bad Axe: Bob Schmidt

Belle Taine: Dick Boehmer

Big Mantrap: Burney Fischer(*)

Big Sand:

Blue:

Boulder: Steve Hall

Lower Crow Wing:

8th & 9th Crow Wing:

10th & 11th Crow Wing:

Duck: Deb Rogers

Eagle: Janine Weideman

Fish Hook: Don Rumpza, Don Sells

Gilmore:

Island South:

Ham: Arland Waters

Hinds:

Kabekona: Ken Shively

Little Sand: Wayne Swanson, Dan & Ruby
Kittilson

Long: Sharon Natzel, Larry Roberts

Palmer: Dan & Betty McCorry

Peysenske: Jeff Mosner

Plantagenet:

Portage: Charlie Pieper

Potato: Ken Grob, Chuck Diessner, John
Hastings

Spider: Hillary Stoltz

Stony:

Tripp: Theora & Lynn Goodrich

Twin Lakes:

- Conference call participant – Burney Fischer

Guests: Nate Sitz - Hubbard Co. SWCD, Erik Thorson - DNR Wildlife

1. Call to Order – Introductions and Announcements - Clipboards were passed around to designate lake association annual meeting dates and for volunteer opportunities at the COLA Sporting Garage Sale and for Community Clean-up Projects with Nate Sitz.

There will be recognition for John Weber at the July 31, 2014 COLA meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes: Mar 27, 2014 meeting minutes - MSP

3. Treasurer’s Report: Lynn Goodrich – excluding Project Fund monies at NWM Foundation, the total is \$15,924.81 – Approved - MSP

A motion was made for COLA dues to remain at \$4 a member with a ceiling of \$600 per lake for 2014-2015. MSP

Membership dues and structure for the 2015-2016 year will be looked into this year.

4. Community Clean-up/Watercraft Inspections - Nate Sitz

A group effort at community clean-up has been done in the past and Nate is gathering information and ideas for developing a similar project. He needs names of individuals or

groups/lake associations who will help. He is also interested in specific skills or resources a person could offer. Call or email Nate if interested. nathan.sitz.swcd@gmail.com

Nate also gave an update on watercraft inspections. In 2013 6600 hours of inspection were done county-wide. In 2014 they plan to do 8600 hours. 30 inspectors have been hired for 2014. After noticing a trend last year that indicated boat accesses were busier from 10:00 - 6:00 they plan to do that kind of a shift this year instead of split shifts. Lakes can request a different schedule if desired. Another change this year is that there will be no fee charged for decontamination. The decontamination station will be moved near the Park Rapids Transfer Station. Flyers will be distributed about this at the next COLA meeting. Nate will give Watercraft Inspection updates at 6:15 before upcoming COLA meetings.

5. AIS - Ken Grob

Ken passed out three new AIS pamphlets that will go in the resort folders this year and will be available for lake associations: Help Protect Minnesota Waters (DNR), Inspection and Cleaning Guidelines (for docks, lifts, boats, water gear, etc.) and Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers! (DNR)

Ken also distributed information on the DNR Volunteer Education Plan for 2014. Volunteer **educators** will replace the volunteer inspectors of the past. They must attend a training session. There are two more scheduled: May 3 in Lake George and May 7 in Walker.

Conservation Minnesota will be conducting free Lake Monitoring Training in 2014. If there is enough interest an additional session may be set up in Park Rapids. A sign-up sheet was passed around. June 7th was selected as the favored date. There needs to be a minimum of 20 people.

6. Erik Thorson - Area Wildlife Supervisor at the Park Rapids DNR

Erik supervises the area of southern Hubbard County and some of the surrounding counties. His department works with habitat management, population management and wildlife disease among other things. He discussed local concerns about the osprey nests being removed by Great River Energy. They have taken down 15 nests and they are supposed to put up replacement platforms if they are active nests. That hasn't been done. He suggested people could contact GRE or Itasca Mantrap to lobby this issue. The DNR is working on it, too.

7. Unfinished Business:

A. **Discussion and Action regarding the Sandpiper Pipeline**

Sharon Natzel informed COLA that the extended period for filing comments to the PUC is now Friday, May 30, 2014 at 4:30 PM. Look for topics open for comment and other information in the April 24, 2014 Committee Reports/Education. Long Lake has three informational one-hour sessions about the pipeline that are open to the public. Friday, 4/25/14 at 10 AM; Wednesday, 4/30/14 at 1 PM; and Thursday, 5/8/14 at 7 PM. More information about the sessions can be found on their website. <http://www.longlakeliving.org/>

Discussion followed about whether COLA wants to remain neutral on the Sandpiper Pipeline Enbridge proposes to run through Hubbard County's lakes and rivers or take further action. The DNR and MPCA have filed comments with the PUC. It was suggested that as "COLA is the Leader in Protecting Hubbard County Lake and Rivers" it would only be appropriate to take a stand on the pipeline. The following motion was made and passed unanimously by all COLA lake association reps who were at the meeting.

It is moved that COLA take an active position in requesting that the PUC relocate the Sandpiper Pipeline route away from Enbridge's proposed Southern Preferred Route. COLA's response to the PUC will include alternate routes and other matters as determined by the Executive Committee.

In addition to sending a letter to the PUC, COLA will provide education for its members about the Sandpiper Pipeline and encourage individuals and lake associations to express their opinions to the PUC as well. A pipeline committee was formed to work on those actions. The members include Jeff Mosner, Sharon Natzel, Chuck Diessner, Deb Rogers, and Dan McCorry.

B. Fund Raising - Lynn Goodrich

Lynn mentioned that the Sporting Garage Sale will not be in June but will be moved to a later date this summer. Please stay tuned and save sporting items for the fund raiser sale.

C. Restore-the-Shore - Theora Goodrich

Pick up for the trees and shrubs will be Friday, May 2 at the fairgrounds after 1 pm. There will be signs where to pick up. Theora needs volunteers to help counting the trees and getting the orders ready. If people want to volunteer to help, they will be working from about 10am to 3pm. Any amount of time would be greatly appreciated. She will contact people who ordered. Her phone number for info is 218-652-3130.

8. New Business:

A. Membership Engagement & Board Leadership (delayed to next meeting because of time.)

B. COLA Presence at Lake Association Meetings - Dan Kittlson

COLA reps can provide updates on COLA at their lake association meetings. There is a COLA tri-fold available that can be displayed. COLA leaders are also available to speak at lake association meetings.

C. COLA Speakers Bureau/Topics

There was a short discussion about possible topics at future COLA meetings. Due to time constraints an email may be sent out on this issue.

9. COLA Committee Reports & Announcements: The Committee's reports were emailed ahead of time so just touched on highlights. The committee reports are posted on the Hubbard COLA website: http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/uploads/3/2/6/5/3265696/cr_2014_04_24.pdf

Jeff Mosner would like members to send him new photos to post on the COLA website. jmosner@gmail.com

Lynne Goodrich needs to know the quantity of rice/pottery you desire if you want to sell them at your lake association meetings. tripplake1@mac.com

Contributions are needed for the Freshwater Festival.

Water monitoring kits need to be picked up on May 14, 2014 at 7:00.

We need a Water Monitoring Coordinator. Email Peter Tuamisto: ptuomisto@rescol.com

COLA still needs a Secretary and a Treasurer. Contact: hccolamn@gmail.com

10. What's Happening on Your Lake:

Kabekona found that 20% of the boats inspected entering their lake last year had risk factors for AIS!

Out of the 463 letters sent to members at Lake Belle Taine only 7 had address changes!

Ice is out on Tripp and Peysenske Lakes and the loons have returned!

Next COLA Meeting: Thursday May 29, 2014, 6:30 PM social gathering, 7 PM meeting, Northwoods Bank Community Room.

Heavenly Seven Hosts: 10th & 11th Crow Wing, Belle Taine, Ham and Little Sand.

11. Adjourn Meeting: MSP to adjourn meeting

Respectfully submitted by Heavenly Seven Host Lakes: Duck, Big Mantrap, Potato, and Twin Lakes.

Contact Information

Dan Kittilson: President, drkittil@q.com 218-732-5566

Lynn Goodrich: President-Elect, tripplake1@mac.com