

# HUBBARD COUNTY COLA

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES – August 28, 2014

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

[www.hubbardcolamn.org](http://www.hubbardcolamn.org)  
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**1. Call to Order:** President Dan Kittilson at 7:00 P.M.

**Representatives:**

**Bad Axe:** Mary Ann Erpelding

**Belle Taine:**

**Big Mantrap:** Burney Fischer, Helen Marsh

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

**Blue:**

**Boulder:** Steve Hall

**Lower Crow Wing:**

**8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Crow Wing:** Julie Kingsley

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

**Duck:** Deb Rogers

**Eagle:**

**Fish Hook:** Jan Rumpza, Don Rampza

**Gilmore:** Tom Thielges

**Island South:**

**Ham:** Jim Alger, Paul Jensen

**Hinds:** Lynn Weis

**Kabekona:**

**Little Sand:** Dan & Ruby Kittilson

**Long:** Sharon Natzel, Larry  
Roberts

**Middle Crow Wing:** **Becky Romans**

**Palmer:** Betty McCorry, Dan McCorry, Bert  
Ahern

**Peysenske:** Jeff Mosner

**Plantagenet:**

**Portage:** Jerry Knoblich

**Potato:** Ken Grob, Chuck Diessner

**Spider:** Everett Miller, Hillary Stoltz

**Stony:**

**Tripp:** Lynn & Theora Goodrich, Michael  
Van Guilder

**Twin Lakes:** Rose Ragole, Chuck Tritz

**Guests:** Christine Herwig, MN DNR, Doug Kinglsey, DNR-Fisheries; Nate Sitz,  
Hubbard SWCD

**Hubbard SWCD AIS Presentation:** Nate Sitz presented information to the lakes that have watercraft inspectors. Boats de-contaminated this year have increased by ten fold over last year. As of August 17, 2014: 11,602 boats had been inspected (surpassing the 2013 total), of which 6953 were entering. 161 had drain plugs in (3.2% compared to 5.2% last year); 108 boats had water in them (1.55% compared to 3.76% in 2013); 103 boats had vegetation (1.48% compared to 3.4% in 2013); 661 boats entering from infested waters (538 boats last year); 1065 boats entering from out of state (724 last year). Boats entered from 35 different states and Canada. A pontoon boat coming from Lake Minnetonka with juvenile zebra mussels attached was intercepted at the Long Lake south public access, by a watercraft inspector, on August 28<sup>th</sup>. The boat was denied access and sent to decontamination. It was allowed to launch into Long Lake after it was decontaminated.

**Thank you to Heavenly Seven for this meeting:**  
Fish Hook, Gilmore, Hinds, and Palmer Lake

**2. Guest Speaker:** Christine Herwig, MN DNR – Non-game Fish and Wildlife Division, spoke about non-game wildlife on lakes, the challenges they face and steps to take for their preservation.

**3. Approval of Minutes from July 31st, 2014 meeting: MSP**

**4. Treasurer’s Report:** Lynn Goodrich

- MSP Treasurer’s report

**5. 2014-2015 Proposed Budget:** Lynn Goodrich

- MSP

**6. Unfinished Business:**

a. **Information Gathering Activity Prioritization.** Sharon Natzel distributed a distillation of the 587 ideas that had been posed in the June meeting and prioritized by the Executive Committee. Attendees ranked their top three choices in the subcategories. Results will be reported at a future meeting.

b. **Watercraft Inspection Report** – Julie Kingsley, Hubbard Co SWCD repeated the statistics reported by Nate Sitz prior to the official meeting. Also, SWCD will offer free well testing on the first Friday of every month. She reported that the RMB Labs testing of the veliger samplings done in Hubbard County were negative. In other activity SWCD is improving the precipitation data, via a new weather station, available to agricultural producers and continuing the geologic survey of wells in the county.

c. **Sandpiper Pipeline Update** Jeff Mosner, Friends of the Headwaters Board member, praised COLA support and reported on recent events:

- 8/05 Hubbard County Commissioners approved [3-2] a FOH resolution calling upon MN PUC to consider a wider variety of routes;
- 8/10 Attorney Paul Blackburn, representing FOH, submitted a 35pp brief challenging Enbridge’s effort to restrict consideration of alternate routes
- 8/12 MN PUC hearing. The PUC voted to consider a wider variety of routes than those submitted by Enbridge and extended the period of comment about alternate routes until Aug 24. During that period over 800 comments were made, ca. 99% opposing NDPL’s preferred route.
- Other actions included the MN PCA rating NDPL’s preferred route as the worst alternative and proposing a route (SA 03) that would avoid most of the lake country; MN DNR opposing NDPL’s preferred route; Hubbard County SWCD Commissioners approved a resolution calling for the consideration of alternate routes; on the other hand, on Aug. 26 the Park Rapids City Council postponed any action on such a resolution.
- FOH encourages writing letters to public officials and welcomes donations to support its advocacy. The next step by MN PUC comes on Sept.11 when it will decide which routes will be included in the development of comparative environment assessments.

d. **Restore the Shore Orders** – Theora Goodrich asked for consolidated, uniform orders from Lake Associations with payments coming through the Lake Associations. Orders are due by Oct. 1, 2015.

## 7. New Business:

**a. League of Women Voters Candidate Forums** Mary Ann Erpelding distributed a list of 2014 candidate forums to be held at 7 p.m. on the following dates: Sept 30 Hubbard County Commissioner Districts 1 & 3 at Northwood Banks Community Room; Oct. 2 MN House 2A & 2B at the same place; Oct 16 Park Rapids Mayor at the Park Rapids Public Library lower level meeting room; Oct 23 Hubbard County Commissioner District 5 at the Lake George Town Hall. Volunteers are needed to run the forums.

**b. Financial Support for Friends of the Headwaters** Chuck Diessner, noting the efficacy of the FOH advocacy and especially the value of Attorney Blackburn's talents and service and also the cost of such work [even though Blackburn's fees are ca. 20% of his normal fee] he encouraged donations by the group and individual members. Diessner also reported that Dave Collins had testified before MN PUC that the Hubbard County Economic Development Commission supported the NDPL preferred route even though no official action had been taken. When Diessner challenged this at the next meeting of the EDC, the group retroactively passed such a resolution. Diessner noted that Kathy Grell voted for such action despite her statement at the Hubbard County Commissioners meeting that she could not support the FOH resolution because she had pledged to be neutral on the issue. Diessner then moved that Hubbard COLA donate \$1,000 from its current year budget and \$1,000 from its Northwest MN Foundation Fund to support the work of FOH. The monies will come from special fund raising projects (i.e. Sports Garage Sale, etc) that support our mission to protect the waters of Hubbard County. **MSP**

**c. Presentation of Candidates for President and President-Elect** Larry Roberts presented Lynn Goodrich of Tripp Lake as candidate for President and Sharon Natzel of Long Lake as candidate for President-Elect.

**d. Election of Officers** Dan Kittilson presented the slate to the board. In the absence of other nominations, Lynn Goodrich and Sharon Natzel were elected unanimously to their respective offices.

**e. Passing of the Gavel** – Lynn Goodrich assumed the chair. (Or was it a stool?)

**f. Appointment of Treasurer and Secretary** Lynn Goodrich confirmed the appointment of Steve Hall, Boulder Lake, as Treasurer, and invited members to volunteer for the position of Secretary.

## 8. COLA Committee Reports and Announcements:

Given the late hour, members were referred to the reports mailed with the agenda. Hillary Stoltz reminded the group of the COLA Social on Sept. 3, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Zhateau Zorbas.

## 9. What's Happening on Your Lake:

- **Curly Leaf Pondweed has been found in Fish Hook Lake**

**10. Next Meeting: *Thursday September 25, 2014, 6:00 PM*** – AIS lake association update;  
6:30 p.m. social gathering, 7:00 p.m. meeting at the Northwood's Bank Community Room  
**Guest Speaker: Doug Kingsley, DNR Fisheries, on the Straight River fishery**  
**Heavenly Seven** for the next meeting will be: **Kabekona, Peysenske, and Tripp**

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

Respectfully submitted: Bert Ahern, Sept 4th, 2014