

HUBBARD COUNTY COLA

BOARD MEETING MINUTES – April 30, 2015

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

www.hubbardcolamn.org

1. Call to Order: President Lynn Goodrich at 7:00 P.M.

Representatives:

Bad Axe: Mary Ann Erpelding

Belle Taine: Dick Boehmer

Big Mantrap:

Big Sand: Candy Malm, Irene Weis

Blue: Peter Tuomisto

Boulder:

Lower Crow Wing:

Middle Crow Wing: Becky Romans

8th & 9th Crow Wing: Julie Kingsley

10th & 11th Crow Wing: Daniel Rud

Duck: Deb Rogers

Eagle: Janine Weideman

Emma/Bottle/Stocking:

Fish Hook: Jan Rumpza

Gilmore:

Island South:

Ham: Paul Jensen

Hinds:

Kabekona: Rolf Smeby

Little Sand: Dan & Ruby Kittilson, Wayne Swanson

Long: Larry Roberts, Sharon Natzel, Fred Dressler

Palmer: Dan & Betty McCory,

Peysenske: Jeff Mosner

Plantagenet: Alan Colliander

Portage: Charlie Pieper

Potato: Bob Berdahl, Ken Grob,

Spider: Hillary Stoltz,

Stony: Greg Johnson

Tripp: Lynn & Theora Goodrich, Mike Van Gilder

Twin Lakes: Kari Tomperi

Guests: Doug Kingsley, DNR Fisheries

2. Guest Speaker: Doug Kingsley, DNR Fisheries: “Lake Monitoring – Beyond Water Quality”

3. Approval of Minutes: from March 26, 2015 meeting. **MSP**

4. Treasurer’s Report: Presented by Lynn Goodrich. **MSP** to approve Treasurer’s Report. There were no expenses and very little income. \$17.50 in the “Goodie jar”.

5. Lake Monitoring 2015:

a. Preliminary results from the March survey on Lake Monitoring presented by Sharon Natzel and Dan Kittilson.

- 17 of 29 lakes returned surveys. Those association that have not completed them please turn them in.
- Dan Kittilson reported on AIS Early Detection/Lake monitoring – handout
- Volunteers from each lake association are needed to hang cinder blocks on their dock for veliger/ zebra mussel monitoring to be checked monthly. Peter Tuomisto will be coordinating this effort, questions call him.
- Veliger sampling with nets for the months of July and August for lakes: Big Mantrap, Bottle, Bid Sand, Little Sand, Belle Taine, Island, Eagle, Potato, Blue, Fish Hook, 11th, 8th, 6th and 3rd Crow Wing lakes, Long, Boulder, Kabekona,

Plantagenet and Duck Lakes. Through the state AIS money that Hubbard County received the SWCD will purchase 9 more veliger sampling nets. Volunteers are needed for each lake listed to get training by RMB labs which will be set up this summer by COLA and do the sampling in July and August.

- **Friday June 19th, 2015 at 4:30 PM Training for Identification of AIS, sampling and monitoring techniques at Northwoods Bank community room.** A light supper will be provided. This training will be funded through Hubbard County Extension with no cost to participants, you do need to register please call Sally Shearer at 218-732-3391 or email at: sshearer@umn.edu or register online at hubbardmastergardeners.org. The course will be led by Mary Blickenderfer, Water Resources Educator with the University of Minnesota Extension.

6. STVR's- Short Term Vacation Rentals: Larry and Lynn

- a. This is an issue that is growing within Hubbard County. Private home owners are renting out their properties weekly. Many rentals are not properly permitted and were not property designed to handle the amount of people staying there, especially the septic systems. This puts an added pressure on the septic systems and increases the usage of area lakes by non-resident people and increases the chances of introducing Aquatic Invasive Species. Information will be on the COLA website. HCCOLA E-Team will continue to follow this item and update the board in the future.

7. HCCOLA Direct Email subscription Pilot Program

- a. Not all lake association members have been receiving news from their lake association. If you would like to subscribe directly please go to the Hubbard COLA website, go to the home page and at the bottom you can enter your information for being added to the direct email from COLA.

8. Lake Emma Township – Healthy Lakes Partnership Grant Program – Dan Kittilson.

- a. Handout: Program started in 2009 with \$1,000.00 to give grants to applicants from Lake Emma lakes. Projects range from Watercraft Inspection, tree planting, Early detection, Blue Lake road restoration project. Since 2009 a total of \$59,250.00 has been awarded.

9. Unfinished Business

a. HCCOLA Sports Sale version 2

- i. Signup sheet was passed around, volunteers are needed.
- ii. Flyers are available on the COLA website at hubbardcolamn.org
- iii. June 18 – 19 at Hubbard County Fair Grounds in the Environmental Building
 - 1. Thursday, June 18: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm (setup)
 - 2. Friday, June 19: 9:00 am to 2:00 pm (sale) 2:00 – 4:00 pm (teardown & cleanup)
- iv. We need donations of lightly used/unused/collectable sports equipment
 - 1. Looking for donations of boats, canoes, kayaks, paddleboats, sail boats, fishing equipment, camping equipment, hunting equipment, etc.
 - 2. As COLA is a 501 (C) 3 your donation is tax deductible.

10. New Business

a. Hubbard County Board of Adjustment (BOA)

- i. Settlement of the ongoing David and Karen Hagert variance on Deer and Shallow lakes. This was an on-going variance violation from 5 years ago that has been settled. A building permit was issued for a garage and it became a two story building with deck and living quarters. The settlement is for \$158,000.00 fine (this does not include the lawyers fees), another lot was purchased next to their land with the lot boundaries being re-drawn so it was not over the density limit for the site and plantings were done with no mow zones to mitigate

the violations. There are 9 conditions the Hagert's have to follow.

b. The Governor's Buffer Initiative:

i. Allison Wolf from the Center for Environmental Advocacy has asked Hubbard County COLA to sign on as a named organization that is in support of the Buffers Now. There was discussion. A motion was made and seconded to send a letter of support on the concept of buffers along Minnesota's waters. The motion passed with 2 dissenting votes and 1 abstention.

c. Park Rapids Art Council to present Tyson Forbes outdoor play on Ralph Waldo Emerson. The presentation will be July 15 at the Park Rapids Tractor Club and on July 19 at Itasca State Park Farmer Grounds. The council is looking for donations and for help putting on the event. Contact Lynn Goodrich if you are interested.

d. Membership Dues for 2015/15:

a. The Executive committee has proposed that COLA membership dues for Lake Associations stay at \$4.00 per family unit with a cap of \$600.00 per Association for 2015/2016. **MSP** for the dues to remain at the same rate.

11. COLA Committee Reports and Announcements:

See attached handout

12. What's Happening on Your Lake:

a. Eagle and Island lake will share a veliger net for sampling

b. Badoura Township and all of Hubbard County have been under extremely high fire danger. There is a burning ban in place. There was just a fire in Badoura Township.

c. Bob Berdahl gave an overview of Potato Lake. It has 420 littoral acres, is 95 feet deep with lots of rocks and reefs. The average secchi reading is 11 feet. Potato has 14 miles of shoreline with 50% of it undeveloped. There are two conservation easements on the lake which protect 1 mile of shoreline. There are 270 property lakeshore owners with 130 family units belonging to the lake association. Potato is in the Island, Eagle, Potato and Fish Hook chain of lakes. In 2007 a vegetation study was completed on the lake. The association has started a charitable fund through the Northwest Minnesota Foundation and it has \$80,000.00 in the account. Some struggles the association is having is getting new leadership. The association is trying the concept that Long Lake does of having smaller "neighborhood" groups.

13. Next Meeting: Thursday May 28, 2015. 6:30 p.m. social gathering, 7:00 p.m. meeting, Northwood's Bank Community Room. The Nifty Nine Host Lakes for the May 28 meeting are Big Sand, Boulder and Duck Lakes. Please help our host lakes with cleanup and moving the chairs and tables.

14. Adjourn Meeting: MSP to adjourn meeting at 9:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Julie Kingsley