

HUBBARD COUNTY COLA

Board Meeting Minutes

March 31, 2016

Website: www.hubbardcolamn.org

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

1. **Call to Order:** President, Lynn Goodrich at 6:30 p.m.

Representatives:

Bad Axe:

Belle Taine:

Big Mantrap: Sue Ryan

Big Sand: Candy Malm

Blue: Peter Tuomisto

Ham:

Hinds:

Kabekona: Rolf Smeby

Little Sand: Wayne Swanson, Dan Kittilson

Long: Sharon Natzel, C. C. White

Boulder:

Lower (1-4) Crow Wing:

Middle (5-7) Crow Wing: Steve Center,
Debbie Center

8th & 9th Crow Wing: Julie Kingsley

10th & 11th Crow Wing:

Duck:

Eagle:

Fish Hook: Jan Rumpza

Gilmore: Tom Thielges

Palmer:

Peysenske: John Wilhelm, Nancy Gibbs

Plantagenet: Alan Colliander, Susan Colliander

Portage: Charlie Pieper

Potato:

Spider:

Stony:

Tripp: Theora Goodrich, Lynn Goodrich

Twin Lakes:

Guest(s): N. Peterson, Fish Hook;; Chip Nielsen, Pastor Riverside Methodist; Sue Tompte, City of Park Rapids.

1. **Call to Order, agenda approval and announcements:** President Lynn Goodrich opened the meeting with greetings to all, the agenda was approved, followed by lake representative introducing themselves and closed with the announcement that ice-out had occurred on Tripp Lake. During introductions, Pastor Chip Nielsen, Riverside Methodist Church, introduced himself with an invitation to the AIS meeting to be held at his church Tuesday, April 5th, 7-8:30 pm; explained his interest in AIS, viewing AIS prevention as an act of faith-stewardship; and his respect and encouragement for the AIS prevention job HC COLA is doing.
2. **Facebook:** C. C. White, Long Lake, member of the Education Committee and Facebook site manager, explained the nature of Facebook as a communications resource. Facebook is a quick way to keep in touch, post articles or videos of projects, and can be accessed from multiple devices: iPad, cell phones, laptops, etc. To support HC COLA's Facebook page, she encouraged members to use the Facebook interconnections: Like, Comment and Share, explaining their functions and where to find them on the page and in the news scroll, where information is posted.
3. **Speaker, Julie Kingsley, SWCD, The Local Water Plan 2016-2026:**
 - A. The Local Water Plan (LWP) used-to-be a five-year projection, now it's a ten-year projection.
 - B. Crow Wing Lake formulated the first one, using GPS technology; this LWP became the water-plan template.
 - C. Then individual lake associations shifted the emphasis from the lake to watersheds, major and minor.

- D. A task force determined the LWP priorities: AIS; Surface Water Quality & Quantity; Ground Water Quality & Quantity; Land Use and Habitat Protection.
 - E. SWCD hired a GPS person to survey all Hubbard County lakes.
 - F. **Overview:** 10 year plan to be updated in 5 years; minor watershed based; includes MN Pollution Control Agency watershed; data driven plan; a living document; and is mainly protection based. Land use/Land cover: Open water is 7.43%, Wetland is 12.0%. Four glaciers went through Hubbard County. Water appropriations – primarily for drinking water.
 - G. **Arsenic concentrations in wells:** arsenic is a natural element in water, when the measured index is over 10, the water needs testing. Wells with a tag # on them, may call SWCD Bemidji to learn the arsenic values in your area.
 - H. **Nitrate testing in wells:** starting in June nitrate testing will be done in six townships, a notice will be in the paper and landowners will receive a letter. On a graduated scale, a number of ten or above is not a good category.
 - I. **Three major watersheds:** Crow Wing, Leech Lake and Mississippi Headwaters and 89 minor watersheds. SWCD will be doing a map for each Minor Watershed. A strategy map will assess risk classification: percent of distributed land + phosphorus sensitivity, lake water quality + land conversion risk vulnerability and lake vulnerability index.
 - J. **Implementation tool box:** things to do to get watershed from the unhealthy red zone to the healthy green zone.
 - K. **Budget:** 4 categories are designated: AIS, Surface Water, Ground Water, and Land Use. Each category has a list of priority concerns where designated funding is needed.. The priority concerns for AIS are: Public awareness, Education and Information, Prevention and Watercraft Decontamination,, Early Detection, Rapid Response, Mitigation Management, and Administration. The total proposed budget for the four categories is \$1,198,641.00.
4. **Consent Agenda:** the Feb.4th COLA Board meeting minutes were approved with two corrections. The treasurer’s report was approved.
5. **Four Opportunities, presenters Sharon Natzel and Lynn Goodrich:**
- A. Lake Management Plan:** With Don Hickman, the April speaker and Lake Management Plans (LMP) his topic, now is a good time to:
 - Review LMP or create a LMP, a model framework and “how to”s are on the COLA website with: Getting Started; Gather Information; Identify Priorities; Develop Goals; Objectives and Actions; and Implement and Monitor Progress. Also the website has the Lake Management Baseline survey which notates the Lake Associations with a LMP.
 - B. 4H Aquatic Robot:**
 - A 4H program for kids and volunteers to build an Aquatic Robot.
 - COLA could use an Aquatic Robot with a GoPro high resolution camera(s) to check lake vegetation, zebra mussels, etc.
 - This is a worthwhile project. Volunteers are needed.
 - COLA contact person: Lynn Goodrich. 4H contact person: Mari Jo Lohmeier, office 732-3391.
 - COLA will pursue project and visit with kids who have participated in program.
 - C. HC COLA newsletter:**
 - COLA interest articles needed for COLA newsletter. Please submit by email to Dan, Sharon or Lynn before April 20th.
 - D. Flower & Garden Show, April 30th- May 1st:**
 - Alan Zemek has offered a booth area plus two classrooms.
 - It’s the perfect opportunity to get the word out to the public and it could be a really good event to build COLAs reputation in the community.

- Volunteers are needed. Anyone with a good idea can do a presentation. One hour is allotted for ingress, egress, the presentation and a Q & A session. Class suggestions: Forming a Lake Association, Creating a Lake Management Plan, AIS, etc.

6. **Upcoming program introduced by C. C. White:** “ Bees and How to Help”, April 23rd, 1:00 – 3:00, Northwoods Bank Community Room.

7. **HC COLA Committee Report and Announcements:**

A. 3rd Annual “Sports (Equipment) Sale”, Thurs. June 16 – Fri. June 17, Hubbard County Fair Grounds Environmental Building. Volunteers needed for the sale and for Saturday clean-up.

B. Chili Challenge, COLA offered a choice of two: Venison and Bean with Lime, HC COLA came in second for monies collected, \$2,078. Calvary Lutheran took 1st. Total collected this year for the Food Shelf was \$12,000+, last year \$15,000 was collected. The Food Shelf needs our support. COLA plans to participate in the 2017 Chili Challenge.

C. Water Testing Update, Peter Tuomisto:

- Lake Monitor Meeting, May 11th, 7:00 pm at the Northwoods Bank with a representative from RMB Lab doing water-testing refresher from 7:00 – 7:30 pm. Coolers and water tubes to be picked-up at the meeting.
- Sampling will be done on: May 15 or 16, June 19 or 20, July 17 or 18, Aug. 14 or 15, and Sept. 18 or 19.
- Veliger testing will be done in August. Peter has cinder blocks with him to pick-up at a COLA meeting or at the Lake Monitor meeting. Cinder blocks can be reused from one year to the next.

D. **What’s Happening on Your Lake:**

- Wayne Swanson: saw a street-sweeper-collector near Zorbaz gathering the salt-sand off the road before it entered the lake.
- Eudora Goodrich: saw a Fisher.
- Lynn Goodrich: saw a fisherman on Peysenske Lake.
- Sharon Natzel: saw a nice article in the Northwoods Press on Pastor Chip’s AIS meeting. [Tues. Apr. 5th, 7:00 – 8:30 pm.]

E. **Next HCCOLA Board Meeting:** Thursday April 28th, 6:00 meet and greet, 6:30 Board meeting begins.

Respectfully submitted by,

Nancy Gibbs, HC COLA secretary