

HUBBARD COUNTY COLA

Board Meeting Minutes

April 28, 2016

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

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

Introduction of Representatives:

Bad Axe:

Belle Taine: Tom Wenner, Dave McCurnin

Big Mantrap:

Big Sand: Irene Weis, Candy Malm

Blue: Peter Tuomisto

Boulder: Steve Hall

Lower (1-4) Crow Wing: Jennifer Pidde, 2nd CW

Middle (5-7) Crow Wing:

8th & 9th Crow Wing: Julie Kingsley

10th & 11th Crow Wing:

Duck: Deb Rogers

Eagle: Janine Weideman

Fish Hook: Bill Peterson

Gilmore:

Ham:

Hinds:

Kabakona: Rolf Smeby

Little Sand: Dan Kittilson, Wayne Swanson

Long: Sharon Natzel, Carolynne White

Palmer:

Peysenske: Jeff Mosner, John Wilhelm

Plantagenet: Alan Colliander, Bruce Wilson

Portage: Charlie Pieper

Potato: Ken Grob, Mike Vold, Von Vold, Steve Drange

Spider: Hillary Stoltz

Stony: Dennis O’Conner, Pam O’Conner

Tripp: Theora Goodrich, Lynn Goodrich, Mike VanGuilder

Twin Lakes: Kari Tomperi

Guests: Doug Kingsley, MN DNR Fisheries; Julie Kingsley, SWCD; Vern Massie, HC Commissioner; and Sue Tomte.

Special greeting to Vern Massie, Hubbard County Commissioner, for his attendance.

B. AIS Early Detection: Dan Kittilson and Jeff Mosner

Dan Kittilson: 1 page handout: front – **Protocols for 2016 Monitoring**, back - **AIS Lake Monitoring Early Detection Plan 2016**

- a. With Zebra veligers hard to find, COLA wants to expand the number of individuals monitoring for zebra mussels.
- b. COLA would like to see the number of lake monitoring sites expanded to 8-10, covering areas East, West, North and South on the lake.
- c. Need to check shoreline equipment and shoreline findings, as well.

Jeff Mosner, webmaster: Website Monitoring Survey

- a. Survey purpose – to gather information on lake monitoring at one location, the website.
- b. Survey will track the date the monitor was placed in the water, the amount of times monitoring device was checked, and other information.
- c. Monitor reminders will be sent by email.
- d. Survey is not finalized; any suggestions will be accepted now.
- e. Survey to be emailed out soon, need to be returned in late September.

Julie Kingsley, SWCD – Information on Zebra Mussels

1. Around July 4th and the week after, Zebra Mussels will be reproducing.
2. Monitors won’t see anything on samplers. If they attach to the cinder block you can feel them. They feel like sand on the block.
3. A rock sample with Zebra Mussels on it has bigger veligers and some so small you can’t see them only feel them.

4. **Peter Tuomisto:** the inside of cinder blocks are smooth, you can feel them there. If more monitoring is done, we'll need more cinder blocks.
5. **Dan Kittilson:** Minnehaha Watershed Creek uses flat PVC plates. It's easier to see veligers on the flats than on the block. They sell the plates for \$5.00/ea. I plan to order one to see if we can adapt it for COLA use. COLA is also working on a Lake Monitoring Guide booklet for each lake association.
6. **Lynn Goodrich:** Dan will give a program on AIS and Lake Monitoring at the upcoming Flower and Garden Show.

C. Speaker: Don Hickman, Lake Management Plans (LMP).

- a. Introduction: Dan Kittilson. Throughout his career, Don has worked with environmental activities and programs as the Healthy Lakes and Rivers Partnership. Currently Don works for the Initiative Foundation based in Little Falls, MN, which matches environmental grants.
- b. Dan: I started working with Don in 2004 with Menahga and Wadena county lakes. Don helped with several Lake Management Plans that are filed now with the SWCD. In 1999 Lake Management Plans started the Healthy Lakes and Rivers Partnership.
- c. **Don Hickman:**
 1. **LMP** are not always about data, you need a business plan to get from here to there. What role could citizens take to manage their lakes?
 2. "If you don't know where you're going, you might not get there." Yogi Berra. I need to know where you want to go.
 3. HC Lakes are fairly deep, fairly uncontaminated, your job is to keep it that way. Ask, how do we minimize human impact on lakes?
 4. Keep LMPs fresh. It's good to have leadership turn-over. It's a time to rethink goals and to set new goals. Be aware of wet and dry years and set goals to restore water quality to reasonable parameters.
 5. Since 1999 the **Legacy Act** passed by the taxpayers, has helped to fund environmental actions. There have been unintended consequences: it's easier to get public money but harder to get private money. Working through an organization, as HCCOLA, it's easier to get monetary resources.
 6. **Goals:** A critical mass of participation is needed to move the needle.
 - a. Both short and long term goals are needed. Think beyond the shoreline to the upstream impact. For better results, get the whole watershed pointed in the right direction.
 - b. When planning make sure water experts are in the room, use them to guide your choices.
 - c. It's useful to seek 2nd opinions for the advancement of goals: DNR, SWCD, etc. The Freshwater Society was successful going to the legislature, with water quality issues, and securing state gambling money.
 7. Most public dollars require a funds match. They want to see skin-in-the-game.
 8. Partner with non-lake entities, as the community service clubs: Rotary, Lions, etc. Ottertail County used Sentence-to-Serve help for the removal of beaver dams.
 9. Raising awareness isn't a change of behavior, but you have to start there.
 10. Invite outside facilitators to come into the county to help communications. Loan yourself out [COLA member] to a different lake association to be a facilitator.
 11. **Engage younger generation:** There are cultural differences. The Millennium generation is very computer-tech savvy but often doesn't know some basic stuff. Millennials don't like meetings, preferring engagement with hands-on projects. Generally, they don't read print, preferring to use their cell phone. Traditional forms of communication don't reach the younger generation.
 12. **Q & A:**

Lynn Goodrich: Tripp Lake wants to do a LMP. There are 15 property owners on the lake.

Don Hickman: There's a sweet spot for LMP. Less than 60 property owners and you need a special group to be effective. Too large a number of property owners and they think someone else will do it or they'll send a check. In between these two groups is the sweet spot.

13. **Resource:** RMB Laboratory in Detroit Lakes has compiled a 14 page summary report on the History of Lakes: Chemical, Biological and Fisheries. Also included is a Best Management Practices guide to foster good management plans. Once the history of the lake is known then ask, is this a preservation or restoration issue?

14. **Fundraising ideas:**

- a. One group asked for volunteers to man the fair booth, if a person couldn't give their time they were asked for a donation. You can serve or you can donate. Remember "in kind" is the equivalent of cash.
 - b. Koronis Lake Association in Stearns County sent a letter to other counties asking them to help fight Koronis' outbreak of Starry Stonewort. It was an incentive to help Koronis fight the invasive species so other lakes won't have to.
 - c. Selling HCCOLA stickers. If you're supporting clean water than wear our sticker.
 - d. Another AIS county formed a corporation. They became the local applicator and they donated the money back to their COLA organization.
 - e. Partner with local clubs, like fishing clubs. The Initiative Foundation recently matched funds for a Cleanest Fishing Tournament in the State, where 3 fishing clubs partnered to host it. Fishermen needed to show recent decontamination receipts and tournament prizes were offered.
 1. **Lynn:** Jason Durham is coordinating a fishing tournament on Lake Belle Taine. An extra \$5.00 is attached to the entrance fee which will go to the Belle Taine Lake Association.
 - f. Carver County is partnering with Meeker and Stearns Counties.
 - g. **Grant money:**
 1. State grant money cannot be used to purchase capital equipment. Once the grant expires, the equipment becomes the property of the state.
 2. **Lynn:** HCCOLA can apply for an Initiative grant and portion it out to the lake association?
Don: Yes.
 3. **Ken Grob:** Your grants are not for more decontamination stations, they're for pilot programs and new programs. Is this correct? **Don:** Yes.
 4. **Lynn:** Local Deer Hunters Association leveraged money and purchased land, then gave it to the DNR, for more deer habitat. Also, the organization had an annual special rifle raffle, Smokey Hills Outdoors took care of the ticket sales. The Deer Hunters Association made \$4,000 in profit.
 5. **Don:** Resorts could be approached to donate a 3 day weekend packages for a raffle.
15. Before thanking HCCOLA for inviting him, Don Hickman concluded by saying he had some gift-give-aways: books, Invasive Species DVDs and more.

D. June Sports Sale – Lynn Goodrich

1. Serve, donate money or donate a significant amount of sporting goods to the Sports Sale to sell.
2. A sign-up sheet is being passed.

E. Pipeline – Jeff Mosner

1. Remembering what Don Hickman said about preserving the quality of water is why we're talking about the pipeline.
2. If you're confused about what's happening with the pipeline, you're not alone.

3. Highlights: Opportunities are 3 Fold
 - a. The RGU, Responsible Government Unit, is the PUC, Public Utilities Commission.
 - b. A citizen brought a request to relieve the PUC from doing the EIS, Environmental Impact Statement.
 - c. The EQB, Environmental Quality Board, public comment period, for written comments, closes May 1st.
 - d. Two input session were held in Park Rapids to determine what should go into the EIS. Friends of the Headwaters want scientists and other experts to do the EIS.
 - e. Friends of the Headwaters has an online petition to ensure the EIS for the Sandpiper and other pipelines fully comply with all state laws. The petition as for 1) better use of experts, 2) establishment of an extra panel to oversee the EIS, 3) an open and unbiased procedure to secure the consultants and experts and 4) all alternate routes to be evaluated.
4. **Lynn Goodrich:**
 - a. HCCOLA supports the pipeline.
 - b. HCCOLA questions the selection of the route.
 - c. HCCOLA wants a completely scoped unbiased EIS.
 - d. There have been challenges made against the DOC, Department of Commerce, and the PUC for not requiring an EIS.
 - e. HCCOLA wants the government entities to follow the statutes of the State of Minnesota and for the process to done with professionals, fairly and in a timely manner.
5. Motion made, seconded, discussed and, with a show of hand, passed for the E Team to write a letter reiterating HCCOLA stance and asking the letter to be entered into the state's record.

President Lynn Goodrich will moderate the following agenda items, except where noted:

F. Consent Agenda – Minutes and Treasurer's Report

1. **Steve Hall, Treasurer:** COLA is in a good place, recommend maintain the current membership dues. Motion made by Janine Weideman, seconded by Hillary Stoltz for the membership dues to remain the same. By a show of hands, the motion passed.
2. **Lynn:** The E-Team is considering taking funds to create an Early Warning Response account.
3. The minutes and the treasurer's report were accepted.

G. Newsletter: COLA is looking for short 1-2 paragraphs regarding your lake or other water/lake issues.

H. Flower & Garden Show

1. COLA will have a strong presence at the show.
2. There will and has been extensive news coverage
3. A schedule of the presentations is available.
4. The show is all day Saturday and Sunday.
5. The two classrooms will be used: one as a classroom and the other a resource room.
6. An invitation was extended for all to attend.

I. Freshwater Festival:

1. Theora and Lynn have participated before and it's a very worthwhile experience, however, Theora and Lynn will be gone this year.
2. Freshwater Festival is a fun day: lunch is provided, there's a morning donut - juice break, and t-shirts.
3. Call SWCD to sign-up to help.

- J. Committee Reports** are available to pick-up from the table in the back.
- K. Sport Sale Fliers:** will help generate funds to set aside for Rapid Response.
- L. Watercraft Inspectors Monitoring Training**
1. E-Team approved dollars to provide lunch.
 2. It's HCCOLA appreciation thank you for the HC inspectors.
- M. Watershed class, MN Extension** is coming up, HCCOLA is looking to provide light supper.
- N. LWV, League of Women Voters, Candidate Forums Sponsor:** LuAnn Hurd-Lof is asking if HCCOLA wants to be a sponsor again. LWV, as is HCCOLA, is a 510-3C. Input? As there is none, COLA will continue as it has been doing.
- O. Monitoring/Sampler Meeting - Peter Tuomisto:**
1. The meeting will be held May 11th at the Northwoods Bank Community Room, 7:00pm.
 2. 7:00-7:30 there will be training available.
 3. Coolers and samplers to be picked up.
 4. Veliger sampling available and will be done on the same lakes as last year. Cinder blocks will be available, also.
 5. Peter will be contacting all monitors and samplers.
 6. Dave McCurnin will be the driver to RMB Labs in Detroit Lakes again. An alternate driver may volunteer. If anyone is interested please let Peter Tuomisto know.
- P. Restore the Shore**
1. Trees will be packaged in the Fair Grounds building.
 2. Tree pick-up is Friday and Saturday from 1-6 p.m.
 3. Due to Mother's Day, Sunday hours are not available.
- Q. Additional Committee Reports** – none.
- R. COLA member Bert Ahern is in the hospital.** A get well card is being passed.
- S. Lake Happenings**
1. Lynn Goodrich, Tripp Lake – Eagles are back and nesting.
 2. Geese have been seen.
 3. Lynn - a big thank you to Mr. VanGuilder and Minnesota Power, the nesting platform is being used this year.
 4. Jeff Mosner, Peysenske Lake – DNR guys from St. Paul are doing lake level reading in Hubbard County. They just did Peysenske's. Were then heading to Long.
 5. On May 21st one lake began AIS shoreline monitoring.
 6. Eight Trumpeter Swans have been seen.
 7. DNR Fisheries, Park Rapids: small radio transmitters were placed in female Muskies in Big Mantrap Lake. On Woman Lake Walleye eggs have been harvested. On a platform on Emma Lake sucker eggs have been harvested to feed the hatching Muskies.
- T. The next meeting** the hosts are Duck and Boulder Lakes.
- U. Motion to adjourn.** Passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Gibbs, COLA Secretary