

**HUBBARD COUNTY COLA
Board Meeting Minutes
August 25, 2016**

Website: www.hubbardcolamn.org

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

Thank you to tonight’s meeting hosts: Bad Axe, South Island, Portage and Long Lakes.

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

Representatives:

Bad Axe: Maryann Erpelding, Sue Pickus, Kaye Molin

Belle Taine: Tom Wenner, Lee Hammer

Big Mantrap: Burney Fischer, Jim Nemzek

Big Sand: Irene Weis,

Blue:

Boulder: Steve Hall

Lower (1-4) Crow Wing: Jennifer Pidde

Middle (5-7) CrowWing:

8th & 9th Crow Wing: Julie Kingsley

10th & 11th Crow Wing: Dan Stacey

Duck: Deb Rogers

Eagle-Island:

Fish Hook: Jan & Don Rumpza

Gilmore: Keith Minkel

Ham: Roger Allen, Tom O’Donnell

Hinds: Lynn Weis

Kabekona: Rolf Smeby

Little Sand: Dan Kittilson, Jim Thomsen

Long: Carolynne C. White, Sharon Natzel,
Monika Wilkins

Palmer:

Peysenske: John Wilhelm, Nancy Gibbs

Plantagenet: Alan Colliander

Portage: Jerry Knoblich, Charlie Pieper

Potato: Ken Grob, Chuck Diessner

Spider: Hillary Stoltz

Stony: Mike Glynn, Sara Rowe, Greg Johnson

Tripp: Theora Goodrich, Lynn Goodrich

Twin Lakes: Rose Ragole, Chuck Tritz,
Kari Tomperi

Guests: Doug Kingsley, DNR Fisheries; Julie Kingsley, HC SWCD; Sue Tomte, Sandpiper and Line 3;
Susan Colliander, Plantagenet.

- A. **Introductions** of lake presidents, representatives and guests.
Meeting agenda approved.
 - B. **Post-it share:** ideas, comments, speaker suggestions for turn-in at meeting’s end.
2. **AIS Monitoring Early Detection Program/Tribute to Outgoing President Lynn Goodrich**, Dan Kittilson
 - A. **TRIBUTE:** Lynn has done great work for COLA. COLA president is a high intensity job, a rewarding job, it’s an adventure, requires effort, and the president is the point guy for Hubbard County. Point people are leaders, passionate lake stewards. Lynn has been a great point person, along with Theora. Lynn’s a very caring person and has done a great job for COLA. Presentation of gifts: Card with many signatures, a gift card for Boulders in Walker, and a hand painted paddle by Park Rapids paddle artist Carol Schneider commemorating his two-years as HC COLA president.
 - B. **EARLY DETECTION PROGRAM:** Dan and Jeff Mosner have formulated an online survey which will be sent three times to the five categories of lake monitors: those who have done suspended cement block monitoring, have taken water samples from a lake, participated in aquatic plant/animal identification training, have had lake monitoring training and lake leaders.
 - C. **WHY DO LAKE MONITORING**, Ken Grob
 - i Starry Stonewort is in Lake Koronis
 - ii In the last couple of weeks there are three more lakes with Starry Stonewort: Cass Lake, Turtle Lake [north of Bemidji], and Upper Red Lake. It was caught early and all were found at accesses.

iii Dan: COLA needs to involve as many people as we can...for more eyes on the water.

3. **Consent Agenda:** With no comments, the Minutes and the Treasurer's Report were accepted.
4. **HC COLA letter to Department of Justice, Line 3 Replacement:** by acclamation the original Department of Commerce letter plus a short cover letter will be formulated, Lynn to sign and send.
5. **HC COLA financial support of the SWCD "Fresh Water Festival" [FWF]** – Steve Hall, Treasurer
 - A. In the past donations were from the Lake Associations.
 - B. It's not equitable that Lake Associations pay COLA dues + a FWF donation.
 - C. New: Donations to FWF will come out of the budget. If Lake Associations want to donate, they may do so through a donation to the SWCD.
6. **Change Fiscal Year from 9/1 to 8/31 to Calendar Year 1/1 to 12/31** – Steve Hall, Treasurer
 - A. The present year is from September 1st –August 31st. It's difficult to track when parts of two years are encompassed.
 - B. The IRS said we were on a calendar year.
 - C. Motion by Steve Hall to change fiscal year to the calendar year, seconded by Chuck Diessner, motion carried.
7. **Water Testing Fee Structure starting in 2017** – Steve Hall, Treasurer
 - A. For 2016, the Hubbard County Local Water Plan allocated \$1300 for water testing which reduced the RMB Lab charges to HC COLA. Similar allocation have occurred in the past.
 - B. HC COLA member lake associations have paid HC COLA between \$155-\$210 for water testing over the years. If the funds collected were not adequate, HC COLA then paid the difference to RMB Labs.
 - C. The "make it fair" formula: RMB Lab charge which is reduced by HC Local Water Plan allocation in that year is what HC COLA then divides by the number of member lake associations testing that year.
 - D. For example, if 2017 RMB Lab costs and the Local Water Plan allocation are similar to 2016, the bill per member lake association testing would be approximately \$165-\$175.
 - E. Motion made by Ken Grob to adopt the "make-it-fair" recommendation, seconded by Chuck Diessner, motion passed unanimously.
 - F. Discussion – Doug Kingsley, DNR Fisheries
 - i The data from Water Testing is very valuable to the DNR and SWCD.
 - ii Data needs a 10 year + longevity.
 - G. Discussion – Jerry Knoblich
 - i COLA has paid for a 10 year and a 15 year Water Testing Report. Jerry recommended putting a 20 year lab report discussion on the agenda for the September HC COLA meeting.
 - ii He suggested contacting RMB Labs for the cost of a 20 year report prior to the meeting.
8. **Present and Adopt 2017 Budget** – Steve Hall, Treasurer
 - A. Budget 2015-2016 - \$21,360.00,
 - B. Budget 2017 - \$15,185.00
 - C. There are outstanding bills yet to be paid for 2016.
 - D. Motion by Dan Kittilson to accept the proposed 2017 budget, Jerry Knoblich seconded, discussion, motion passed unanimously.
9. **HC COLA AIS Emergency Response Fund** – Lynn Goodrich, President
 - A. Fund money needed to respond to an AIS emergency.
 - B. Possibly a fund with Northwest Minnesota Foundation or certificates of deposits, etc.
 - C. Irene Weis, Big Sand: Big Sand has funds in NWF. NWF has ability to handle large fund amounts. We need to set aside emergency funds. We don't want to have an emergency without funds.
 - D. Doug Kingsley: NWF has investment options.
 - E. Money contributed to the fund needs to be equitable for all the member lakes. Clear guidelines for disbursement need to be established.

- F. Irene Weis: An active committee within COLA needs to work on how to handle the funds.
- G. Further AIS Emergency Response Fund discussions ahead.

10. Break – No break was taken per suggestion and agreement from floor.

11. HC COLA Committee Report and Announcements:

- A. Water Testing Update: Julie Kingsley, SWCD, veliger data is in, no veligers were found.
- B. Restore the Shore – Lynn and Theora: A new order form for trees is being created and will be presented and distributed at the September HC COLA meeting. As money will be requested now up-front, a cover letter is being prepared to go with the order form.
- C. Summer Social, Sept. 14th, 5 pm at Zorbaz.
- D. AIS – Ken Grob
 - I. 10 new lakes in Minnesota identified with Zebra Mussels. Keep Vigilant! The biggest is in Becker County, Big Detroit Lake.
 - II. Starry Stonewort is problematic. It looks like native Chara (Muskgrasses), which grows 8-10" high and is good for the lake. However, Starry Stonewort grows to be 4-5' high. The stars are at the bottom of the algae so monitors are not likely to see them. Lake Koronis has experienced a reduction in lake property values due to infestation.
 - III. In Turtle Lake where Starry Stonewort was discovered near Bemidji, the DNR has an aggressive treatment plan at the public access where it is present. A curtain has been installed at the public water access on Turtle Lake (known locally as "Big Turtle") to confine the affected area for treatment. Contractors will use suction to vacuum up the vegetation and a layer of muddy substrate where Starry Stonewort fragments may be present. Algae fragments and the tiny star-shaped bulbils for which the plan is named can cause new growth. After the removal of the vegetation and substrate, a copper-based herbicide will be applied to the area in an effort to kill any vegetation of bulbils that could be left.

[Http://news.dnr.state.mn.us/2016/08/26/aggressive-treatment-of-turtle-lake-starry-stonewort-begins/](http://news.dnr.state.mn.us/2016/08/26/aggressive-treatment-of-turtle-lake-starry-stonewort-begins/)
 - IV. Starry Stonewort is along the whole north shore of Lake Koronis. \$200,000 has been invested in the pilot program with an estimated \$800,000 to get it under control.

12. What's Happening on Your Lake:

- A. Bad Axe Lake Association, Sue Pickus, presented an overview of the lake.
 - I. Bad Axe is located 2 miles north of Emmaville, there is no public access, the lake comprises 260 acres, the clarity of the water is 18 1/2', there are 31 landowners, 2/3 of the lake is Camp Wilderness, a Boy Scout Camp and the lake has one resort.
 - II. Bad Axe Lake Assoc. is an active association, they do water testing every year, a team of 4 is does AIS testing, and a cement block was placed at the resort to check for zebra mussels.
 - III. The resort owner is phenomenal. He washes and inspects every boat; if a boat goes to another lake, he washes and inspects it. The previous resort owner found Eurasian Milfoil on a boat.
 - IV. Bad Axe resident fish are: Muskies, Northerns, Sunfish and Bass. The Lake Assoc. stocks the lake; the DNR does not.
- B. Twin Lakes: Hubbard and Wadena SWCD's, reviewing ditch and revisit 1913 culvert. Twin Lake Assoc. will likely be going to the Commissioners for abandonment. There are less fish and extreme silt is in the channel.
- C. Peysenske Lake: The Lake Assoc. has acquired an out-of-season permit for a trapper to trap beaver, which are constantly plugging the culver under County 11. One beaver has been trapped thus far, with lake owners continue to clean the culvert. Once cleaned-out there's a 10" flow coming through the culvert, from the east to the west basin, rather than trickle. Three years ago 20 beaver were removed, providing good water flow for two years.

13. HC COLA Leadership:

- A. Nomination for President: Dan Kittilson nominated Sharon Natzel for HC COLA President, Hillary Stoltz seconded. With no other nominations, nominations were closed. By acclamation, Sharon was appointed the new president.
 - B. Nominations for Vice President: No one was found by the Nominating Committee for the VP spot. Nominations from the floor were requested three times. No nominations were forthcoming. The Vice President position remains open.
 - C. Reappointment of Secretary Nancy Gibbs and Treasurer Steve Hall. Motion by Burney Fischer to reappoint, Jerry Knoblich seconded. By acclamation Nancy and Steve were reappointed.
 - D. Reappointment of E-Team members: one member, Chuck Diessner is going off the board, all other members will remain. Others are welcome. Ken would like to see a northern Hubbard County representative on the E-Team, perhaps from Kabakona and/or Plantagenet.
14. **Next HC COLA meeting, Thurs. Sept. 29th. Speaker: Dan Carroll, DNR, "Creating a Firewise Property".**
- A. Doug Kingsley, DNR Fisheries: there are budgeting issues with DNR Fish and Wildlife. With the warm lake waters this summer, it's been bad for cold water fish, Ciscos. In some lakes there may be a summer die-off. Regarding the DNR budget: there may be changes in the DNR efforts. Water testing is very helpful to the DNR.
 - B. Motion to Adjourn by Lynn Goodrich, seconded by Deb Rogers. Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Nancy Gibbs
HC COLA Secretary