

**HUBBARD COUNTY COLA**  
**Board Meeting Minutes - July 27, 2017**  
**Approved 8-31-17**

Website: [www.hubbardcolamn.org](http://www.hubbardcolamn.org)

*“Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations is the Leader  
in Protecting Hubbard County Lakes and Rivers for this and future generations!”*

**Thank you for tonight’s meeting host: Fish Hook, Hinds, Eagle, and Lower Crow Wing**

1. **Call to Order** at 6:30 pm by President, Sharon Natzel. Pass-the-microphone introductions of lake association presidents, representatives, and guests. Present were 23 attendees, representing 20 lakes, and 38 signed-in guests from 13 lakes. COLA rep. Burney Fischer’s head-count was 80 +/- in attendance.
2. **Speaker – Steve Maanum**, award-winning educator, nature writer and photographer, presentation, “Loons, Loons, Loons”. Three topics: 1. Big Mantrap Lake’s loon nesting project and camera technology; 2. USGS, United States Geological Society, Loon Research Project using transmitters to track migration; and 3. Tips for photographing loons.
  - a. **Highlights:**
    - Big Mantrap Lake’s Loon Management Plan covers Big Mantrap Lake’s 1,770 acres of water. May 2017 loon count was 57. The later chick count was 20. The dry grass for nest rafts is gathered right after freeze up. In 2017 20 rafts were placed around the lake, their location mapped, and cameras attached to designated rafts. MN DNR Non-game Wildlife Volunteers gather the grass; maintain and place the rafts; count the loons, eggs and chicks; check and maintain the cameras; and record the collected data.

For photos of nesting rafts ... <http://mantraplake.webs.com>.
    - USGS Loon Research Project, lead research scientist, is Kevin Kenow. USGS first came to Big Mantrap Lake in 2011 to begin studying the affect of the Gulf of Mexico BP Oil spill on loons. The Gulf is a loon migratory destination, and how Type E Botulism, which has killed thousands of loons in Lake Michigan, affects the DNA of loons. A portable on-sight lab, staffed by Dr. Heard with the assistance of Wildlife volunteers, is used for implanting satellite antennas in male loons and GEO-locator tags on male and female loons to record location, temperatures and depth of dives. A wing feather is removed to check for poisons and juvenile loons have leg bands placed.
    - To photograph loons: be patient, use common sense, keep a safe distance, and know signs of stress, when a quiet withdrawal is needed for the well-being of the loon.
3. **Break**
4. **Featured Host Lake, Hinds Lake - Steve Hill**
  - a. Hinds Lake is a small lake next to the Hubbard Prairie. Its 300 acres are surrounded by 50 lake cabins/homes. 49% of the homeowners are lake association members. The lake is 35’ deep.
  - b. Hinds lake is listed by the DNR as a “healthy lake” with pan fish, bass and northerns.
  - c. The lake association began in 1994. The lake association is in process of moving from the 23 years of water testing phase to current state AIS methods/strategy. Transitioning from 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> generation of “lake protectors” to the next generation(s). Engagement: eyes of the water and the roll-out of the “Lake Action Plan”.
  - d. At risk: the location of Enbridge Line 3 is 1/3 mile south of the lake.
  - e. Four step to get started with AIS: continue testing, create meandering surveys, eyes-on-water with GPS/navigation app on iPhone, and awareness of dock & lift installers.
  - f. At annual meeting, each person received a two 8 x 10” laminated AIS card to carry in their boats.
  - g. Results of COLA: Hinds Lake wants feedback and guidance from COLA: what are we doing right and wrong? How can we move faster/smarter to become current in methodology/strategy and results?

5. **Consent** given to updated minutes and Treasurer's report.
6. **E-Team recommendation on car counters/software utilization – Lynn Goodrich:** recommend COLA not purchase the software for \$1,200, recommend utilizing person at SWCD to do data entry with payment to SWCD. Software is good until April 2019. There is a 5 year renewal for the software. For SWCD the renewal is \$500. SWCD will be in contact with HC COLA. It's possible that townships could use the counters. Discussion.
7. **Committee Reports:**
  - a. **AIS – Dan Kittilson:** Veliger samplers, made by Bob Berdahl, are available for sale. \$3.75/ea. By meeting's end all were sold.
  - b. **Dan Kittilson/Jeff Mosner:** Eyes-on-the-water looking ahead to online survey. Added to the survey will be a couple of questions on vegetation. Completion of the survey will start in September. The survey will be sent to lake presidents, AIS coordinators, and AIS Citizen Watch volunteers.
8. **Education – Sharon Natzel:**
  - a. **The Nitrogen/Fertilizer survey** is due now on August 25<sup>th</sup>.
  - b. **Line 3:** The final EIS is available August 10<sup>th</sup>, there will be a 10 day comment period.
  - c. **Motion by Lynn Goodrich:** The E-Team to review final EIS and make comments. **Charlie Pieper** seconded. Motion passed.
  - d. **FOH, Friends of the Headwaters,** is now represented by the Environment Law & Policy Center whose legal Twin Cities based attorney is Scott Strand, is experience with MN environmental law.
  - e. **Lynn Goodrich:** SWCD will provide free nitrate testing at the Lake George Blueberry Festival, the last weekend of July, on Saturday from 9 – 12:00 noon.
  - f. **Review:** Representative Responsibilities sheet and the AIS Coordinator Responsibility sheet for comments, deletions and/or additions. The sheets final draft will be presented at the Annual Meeting in August.
  - g. **COLA AIS Operating Team** meeting tomorrow, Friday July 28<sup>th</sup>.
9. **Next COLA meeting Thursday, August 31<sup>st</sup>,** Bill Evarts, MN DNR Forestry, to speak on the Benefit of Trees in Water and Shoreline Vegetation. Northwoods Bank Community Room, 6 pm refreshments/social, 6:30 meeting. Lake meeting hosts will be: Bad Axe, South Island, Portage & Tripp.
10. **Motion to adjourn,** Lynn Goodrich. **Second,** Dan Kittilson. Meeting adjourned.

**Nancy Gibbs**  
HC COLA Secretary