

**HUBBARD COUNTY COLA**  
**Board's Meeting Minutes 10/26/17 – Approved 2/22/18**

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: Spider, Gilmore and Kabekona\*\*\***

1. **Call to Order** at 6:30 pm by COLA President Sharon Natzel. Pass-the-microphone introductions of lake association presidents, representatives, and guests. Present were 21 attendees, representing 16 lakes associations and 2 guests.

**Speaker Darrin Hoverson, DNR Ecological and Water Resources Division Hydrologist, “Our Connected Waters”.**

- A. Many types of wetlands:** grass, sedge meadow, flood plain, farmed, ash swamps, temporary, bog area, etc.
- B. Components of wetlands:** water; hydro soil, developed under wet conditions; and hydrophytic plants.
- C. Benefits:** sponge for storing flood waters and releasing them slowly thus reducing flood damage; removes pollutants, nutrients and sediment, from flowing through them; critical habitat for fish, wildlife and water fowl; and providing protection from storms and ice by absorbing waves of energy by buffering shorelines.
- D. Pressure on area waters:**
  - We have clean water because of tree forests, increased agricultural usage with diminishing trees, center pivot irrigation systems brings significant changes to landscape. There is a vital connect to water through irrigation. There are new low pressure systems which use ¾ less water.
  - We are in a dry period now. Aquifers store ground water, some are shallow and all are connected.
  - High nitrates in drinking water and the need to put in new wells.
  - Dust storms. DNR working with agriculture for cover-crops, which also enrich the soil increase the soil's nitrogen level.
  - Significant shoreline development.
- E. Water Quantity and Water Quality:**
  - i. **Crow Wing Watershed** number 3 water supplier to Minneapolis/St. Paul.
  - ii. **Watershed Restoration & Protection Strategy Report, WRAP**, identified the following:
    - a. Crow Wing Watershed is a high priority watershed.
    - b. Need to maintain and improve high water quality.
    - c. Preserve and increase forest cover.
    - d. Reduce phosphorus load by 10%.
    - e. Increase waterway and shoreland buffers.
    - f. Support Straight River Ground Water Management Area: protect groundwater levels, quality and recharge areas.
  - iii. **Water Quality is as important to protect in your lake, as it is for AIS.**
- F. HC COLA Website Link for Darrin Hoverson's presentation:**  
[http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/uploads/3/4/5/6/34563649/our\\_connected\\_waters\\_hcola\\_oct\\_26\\_2017.pdf](http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/uploads/3/4/5/6/34563649/our_connected_waters_hcola_oct_26_2017.pdf)  
Note: You may need to right click and rotate.

2. **Consent agenda:** Minutes and Treasurer's Report approved.

3. **Update on recent HC COLA activists and plans:**

- A. AIS Lake Coordinators Meeting – Bob Berdahl:** HC COLA AIS Operating Team to talk with the County to improve AIS inspection program even more next year. A meeting will be set up for all AIS Lake Coordinators and the Hubbard County AIS Program Coordinator looking at the results of the 2017 program when data is available from the DNR.
- B. DNR Community Based Social Media Marketing Workshop – Steve Hill and Ken Grob:** The speaker was Dr. Doug McKenzie, PHD Psychologist, founder of Community Based Social Marketing. 85 people attended, representing 34 counties. Object is to change people's behavior, which has already been done in the acceptance of seat belts, recycling, etc. The DNR wants to change people's behavior re: AIS, as in the checking and cleaning weeds from boats. Intensive information, too much, overwhelms, as do too many

words on sign at a boat launch. Can't use the intensive information methodology with AIS. Objectives: select AIS barriers, rank barriers, develop ideas, test and launch. State DNR Social Marketing Campaign, target ideas in Hubbard County: improve boat launch signs, gain commitment to decon, bring clean water for bait after boat is out of the water. More ideas are needed.

**Ken Grob, State AIS Advisory Board:** A speaker/instructor is needed to assist HC COLA to implement social media marketing ideas.

- C. **Other activities related to AIS – Dan Kittilson:** 142 survey have been emailed. Presidents/Representative need to send survey to their membership. To date 97 surveys have been completed, 24 COLA members responded and 3 non-member lakes: East Crooked, West Crooked, and Grace. 8 lakes haven't responded.
  - D. **HC COLA PR Enterprise on-going column – Sharon Natzel:** Dan Kittilson is doing the Nov column.
  - E. **Action Park Rapids – Sharon Natzel:** Action Park Rapids, is a community organization, to which HC COLA is a member and Sharon, as the HC COLA president, attends. The HC COLA goal for Action Park Rapids is AIS education and water quality engagement.
4. **Decisions for HC COLA'S 30<sup>th</sup> year in 2018:** Theme...Protecting our Lakes and Rivers.
- A. Meeting are Feb – Oct, the last Thurs of the month at the Northwoods Bank Community Room.
  - B. New for 2018, by a hand-raised vote, is to start the Social at 5:30 pm and the Meeting at 6:00 pm.
  - C. Nifty Nine Meeting Host Teams Concept is working, but some lakes will move to other months in the schedule next year. To improve in our 30<sup>th</sup> year, the focus will be on the speaker and to continue to keep the business meeting short with continued use of committee reports.
  - D. Theora will present 30<sup>th</sup> year celebration ideas to the E-Team.
5. **Orders for Restore The Shore** are due tonight, Oct 26, 2017, for 2018 trees, shrubs, plants and seeds through SWCD.
6. **Committee Reports** briefly summarized. **Ken Grob, State AIS Advisory Board**, overview of today SAAB meeting: Watercraft Inspection Training to work with the DNR. Discussion on Fishing Tournament, how many per year, criteria, and state laws re: tournaments.
7. **Wrap-up on key takeaways - Steve Hill, HCCOLA Vice President:** As a body, let's ask, how do we, HC COLA and individually, connect to our watersheds? What speakers or programs in 2018 can facilitate a greater connection to the lakes and rivers HC COLA is seeking to protect? As speaker Darrin Hoverson asked, Why do we care about water? Because WE CARE. We have a relationship with water and a lake connection.
8. **Motion to adjourn** by Lynn Goodrich, seconded by Wayne Swanson, meeting adjourned.

Nancy Gibbs,  
HC COLA Secretary