

Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (HC COLA)
Minutes of The Board of Director's Meeting Thursday 10-31-19; Approved 2-27-2020
5:30 PM Refreshments & Social, 6 PM Meeting - Northwoods Bank Community Room
"HC COLA is the Leader in Protecting Hubbard County Lakes and Rivers" www.hubbardcolamn.org

1. Meeting Began at 6:00 PM - Call to Order - Sharon Natzel, President
 - a. Thank you to Meeting Hosts: Plantagenet, Potato, Stony and Garfield
 - b. Pass the microphone introductions. 24 Lakes Represented & 1 Guest with 40 Attendees
2. Nicholas Macklem, Hubbard County Environmental Services gave a presentation on 2019 AIS Highlights & 2020 Plan
 - In 2019 Hubbard County had 49 Level 1 Inspectors, 4 Level 2 Inspectors (trained in decontamination) & 1 Lead Inspector (many returning inspectors; through Always There Staffing, Inc, Bemidji)
 - There were new radio announcements on KDKK, KXKK, KPRM outlining the 21-day dry time mandated on lake
 - Co-partnered with HC COLA on Park Theater movie ad and also a Billboard on Hwy 34 on 21-day Dry Time equipment movement like docks and lifts, decontamination, & on AIS prevention best management practices
 - Starry Trek for Hubbard County was reviewed; covered 8 lakes where 12 public accesses were sampled in 2019
 - 2019 had 23,000 inspections where 99.16% were "drain plug" compliant & 97.51% compliant on other AIS issues
 - 2019 Hubbard County had an average of 1.49% inspections per hour & 164 decons (up from 116 decons in 2016)
 - When the 2019 watercraft inspection summary is completed, the Hubbard County website - AIS area will be updated by Nicholas: http://www.co.hubbard.mn.us/departments/environmental_services/ais/index.php
 - There were 2 Zebra Mussels violations caught at the public access; both pontoons & were decontaminated
 - A boat lift at decon was quarantined for 21-day dry time by Conservation Officer before going in another lake
 - Hubbard County had Faucet Snails confirmed in 3 lakes in 2019; 4th Crow Wing, Duck Lake & Upper Bottle
 - The DNR AIS Specialist for the Northwest Region informed Nicholas Macklem, Hubbard County Environmental Specialist of non-confirmed Eurasian Watermilfoil – Big Mantrap. It was discussed at the mtg the AIS Operating Team will do a dry run on paper of the Rapid Response Plan for Hubbard County using this lake over the winter
 - State of MN AIS Prevention Aid for Hubbard County 2020 will be \$264,183; up roughly \$6,000 from 2019
 - Supplemental watercraft inspection remains at \$21/hour with 2020 payment deadline of 1/31/2020 to Nicholas
 - Roughly 8,500 State of MN funded hours are planned for 2020 (similar to 2019) for the Hubbard County lakes
 - Supplemental funding letters for 2020 will go out shortly; Nicholas plans to present at HC Township Mtg also

Please Contact if questions: Nicholes Macklem Environmental Specialist; 301 Court Ave; Park Rapids; MN 56470
218-732-3890; nmacklem@co.hubbard.mn.us

3. Steve Henry, RMB Environmental Laboratories presented on "How Lakes Age: With or Without Zebra Mussels." Over time nutrients build up in our lakes causing changes to the lake bottom, aquatic plants, fish and water quality. Zebra Mussels have not changed how fast nutrients accumulate in our lakes, but they have changed where nutrients are stored in the lake and how they are expressed. We learned about the correlations between Zebra Mussels and a lakes' aging and the lakes' nutrient levels. We also learned what new techniques researchers are using to track lake health. This presentation showed the direct correlation between reduced runoff and improvements in lake clarity. Steve discussed a theory that some lakes with historical good lake health / clarity may not be able to sustain Zebra Mussels. See the presentation slides here: <http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/ais-presentations.html> steve.henry@rmbel.info

4. HC COLA Business Meeting followed the break:

a) Kim Bowen from Crow Wing Crest Lodge on 11th Crow Wing –invited HC COLA to view the short Time Lapse Video of the Shoreland Restoration Installation / Class on their website: <https://www.crowwing.com/blog/shoreland-restoration-in-front-of-the-lodge/> Kim thanked HC COLA for co-sponsoring along with the HC SWCD, Master Gardeners & UMN Ext.

b) The AIS Operating Team Accomplishments for 2019 and Plan for 2020 was provided (these were sent in email prior to the meeting) and will be placed in Committee Reports for reference: <http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/2019.html>

c) The Whitefish Area Property Owners Association (WAPOA) has invited HC COLA to their workshop on Thurs 11/21/19 from 1:00 – 2:00 PM at Crosslake Community Center, 14126 Daggett Pine Road, Crosslake, MN 56442 with presenter Richard Smith, President of Friends of the Headwaters. This Minnesota non-profit organization won a 2015 Court of Appeals case which ruling required the first Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on crude oil pipeline projects in MN and a new standard for environmental review on future pipeline projects. In June 2019, the MN Court of Appeals determined that the EIS for Enbridge Energy's new, expanded Line 3 proposal was not "adequate" for oil spill analysis for the Lake Superior watershed. The regulatory and legal work is "not done". The primary objectives for this workshop are to (1) provide an update on proposed Enbridge Line 3 and the EIS, and to (2) discuss regulatory actions we can expect in the near future. For details on the WAPOA 11-21-19 seminar which HC COLA is invited to, please see their website:

<https://minnesotawaters.org/whitefishareapropertyowners/wp-content/uploads/sites/11/2019/11/Line-3-Discussion-11-21-19-CrossComCtr.pdf>

d) Cheryl Hilgemann reminded all that Restore the Shore orders must be to her by Tues 11/5; received 11 orders so far

e) Steve Hall walked us through the Treasurer's report; Ken Grob made motion to accept; Hillary Stoltz 2nd; Passed. Steve then walked us through the budget proposed for 2020. No fundraising garage sale planned. If a project is identified in 2020 that we haven't budgeted for, it is possible for the HC COLA Board of Directors (BOD) to determine to fund a project. The budget was approved by the HC COLA BOD for 2020.

f) Sue Pickus, Bad Axe Lake Association presented on the HC COLA Charitable Fund Grant they received in 2019 (this was the first ever grant issued) which helped cover part of the dollars required for their professional aquatic vegetation survey conducted by RMB Laboratories this past July (see attached). Sue explained the survey sampled 219 points and identified vegetation species / location. The survey helped to determine remaining locations of Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM). Sue outline the detailed processes from initial discovery of EWM in 2017 when their lake association AIS survey team discovered EWM through the journey to reduce the initial approximate 2.4 acres down to .25 acres this past year. PLM out of Brainerd, MN is the chemical vendor Bad Axe LA uses: <https://www.plmcorp.net/> Also Sue noted that our cold winters with lots of snow cover helped reduce EWM as sunlight couldn't filter through to promote growth over the winter under the ice. Along with chemical application the lake community did lake training on how to identify and hand pull the milfoil. They also made and set in place, special floating buoys around the remaining .25 acres to eliminate spread by boat traffic. Sue encouraged aquatic vegetation identification training for lake members on doing plant surveys. That is how Bad Axe LA found their EWM. Early detection is key!

g) The HC COLA Charitable Fund 2020 Grant Applications are due 3/1/2020 to the Northwest MN Foundation – see the HC COLA website to learn more and link to application: <http://hubbardcolumn.org/hc-cola-charitable-fund--grant.html>

h) It was determined that HC COLA will participate again for the 8th year having raised \$16,457 in the past for the Hubbard County Food Shelf through the Park Rapids Enterprise Chili Challenge. Theora and Sharon will soon prepare the information for the 3/4/2020 Chili Challenge. Then the HC COLA member lake associations will send out information to their own LA members about how folks can personally support the Chili Challenge & the HC food shelf ... The event is part of the HC COLA's community involvement and supports a very worthy cause. We were 2nd with "Keeping it Reel" in 2019: <https://www.parkrapidsenterprise.com/news/4582503-chili-challenge-raises-9356-hubbard-county-food-shelf>

i) Any lake association wanting to help ring the bells for an hour for the Salvation Army (inside outer door) at Coborn's on 12/21 from Noon to 3 PM, please contact Sharon at hccolamn@gmail.com The morning is taken already.

j) Don't forget the Annual Township Meetings are held each year on the 2nd Tuesday of March. So, mark your calendar to attend March 10, 2020. Generally if there is a weather-related cancellation, it will be the following Tues 3/17/2020.

The next meeting for HC COLA will be Thurs, Feb 27, 2020 at Northwoods Bank. 5:30 PM, refreshments & social; 6 PM business meeting. John Weber will present on Dragonflies (which help show a lake's health) and Butterflies.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Ken Grob and 2nd by Allen Colliander. The meeting was adjourned.