

HUBBARD COUNTY COLA
Board Meeting Minutes for March 23, 2017
Approved 4-27-17

Website: 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: Blue

1. **Call to Order** at 6:30 pm by President, Sharon Natzel. Pass-the-microphone introductions of lake association presidents, representatives, and guests:

Representatives:

Bad Axe: Sue Pickus

Belle Taine:

Big Mantrap: Burney Fischer (on speaker phone)

Big Sand: Irene Weis (briefly on speaker phone)

Blue: Peter Tuomisto

Boulder: Steve Hall

Lower (1-4) Crow Wing:

Middle (5-7) Crow Wing:

8th & 9th Crow Wing: Julie Kingsley, Judy & Paul Anderson

10th & 11th Crow Wing:

Duck:

Eagle-Island: Jerry Grudem

Fish Hook: Jan Rumpza

Gilmore: Keith Minkel

Ham:

Hinds: Steve Hill

Island South: Dick Graham

Kabakona: Rolf Smeby

Little Sand: Dan Kittilson, Wayne Swanson

Long: Monika Wilkins, Carolynne White, Sharon Natzel

Palmer:

Peysenske: Jeff Mosner, Nancy Gibbs

Plantagenet: Alan Colliander, Paul Brewinski

Portage:

Potato:

Spider:

Stony: Mike Glynn, Sara Rowe

Tripp: Theora Goodrich, Lynn Goodrich

Twin Lakes:

Guests: Nicole Kovar, MN DNR AIS; Doug Kingsley, DNR Fisheries; Julie Kingsley, HC SWCD; Bill DonCarlos, HC AIS Program Coordinator; Vicky & Ron Rabe, East Crooked Lake; Deanna Johnson, West Crooked Lake, and Nicole Vik, Park Rapids Enterprise.

2. **Nicole Kovar, MN DNR AIS:** Take Action to Protect Your Lake Ecological & Natural Resources Against AIS.
 - A. Action is taken by the response of Lake Associations and Individuals: Early Detection and Monitoring and having a Ready Response Plan.
 - B. AIS Early Detection and Baseline Monitoring: As a lake association determine the goals for an AIS monitoring program: know what the AIS issues are, determine who will monitor, form an AIS Committee, provide AIS training, have a lake map and monitors in place and set a time-line for when to monitor and how long to monitor. Use this link for guidance:
http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/natural_resources/invasive/prevention/ais_detection-Baseline-monitoring.pdf
 - C. Meander Survey is a visual survey. Use your lake map to determine inlet, outlets, boat launch, public access, beach, park, agricultural land, etc. Wade along the shoreline, search for invasive species: plants: Curly Pondweed, Flowering Rush, etc; invasive species: as mussels, invasive snails, etc., and verify your finding. Bag a sample to bring to a AIS specialist at SWCD, DNR, or HC AIS Coordinator. Know when to look, what to look for, and which growing months are species at their peak to supply the best search results.
 - D. To view Example Lake Association AIS Rapid Response Action Plan, click on the link for the HC COLA website: AIS Prevention Plan:
www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasive/ais/prevention/plan/index.html#detect_and_respond_to_new_infestations
 - E. Other links for information are:
 1. AIS Prevention Plan: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasive/AIS/Prevention/plan/index.html>
 2. HCCOLA website’s AIS Presentations area: www.hubbardcolamn.org/AIS-presentations.html
 3. HCCOLA website Home Page: <http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/index.html>

MN DNR AIS Specialist, Nicole Kovar, may be reached at 218-732-8960, extension 222.

3. **Doug Kingsley, MN DNR, Fish & Wildlife:** The Proposed DNR Fishing and Hunting License Fee Increase
 - A. In Minnesota there are 1.5 million licensed anglers and 600 thousand licensed hunters. Minnesota is a top 5 destination for fishing and rates 29th nationally for price. This is a resource worth protecting and expanding.
 - B. The Game and Fish Fund is a dedicated account, not a general fund supported by taxes. The Environmental & Natural Resources Trust Fund can not be used as a fund source. The Game & Fish Fund is funded by Fishing and Hunting licenses. The main funding sources for the DNR's Game and Wildlife department are surveys, research, population studies, fish hatcheries, brush clearing, trail clearing and others. The Game and Wildlife department needs to develop funding sources.
 - C. With operating-cost increases, as much as 9% per year, the department is reducing costs. 43 staff positions for Fish and Wildlife are on hold, as are 20 positions for enforcement officers. The Creel surveys on large lakes like Mille Lac and Red Lake have been reduced.
 - D. The last fee increase was in 2012.
 - E. Individuals are urged to contact state elective officials. This link will assist to find your legislators: www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/
 - F. The link for more information on your license dollars is: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/licensdollarsatwork/index.html>
Also, the DNR has a License Dollars At Work flier available, with the proposed fee increases on the flier's back side.
4. **Event:** Free MN Lakes & Rivers Advocates Webinar, April 12th, 3 pm. "Stop AIS Spread During Fishing Tournaments – An Effective Program from Cass County and Muskie, Inc." To attend, sign-up online.
5. **After Break Opportunities:** Julie Kingsley, SWCD
 - A. **Restore the Shore**, contact SWCD, to order trees. **Help is needed** on Thursday May 4th at the horse barn on the Fairgrounds to bundle the trees. Trees will be distributed at SWCD office Friday afternoon, May 5th; Saturday morning, May 6th; and Sunday, May 7th, at the Fairgrounds.
 - B. **Low interest loans** are available through the Department of Agriculture for wells, septic systems, well sealing and more.
 - C. **Volunteers needed** for the Wed. May 17th **Freshwater Festival**, at **Camp Wilderness**. For more information, contact SWCD at 218-732-0121.
6. **Proposed Motion**, requested by the HC COLA board in February and crafted by E-Team:
Motion made by: Sharon Natzel
Motion: In 2017, HC COLA will use only spendable COLA Charitable Funds at the Northwest Minnesota Foundation to pay for RMB Lab analysis for two Zebra Mussel Veliger (ZMV) samples from HC COLA Lakes who have participated in the program before. The HC COLA E-Team encourages lakes who have the funds to pay their own RMB Lab tests through the COLA program for 2017. HC COLA will pay for Veliger testing for only 2017; lakes need to prepare to pay for ZMV samples next year.
Motion seconded by: Carolynne White.
Discussion: Steve Hall, COLA Treasurer, not in favor of the motion, said that the proposed ZMV sample testing would use 10% of COLA's liquid assets, not a wise use of liquid assets with AIS outbreaks in neighboring counties. Also, there is an inconsistency. Watercraft Inspections for 2017, in the 2017 County AIS Budget, have been cut. As an example: His lake, Boulder, was cut from 288 inspections to 72. COLA's not paying for extra monitor inspections but asks to fund Veliger testing. It's inconsistent. Both inspections and testing are valuable monitoring tools. For lakes to pay for their own testing, the lab cost per lake will be up-to \$180.
With a quorum of 15 lake associations present, using a show of hands, a vote was taken on the motion.
With 7 yes votes and 8 no votes, the motion did not pass.
7. **From Moriya Rufer, RMB Labs**, on HC COLA's twenty years of water quality data.
 - A. 50 lakes in Hubbard County can have trend analysis done.

- B. Lakes contributing \$150 will have their water data included in the Hubbard County 20-year report. Lakes that chose not to pay the \$150, will not be included in the 20-year report.
- C. Your lake's decision needs to be reached by April 7th. COLA will coordinate the participating lake. Email Sharon at hccolamn@gmail.com with your decision.
- D. If your Lake wants to purchase an additional report based on 2016 data, let Sharon know that decision as well.

8. HCCOLA will provide lunch at the Watercraft Inspector Training.

9. Minutes and Treasurer's reports – consent Agenda: approved.

10. Line 3 Pipeline – Jeff Mosner – Friends of the Headwaters (FOH):

- A. FOH awaits the release of the Environmental Impact Study from the Department of Commerce (DOC).
- B. This draft document is expected in early April.
- C. There will be a 60-day public comment period.
- D. Besides accepting written comments, the DOC will again hold public hearings at up to 24 locations along the proposed pipeline route.

11. Committee Reports and Announcements:

- A. Sharon Natzel spoke on **HC COLA Strategic Action #8 Shield Lakes & Rivers from Aquatic Invasive Species.**
- B. **Civil Service Committee** – Peter Tuomisto: Freshwater Festival and Restore the Shore.
- C. Available programs to register your lake as a participant: **Water Quality Monitoring, Zebra Mussel Veliger (ZMV) water sampling, and analysis through ZMV water sampling for Spiney Water Fleas.**
- D. **Water Quality Monitors** gathering May 10th at Northwoods Bank Community Room, complimentary light supper, RMB Environmental Labs training to standardize testing, and distribution of Water Monitoring kits with the coolers, sampler tubes, water sampling bottles and paperwork.
- E. **Water Quality Monitoring to be done on the 3rd Sun/Mon of May through September for 2017. Coolers need to be at Charlie's Boats & Marine by 11 am on those Mondays for the RMB shuttle.**
- F. **Education Committee** – Sharon Natzel: letter to be crafted to invite **Lake George and Lake Benedict** lakeshore owners to participate in ZMV sampling program for this season. **Garfield Lake** team in place for ZMV and the Water Quality Monitoring program for 2017. A draft version of **Example Lake Association AIS Rapid Response Action Plan** is available from Potato Lake. Each lake can use it to add to and tailor for their own use.
- G. For more information about the reports and announcements go to:
Hubbardcolamn.prg/uploads/3/4/5/6/34563649/cr_2017_03_23.pdf

12. Next HC COLA Board Meeting:

Thursday, April 27, 2017, 6 pm social and refreshments, 6:30 meeting, Northwoods Bank Community Room. Speaker: Sadie Wunder, Brainerd MPCA, "Protecting Your Septic System Investment" and Lake Protection. Hosts: Potato, Palmer, and 8th and 9th Crow Wing

13. Motion to adjourn by Lynn Goodrich, seconded by Wayne Swanson, the meeting was adjourned.