

## HUBBARD COUNTY COALITION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS Committee Reports and Announcements

August 30, 2012

[www.minnesotawaters.org/group/hccola/welcome](http://www.minnesotawaters.org/group/hccola/welcome)

### **HUBBARD COUNTY COALITION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS LAUNCHES NEW MEETING FORMAT**

The Executive Committee is in the process of revising the format for the COLA agenda to create more interest and focus on the major items for the meeting. We have separated the agenda from written committee reports and announcements. Committees presenting oral reports should be brief and focus on important items that are relevant. The purpose of our new format is to allow more time for discussion and implementation of COLA's Vision, Mission and Values.

***OUR VISION: "COLA is the Leader in Protecting Hubbard County Lakes and Rivers"***

**OUR MISSION: "COLA's mission is to protect and enhance the quality of our lakes and rivers; preserve the economic, recreational and natural environmental values of our shore lands and promote the responsible use of our waters and related habitats. COLA's mission enhances, promotes and protects the interests of lake shore property owners, lake associations, local government, the general public and future generations."**

#### **OUR VALUES:**

- 1. Collaboration among our members.**
- 2. Open and honest communications.**
- 3. Leadership, as an organization and as individuals toward increased citizen awareness and education.**
- 4. Active, engaged volunteers.**

### **LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE**

**Strategic Actions 1, 2 and 3**

**By Dan Kittilson**

#### **1. Executive Committee**

- a. COLA Organization Structure – The standing and strategic committees have been merged and will be distributed to COLA members after review by the executive committee.
- b. COLA will conduct a President's Roundtable with a series of meetings with lake association presidents starting in September & October.
- c. COLA will meet with Action Media – Michael Goldberg on September 10, 2012
- d. COLA plans to partner with the League of Women Voters in sponsoring a "Meet the Candidate" forum.

## 2. President's Report and Announcements

- a. Hubbard COLA will not hold its regular business meeting on September 27, 2012. The COLA meeting will focus mainly on MN Lakes and Rivers Advocates (formerly MSRPO) with Jeff Forester, Executive Director as the featured speaker. The meeting will start at an earlier time with the social gathering at 5:30 p.m. and the program at 6:00 p.m.
- b. Crow Wing Watershed gathering, September 13, 2012; 4 to 7 p.m. – St. Peters Catholic Church, Park Rapids. COLA will have an AIS display & COLA volunteers will help serve food.
- c. Hubbard COLA Legislative Agenda – Lake Associations are encouraged to send additional legislative concerns to Dan at [drkittil@q.com](mailto:drkittil@q.com)
- d. The Hubbard County Water Plan Task Force will meet on August 29, 2012 to discuss lake water quality improvement projects and Community Partner Grants.
- e. Legislative Forum 5 – Healthy Land, Clean Water, Good Neighbors: Northern Lights Casino Events Center, Friday September 28, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### **IMPROVE INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

#### **Strategic Action # 4**

**By Larry Roberts**

Objective: Improve communications from lake association members and lake boards.

#### **Action Items:**

1. Summarize monthly meeting reports to provide bullet items for members and lake boards to review. In progress – Julie Kingsley summarized July minutes for distribution.
2. Better utilization of e-mail addresses to improve communications between COLA Board and lake association members. E-mail coordinators for member lake associations are encouraged to e-mail information as received to their membership, noting that the information came from Hubbard Coalition of Lake Associations.
3. COLA Reps and Executive Board members attend and provide updates at annual lake association meetings. Started in 2011. Continuing this year. More involvement needed by Representatives to provide updates to their membership.
4. Engage lake boards and lake associations regarding ideas/concerns. Dan has begun legislative agenda proposed topics. Fall meeting with lake association presidents and E-Board to discuss progress of past year and to plan for 2013.
5. Recognition of members who have made significant contributions to improving lake quality on their lake and in Hubbard County. Under consideration for fall 2012.

### **LAKESHORE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

#### **Strategic Action # 5**

**By Richard Sederstrom**

- √<sup>1</sup> The membership of the committee has been added to and reorganized. Members include Richard Sederstrom, current chair, Steve Hall, Julie Kingsley, Marvel Haynes, Judy Novak and Rolf Smeby. Sharon Natzel and Wayne Swanson have been invited to join and are considering doing so. Larry Roberts and Dan Kittilson will stand as advisors during the period of re-organization.

- √<sup>4</sup> In order to maintain the dissemination of information in as consistent and broad a fashion as possible, COLA will continue its membership and website with Conservation MN/MN Waters through June 2013 at no additional cost.
- √<sup>4</sup> MN Lakes and Rivers Advocates: On September 27 Jeff Forester, Executive Director will present a program on legislative priorities for 2013.
- √<sup>4</sup> The committee will work with local realtors and abstract companies to encourage education and dissemination of Lakeshore Guides to lakeshore property owners and other interested people with whom these companies make contact.
- √<sup>4</sup> In order to make COLA information available to a wider audience, especially younger people, the committee plans to investigate the possibility of presenting COLA on Facebook.
- √<sup>4</sup> The committee plans to investigate the possibility of presenting a COLA window display somewhere on Main Avenue.
- √<sup>4</sup> **COLA plans to sponsor monthly articles in the *Park Rapids Enterprise*. These articles are intended to help inform the residents and visitors of the area in matters that are important and timely for understanding our lakeshore environment and ways to maintain its health and beauty.**
- √<sup>4</sup> Celebrate Lakes 2013: COLA plans to host a major education event for the lake community, to be held sometime next summer. Potential co-sponsors might be SWDC, DNR, Hubbard County Extension, and Chamber/downtown business groups.

## **MANAGE PUBLIC IMAGE COMMITTEE**

### **Strategic Action # 6**

**By Larry Roberts**

Objective: To implement a variety of actions designed to showcase achievements and successes of Hubbard County Collation of Lake Associations.

### **Action Items:**

1. Increase visibility of HCOLA thru:
  - a. AIS campaign on billboards, radio and handouts – COLA active participation thru Ken G. and others.
  - b. Series of articles regarding protecting lakes and improving water quality – started by Dan with water quality report. Proposed 8-10 additional articles by other COLA members over winter to be published in Enterprise and other public records.  
 Schedule: Sept: Lake Country Key Questions for Legislators, Jeff Forester, et al.  
 Oct: Watercraft Inspection 2012 Report – Bob Berdahl, Jeff Bjorkman, et al  
 Oct. or Later: Advocacy for Policy and Legislation – Dan Kittilson  
 Nov: Restore the Shore: Steve Hall or others

Dec: Importance of Lake Associations and COLA's to Communities: Darby Nelson

Jan/Feb: Legacy Funding: Chuck Diessner

Other articles are welcome. Please contact Dan or Larry Roberts regarding the topic and when to publish. There are space limitations in the Enterprise.

- c. Work with schools to involve students in lake issues (pending with Education Committee).
- d. Develop process to recognize individuals, lake associations, businesses, et al for their contribution to improving lake quality. (Pending).
- e. Develop one or two day event to celebrate our local lakes (pending with Chamber of Commerce, DNR, SWCD, etc.)
- f. Working with Chamber to celebrate Governor's Fishing Opener -2013 in Park Rapids.

## **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

### **Strategic Action #7**

**By Mary Ann Erpelding**

**Objective:** Implement a comprehensive membership plan to strengthen and expand the total number of members, as well as engage all members in order to create a stronger organization. Recognize donations of time and talents to create an atmosphere of gratitude and cooperation that will benefit the organization.

#### **Action items:**

1. 21 lakes were represented at the July COLA Meeting.
2. We are distributing your new notebook replacement pages to all lake Representatives. Please pick up the new pages with your lake name on them and replace your outdated pages.
3. All Reps – Please be sure to give any names of NEW Presidents, Representatives, and E-mail Coordinators to Deb Rogers.
4. Our annual Social Event is Wednesday, September 12 at Zorbaz at 5 pm. Hope to see you there.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

### **Strategic Action #8**

**By Lynn Goodrich**

#### **Action items:**

Raise the funds required to retire the "lawsuit" legal expenses and develop long term funding to ensure that Hubbard COLA will be able to continue its "good work" in the future. These goals will be achieved through, but not limited to: Sales, Donations, Grants, Bequeathments from individuals, and Business/Corporate sponsorship.

## **IMPACT POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE**

### **Strategic Action #9**

**By Chuck Diessner**

#### **Action Steps:**

1. The role of the Impact Political Action Committee("IPA") regarding variance requests and the Board of Adjustment ("BOA") is to:

- a. Continue to review the monthly variance requests/information and discuss each requested variance, ESO's Staff Report and Recommendations and concerns of the IPA.
- b. Notify the Presidents and Representatives of each COLA member of a variance request that involves their lake by sending them a copy of the BOA agenda and the ESO Staff Report and Recommendations. IPA will assist the lake association and others that have concerns regarding a variance and invite them to attend the IPA meeting to understand its analysis of the variance request.
- c. Encourage lake associations to get involved, attend the IPA meeting regarding variances on their lakes, write letters to the BOA, attend and speak at the BOA meeting, or simply have their attendance noted.
- d. Get involved in a variance request only if:
  - i. it involves a PUD or subdivision (especially if it involves a controlled access lot),
  - ii. it involves a major matter as determined by the IPA, such as the Hagert garage and guest house variance request, or
  - iii. it involves a variance request that the lake association or others on the lake are concerned about and request IPA's help.
- e. Provide general advice to the BOA regarding what the state law and county ordinance require regarding various circumstances.
- f. Monitor the BOA's performance and report the results to COLA and the County.
- g. Provide suggested changes to the Shoreland Management Ordinance.

## **CIVIC SERVICE COMMITTEE**

**By Peter Tuomisto**

### **Action Steps:**

1. 2013 tree order forms should be returned to your lake coordinators by September 19, 2012 with checks payable to your lake association. All lake associations should make **one check** payable to COLA. All orders and checks should be turned into COLA by September 27<sup>th</sup>.
2. Contributions are needed for the 2013 Freshwater Festival. Please send checks to Hubbard COLA at PO Box 746, Park Rapids, MN 56470 with Children's Freshwater Festival in the memo line.
3. Water monitoring: September 16<sup>th</sup> is the last water monitoring day of the season. Please bring the sampler in with the sample kit to Charlie's on September 17<sup>th</sup>. Jerry Knoblich will "winterize" them. Potato, Blue, Eagle, Big Sand, Little Sand and Long Lake sent their second sample for Zebra Mussel detection into the lab on August 20<sup>th</sup>. So far no detection! The water temperatures will soon be dropping so no further samples will be taken this year.
4. Hubbard County Water Management Task Force
  - a. Clean Water Fund – Clean Water Assistance Grants.
    - i. Long Lake Water Quality Improvement Project
    - ii. Palmer Lake Water Quality Improvement Project
  - b. **Community Partners Conservation Program – Hubbard County Community Partners.**
  - c. **Hubbard County Large Lake Assessment Grants**
    - i. **Opportunity for 3 to 5 additional lakes to participate in Phase 2 of this grant.**

**CLEAR VALUE** - The clearer the water, the higher the lake property value, according to Bemidji State University researchers who studied the economic value of lake clarity in North Central Minnesota lakes.

## **AIS TASK FORCE**

**By Ken Grob\_**

### **News Highlights**

1. Minnewaska Lake/Lake Emily (Glenwood) and Pelican Lake (Brainerd) identified as infested
2. DNR doing roadside checks
3. Some citizen groups (SW MPLS & Becker Co.) pushing for gating lakes.
4. Veliger monitoring on several lakes in July& August.
5. Hubbard County AIS Scorecard updated.
6. DNR State Stakeholders Meeting August 23...Update

### **Action items:**

1. Hubbard County Task Force Status
  - a. All initiatives underway (Business-PRDBA, Resorts, LSP's, Watercraft inspections, etc.)
  - b. Long term Sustainable Funding (2013 focus)..SWCD Approved AIS Coordinator position and submitted in 2013 budget to County Commissioners
  - c. Budget committee has outlined plan for 2013
2. COLA Task Force Report
  - a. Billboards, PSA's, Restaurant Placemats, Flyers, and AIS ID Cards complete
  - b. Flyers provided to lake associations as requested....2300 plus resorts todate. A few to still distribute.
  - c. Task Force will meet in fall to plan 2013
  - d. LGU, Level I (watercraft), Resort owners, Volunteer Inspection Training sessions completed
  - e. Volunteer Inspections Very Limited. Need to meet with AIS coordinators to energize this for next year. Key supplement to LGU Program
3. LGU Watercraft Inspections
  - a. Inspections going well
  - b. Good cooperation by public (Julie Comments)
  - c. Some turnover
4. Resort Folder Distribution
  - a. Folders distributed ...63 to date

- b. Need Completed paper work returned.
  - c. EMPHASIZED INSPECTION AT RESORT LAUNCH SITES!!
  - d. Good cooperation and support...and inspections by resort owners
5. DNR Video
- a. Excellent (1, 10, 25 minute version).
  - b. COLA has a copy for each lake association...see me tonight for your copy.
6. Awareness Presentations and Materials
- a. AIS Presentation to Kabekona 8/4
  - b. Materials Available (Handouts)

## **GOVERNOR'S FISHING OPENER**

**By Larry Roberts**

Volunteer list being developed to assist in selling raffle tickets for boat and fish house, list of potential fishing guides and other volunteers to help with all aspects of the Opener as part of Hubbard Coalition of Lake Associations.

COLA volunteers for ticket sales:

John Hastings  
Richard & Carol Sederstrom  
Paul Jensen  
Jeff Mosner  
Hilary Stolz  
Mary Jo Groehler  
Larry & Barb Roberts

Participation to date:

Taste of Dorset: 1 Volunteer – tickets sold: 470  
Legends and Logging Days: 6 Volunteers over two days – tickets sold: 410  
Coborn's Customer Appreciation Day: 2 volunteers – tickets sold: 46  
Nevis Uff Da Day: 4 volunteers – tickets sold: 183

Thanks to the volunteers who have helped so far. We need more volunteers for sales this fall and to transport the boat and ice fishing house to various locations. If you can help, please sign the volunteer sheet. Sign up information also is posted on the Park Rapids Chamber of Commerce website:

[www.parkrapids.com](http://www.parkrapids.com) Questions, please call Larry Roberts @ 732-0118 or e-mail:  
[lrobertsmn@gmail.com](mailto:lrobertsmn@gmail.com).

***Next Meeting: Thursday, September 27, 2012, 5:30 social gathering, 6:00 p.m. program with Jeff Forester, Northwood's Bank Community Room.***

DKK – 8/28/2012

DKK – 8/30/2012