

# HUBBARD COUNTY COALITION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS

Committee Reports and Announcements

October 26, 2012

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

## **LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Strategic Actions 1, 2 and 3

By Dan Kittilson

### **1. Executive Committee**

- a. The COLA Committee Structure has been finalized and will be emailed to lake association leaders. The COLA representative's committee assignments have been completed and will be distributed via email and at the COLA meeting. COLA reps that are unassigned are encouraged to volunteer for a committee of interest.
- b. Speaker Phone (By Dan McCorry)
  - i. For the past month a committee has been looking into the use of conference calling for the COLA executive and membership meetings. This will allow better communication between the executive board members and possibly in the future be used at the membership meeting. Chuck Diessner obtained a high quality conference call hub from his former employer. This will give the conversations a higher quality of sound.
  - ii. COLA has now obtained two conference call numbers from a company named Free Conference Call. One is a toll free number for the host at the meeting location which will be charged to COLA at 3.9 cents per minute. The other call in number is for the participants and will be billed to the participant's phone number according to what type of long distance service they use to call in. This billing will come from the participant long distance provider. This conference call service will allow up to 100 participants.
  - iii. We have obtained permission from the Chamber of Commerce, Northwood's Bank and Clack and Dennis Realty to use the services at their locations. More information on this will be provided as it is used.
- c. Lake Emma Township Healthy Lakes Partnership Grant Program.
  - i. Hubbard COLA will recognize the Lake Emma Township Supervisors on December 4, 2012 for their outstanding accomplishments in implementing the Lake Emma Township Grant program. As leaders in conservation, the Lake Emma Township Supervisors have served as an outstanding role model for other township's to join in the protection of our lakes and natural resources in Hubbard County. COLA encourages Lake Emma Township residents to attend the township meeting starting at 7:00 p.m. and help us honor the township board for their accomplishments.

### **2. President's Report and Announcements**

- a. COLA sponsored its first "President's Round Table" on October 2, 2012. Seven presidents attended the Round Table including Donny McIntosh, Twin Lakes; Bert Ahern, Palmer Lake; Pat De Chaine, Kabekona Lake; Kevin Brauer, Potato Lake; Marilyn Peterson, Portage Lake; Al Judson, Big Sand Lake; and Lynn Berry, Boulder Lake. Discussion topics including fund raising projects, AIS, COLA's public image, shoreland rules, strategies regarding recruitment of new

lake association members and how to sustain lake association membership. COLA will sponsor another President's Round Table in spring of 2013.

- b. Hubbard COLA meets with McKnight Foundation Board of Director's at the Mississippi Headwaters in Itasca State Park.
  - i. Dan Kittilson and Ken Grob gave a brief presentation to the McKnight Foundation about the impact that the Healthy Lakes and Rivers Partnership (HLRP) has had on the effectiveness of participating lake associations and on COLA's efforts to prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species.
  - ii. The following quote is from Jim Steenerson who organized COLA's meeting with the McKnight Foundation. *"Once again, a big THANKS!!! for your great presentations yesterday morning at Itasca. This is just the kind of feedback that the McKnight Foundation's board really needs to hear, and you both delivered, as usual. I have to say, it has been a great experience collaborating with both of you, and I look forward to a time when my personal life will allow more time to work on common interests. Until then, thanks again!"*
- c. COLA urges lake association members to join MN Lakes and Rivers Advocates and participate in their "Citizen Action Network" to advocate for lake protection in the 2013 legislative session and beyond. To join go to [www.msrepo.org](http://www.msrepo.org)
- d. COLA encourages everyone to vote in this very important election year on a national, state, county and city/township level. We are facing critical issues relating to the threat of aquatic invasive species, especially zebra mussels, and the damage they cause to our lakes and rivers, fisheries, tourism, local economy, and water influenced property values and tax revenue. We need to know each candidate's plan to address aquatic invasive species. Will they support sustainable funding for the state that can be used at the county and local level?

### **Improve Internal Communications**

Strategic Action #4

By Larry Roberts

1. No Report

### **Lakeshore Education Committee**

Strategic Action #5

By Richard Sederstrom

1. **Governor's 2013 Fishing Opener:** is the primary and most urgent focus for the committee. Our goal is to provide learning opportunities for all ages and to be hands-on, and for people to understand important natural processes and celebrate the nature of our lakes and surrounding habitats. We will focus on RSVP requirements, whether our event should be on Friday evening or on sat.
2. **Suggested topics:** Loons, eagles, bird sounds and ID; Plants – Native, non-native, exotic; Frogs, Aquatic plants, shoreland plants; Bee; Dragonflies and butterflies; bats – how they serve the ecology and threats to their living; Endangered species in our area; Water and shoreline quality and protections; woody vegetation and tree habitats; Underwater photography of fish in natural habitat; watercraft inspection – especially for kids.
3. **Contacts/Advisors:** Elementary school Principal/Superintendent; Earth Science teachers; Nature articles in Enterprise; Hubbard County U of MN Extension Program Coordinator; DNR representatives

4. **Planning and facilitation:** while mainly for the Governor's fishing opener the process and facilitating the project is intended to be a learning resource for the Education Committee members, participants and advisors for future COLA programs. This may include: COLA window displays; monthly educational articles in the Enterprise; Website and Facebook site; Engagement with Realtors/Real estate closers to distribute Shoreland Guide and to seek additional members for the Education committee.

### **Manage Public Image Committee**

Strategic action #6

Larry Roberts

1. No Report

### **Membership Committee Report**

Strategic action #7

By Mary Ann Erpelding

1. Thank You notes were sent to all legal fund donors, who donated directly to COLA in 2012.
2. The COLA Committee Assignment sheet for all lake reps. has been updated.
3. All lake Association's dues are now due. We will be calling to remind the lake rep or Treasurer that their lake assoc. has not paid their dues as of Nov.1.

### **Finance Committee:**

Strategic action #8

By Lynn Goodrich

1. No report

### **Impact Political Action Committee**

Strategic action #9

By Chuck Diessner

1. No report

### **Civic Service Committee**

By Peter Tuomisto

1. No report

### **AIS Task Force Report**

By Ken Grob

#### **NEWS HIGHLIGHTS**

- **DNR released report** on list of new lakes that are infested with zebra mussels. Most of them are in Ottertail and Douglas counties and part of already infested watersheds. Email from Dan K. and K. Grob sent to all lake association Pres. Reps, and AIS Coordinators. Please review.
- **2013 AIS Prevention planning started...**County and COLA AIS Teams.
- **Lake Associations** must start planning for watercraft inspections for 2013 and start fund raising with associations and townships
- **Julie Kingsley** is the new SWCD District Manager to replace Mark Sommer. Great!!!

## 1. Hubbard County AIS Task Force Status

a. **Initial Planning session for 2013 held.** Lots more to do with Resorts, LSP's, wash station strategy, and watercraft inspections.

## 2. COLA AIS Committee

a. **Billboards, PSA's, Restaurant Placemats, Flyers, and AIS ID card**

**distribution is complete.** Need to complete report for DNR and start planning for 2103.

b. **2013 Goals set**

c. **Need to meet with AIS coordinators to energize actions for next year.**

## 3. LGU Watercraft Inspections

a. **Inspections complete for 2012.** SWCD (Melissa) is compiling the final report. It has been difficult because the PDA devices required by the DNR have not been easy to use. She is doing a great job and the reports will be excellent. About 5000 hours and over 7000 inspections were completed. Many (a surprising level) of watercraft came from zebra mussel infested lakes. Also surprising was the number that came from Ottertail and Douglas counties.

b. **Jeff Bjorkman is starting work on the 2013 LGU applications.** Strategy set. Lake Associations have started to fund raise and get commitments from townships. I partnered with Fish Hook/Portage members to present need and ask for support from Todd Township and the City of Park Rapids.

c. **County Commissioners** have not supported our request for an AIS Coordinator (\$35,000) in SWCD to oversee the program. Disappointing. Will continue to work on this request after the elections.

d. **ALL LAKE ASSOCIATIONS THAT INTEND TO PARTICIPATE MUST PROVIDE JEFF BJORKMAN AN ESTIMATE OF THE WATERCRAFT INSPECTION HOURS DESIRED FOR 2013 & START TO GET FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS FROM LAKE ASSOCIATION MEEMBERS AND TOWNSHIPS, IF NEEDED.**

## 4. Resort Folder Distribution

a. Project complete. Final report will be completed and submitted to DNR.

## 5. DNR AIS Video

a. A few copies still available. See Ken G. or Lynn Goodrich if you haven't received your copy

## 6. Awareness Presentations and Materials

- a. Awareness booth at Legislative Forum in Walker on September 28
- b. AIS presentation to NMF and McKnight Foundation Boards on Oct. 23. It was part of a HLRP review. Dan K. presented the HLRP report. Well received.

### **Governor's Fishing Opener**

By Larry Roberts

At the Education Committee meeting we discussed COLA's involvement in an education event held during the GFO (Governor's Fishing Opener). Our discussion included a variety of different activities for kids including such activities as birding, frogs, etc. and not just fishing activities.

Dan Kittilson attended the GFO meeting on October 17. The following information pertains to COLA's involvement in the fishing opener.

- √<sup>fi</sup> The Community Picnic will be held on Friday from approx. 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The picnic will be held in downtown Park Rapids on main street. This is where COLA will be able to have an exhibit displaying information about COLA and AIS. To qualify for an activity (exhibit) at the picnic, all participants need to provide at least 5 volunteers through out the GFO. Of course, we should be able to provide many more volunteers. This event will attract from 2000 to 2500 attendees.
- √<sup>fi</sup> During this event and throughout the GFO we are not allowed to sell anything. So we cannot sell the sponges.
- √<sup>fi</sup> Another potential activity for COLA would be to have a display in a storefront window. Apparently, there will be a number of windows available for this type of activity. We may also be able to continue this display during the summer if we are able to secure a storefront window that is not used during other times of the year, especially summer.
- √<sup>fi</sup> The kid's education event generally held at the GFO is a kid fishing event. This event is planned by MinnAqua and Nadine Meyer is the DNR leader for this event. She works with the school to plan the activities and this process also includes certain curriculum activities that Nadine works with the teacher before the actual event. This mainly a fishing event. They need volunteers and may be willing to include other types of activities that we discussed. But that is something that we would need to discuss with Nadine Meyer. Sounds to me like it is mainly a fishing event. Other partners might include Kinship, and school liaison and curriculum people.
- √<sup>fi</sup> Another part of this kids fishing event might include securing a sponsorship such as Reed's in Walker. At a previous GFO, Joe's Sporting Goods donated rods, reels and tackle for the kids fishing event at a cost of \$1600. In the budget, they also listed tackle boxes, poles, etc for \$7500. It is unclear if that money came from a sponsor or from the GFO budget.
- √<sup>fi</sup> Personnel from the DNR and Explore Minnesota usually attend the monthly meeting and the committee emphasized that a good time to meet with these people is during the day when they are here for the monthly meetings.
- √<sup>fi</sup> They also discussed the boat/fish house raffle and felt that Larry Roberts and Peter Young need more committee members to help with the ticket sales.
- √<sup>fi</sup> We also discussed having T-Shirts for COLA volunteers which would give us some recognition and they would know who we are.
- √<sup>fi</sup> There has been some discussion about selling tickets at various sport shows in neighboring states but GFO ticket sales cannot be sold outside of Minnesota.

Wayne Swanson has been in contact with Nadine Meyer and she will get back to him later this month. It sounds like this is mostly a fishing event and the DNR personnel would do most of the hands on work with the kids. However, they also sound open to other potential ideas.

I think it is critical that COLA have a representative at all the monthly meeting for the GFO. If Larry is not available, someone else will need to attend these meetings.

Dan