

HUBBARD COUNTY COALITION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS

Committee Reports and Announcements

April 25, 2013

www.minnesotawaters.org/group/hccola/welcome

hccolamn@gmail.com

LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

Strategic Actions 1, 2 and 3

By Dan Kittilson

1. Executive Committee

- a. COLA Secretary: We need a replacement for Julie Kingsley as Secretary of COLA. If you have an interest in this position and have the necessary skills for Secretary or know of someone who has those skills and are lakeshore property owners, please contact us at hccolamn@gmail.com
- b. Webmaster needed for Hubbard COLA Website: If you have an interest and the skills to work with COLA's website or know of someone that could fill this position, please contact us at hccolamn@gmail.com
- c. Heavenly Seven lakes responsible for June 27th social gathering include Big Mantrap, Duck, Potato and Twin Lakes. Each group is responsible for setting up the Northwood's Bank Community Room, providing and preparing the refreshments and treats, and doing the tear down and clean up after the meeting.
- d. Again, COLA is a major sponsor of the annual Children's Freshwater Festival, which is scheduled for May 8, 2013. COLA supports this event with many volunteers and with financial contributions. Has your lake association supported this worthwhile event in recent years? During the past 3 years, lake associations that have made financial contributions to the Freshwater Festival at least one or more years include Middle Crow Wing Lakes, Emma/Stocking/Bottle, 8/9 Crow Wing, Long, Bad Axe, Fish Hook, Portage, Eagle, Potato, Spider and Tripp Lake. If your lake association would like to make a contribution, your support would be greatly appreciated.
- e. Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs spring 2013 capstone course entitled "Lake Management Associations: Developing Sustainable Guidelines" formed in order to address issues faced by its client, the Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations in Minnesota. After conducting research and interviewing the Hubbard County COLA, students identified five areas in which to focus, including Public Image, Water Quality Engagement, Volunteering, Membership, and Leadership. In order to develop relevant recommendations to the client, students surveyed 44 members of the Hubbard County COLA followed by 290 lake residents using two separate online surveys. By utilizing research and survey information, recommendations that can be applied to both the Hubbard County COLA and individual lake associations were developed. Further information will be available soon when the Capstone Project is complete.

2. President's Report and Announcements

- a. Save the date – COLA will conduct its second annual "President's Round Table" on May 30, 2013 at the Northwood's Bank Community Room. If presidents are unable to attend, COLA encourages lake associations to send an alternate to the Round Table.

- b. Mark your calendar and save the date.....Attend the next COLA board meeting on June 27, 2013, social gathering at 6:30 p.m. and meeting at 7:00 p.m. The program for the June meeting will be a presentation on Hubbard County COLA and Minnesota Lake Associations: How to Improve Lake Association Sustainability by Professor Burney Fischer, Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs Capstone Class.
- c. Kudos to Lynn and Theora Goodrich for representing COLA in the Park Rapids Chili Challenge on March 6, 2013 and winning the top award money-wise with its AIS Chili (Awesome, Incredible, Stupendous). **Hubbard COLA members and friends of Theora and Lynn contributed \$1530 to the Hubbard County Food Shelf to win the "People Choice" award.** Thanks for your generous contributions to this great cause and the positive exposure for COLA.
- d. On April 5, 2013, Cass County sponsored a county-wide AIS meeting to initiate planning for an Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force. Stakeholders from throughout the County were invited to gain an understanding of the current condition of AIS in Cass County and discuss an opportunity to develop a countywide plan to help prevent the spread of AIS in Cass County lakes. Ken Grob and Dan Kittilson representing Hubbard COLA were invited to participate in this Cass County AIS meeting. We were especially excited to help Cass County shield there large lakes from AIS and consequently, help shield Hubbard County lakes from some of our greatest threats.

Again on April 8th Ken and Dan traveled to Walker for a follow-up meeting with the Leech Lake Association for further discussion on AIS and Hubbard COLA's Government Liaison committee work with the BOA. Our dialogue with the Leech Lake Association and Cass County has been very important for the protection of Hubbard County lakes. Leech Lake is the most common destination lake for boats leaving Lake Mille Lacs which is infested with Zebra Mussels and Spiny Waterfleas. Since the infestation of Zebra Mussels in Lake Winnie, Leech Lake is now Ground Zero for boats coming from Lake Winnie. If Leech Lake becomes infested with Zebra Mussels, the heavy boat traffic between Leech Lake and Hubbard County will put our lakes at even greater risk for a Zebra Mussel infestation.

- e. **What's happening on your lake?** Please provide updated contact information for your COLA reps, presidents and e-mail coordinators so we can keep our contact lists up-to-date. Lake associations are encouraged to send newsletters to John Hastings at johnhhastings@live.com and Dan Kittilson at drkittil@q.com
- f. Hubbard COLA's e-mail address: E-mails can be sent to hccolamn@gmail.com
Thanks to Larry and Barb Roberts for setting up COLA's email account.

Improve Internal Communications

Strategic Action #4

By Larry Roberts

1. Next project is to review website and determine what can be done to improve content and enhance overall communications internally and externally.
2. Will need replacement for Judy Novak, current website coordinator. She has decided it is time for someone else to take on the responsibility.
3. Reviewed IU Capstone student project draft regarding communications recommendations

for COLA. Much to be considered and where possible will plan on moving forward with implementing. (Also includes public image issues).

4. New member for Communications Committee, Jeff Mosner.

Lakeshore Education Committee

Strategic Action 5

By Co-Chairs: Sharon Natzel & Richard Sederstrom

Item 1:

On March 12, Dan K provided a **Call for Volunteers** for the Governor's Fishing Opener (GFO) and asked the Coalition of Lake Association Presidents & Representatives to provide to their email coordinators. The information is on the main page of the COLA website also making it easier for lake associations to add to their websites also. The volunteer application link for the GFO is http://www.parkrapids.com/cms/files/2013%20GFO%20Volunteer%20Application_web.pdf

There are over 30 volunteer positions for the "**COLA / DNR-related Activities**" at the Community Picnic in Downtown Park Rapids from 3:30 PM to 7:30 PM. These activities will be entertaining, engaging, and educational family-friendly activities. Some examples include Practice Casting, Knock Down Your Limit, Dragonfly Lifecycle, Would Your Drink This Water, Shoreland Buffer & Invertebrates, and placing AIS placemats on the tables at the community picnic tent and refreshing with new as picnickers complete their meal.

Shift One will be from 3:15 to 5:30 PM. This team trains 2nd shift in 15 minutes overlap. Shift Two will be from 5:15 to 7:30 PM. This team will need to have eaten prior to shift..

The Setup Team will be needed from 9 AM to 2 PM. Dan Kittilson and Ken Grob will lead the setup team along with the sponsor/provider of the tents / tables, Mark Tipler, Professional Angler, Tips Foundation.

A Cleanup Team is needed from 7:30 to 8:30 PM.

On the Volunteer Application in the "Other Section" - indicate your desire for a position in the "COLA / DNR-related Activities". There are over 30 positions.

The "Kids Fishing Event" volunteer needs have been filled with 5 COLA members from 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM at Northern Pines Camp to help the 4th graders bait hooks with worms, untangle lines, remove hooks from fish and release the fish, etc. The 5 volunteers are: Jeff Mosner, Al Kiecker, Larry Bexell, Wayne Swanson, & John Hastings

Item 2:

On April 1, Dan K provided a survey for the Coalition of Lake Association Presidents & Representatives to provide to their email coordinators to have their lake association membership select the top 3 potential UM Extension programs by 4/15. This information will be compiled by each lake association COLA Representative and provided on 4/25 to Sally Shearer, Program Coordinator - UM Extension - Hubbard County and the COLA Education team. Educational offerings will be determined based on the aggregated results.

Item 3:

Also on 4/25 Julie Kingsley will share the various grants that are available for shoreline work. Plus helpful websites from the University of Minnesota Extension will be shared.

Manage Public Image Committee

Strategic action #6

Larry Roberts

1. COLA brochure being developed for fund raising information for the public. Should be finished with help from Lynn Goodrich in time for GFO distribution.
2. Wild rice sales slowed down over winter; John ordered new supply. Will need to develop sales strategy further for coming year.
3. Need to start monthly newspaper articles to improve COLA image.

Membership Committee Report

Strategic action #7

By Mary Ann Erpelding

1. No report.

Finance Committee:

Strategic action #8

By Lynn Goodrich

1. No written report.

Impact Political Action Committee

Strategic action #9

By Chuck Diessner

1. IPA is looking for people that are interested in joining the committee. Please contact Chuck Diessner to learn more.
2. Chuck Diessner, Dan Kittilson, Ken Grob and SWCD are working with Rep. Roger Erickson to obtain funding for SWCD's AIS/ZM Program (purchase, training, operation and maintenance of decontamination units; watercraft inspections; and administrations expenses). We are also working with the County Board. To date the House Legacy Committee has approved HF #207 which provides that SWCD is granted \$200,000 for FY 2014 and part of \$200,000 for FY2015 with Beltrami County with the FY 2015 allocation to be determined by the DNR. The the bill will now go before the House as part of the Omnibus Legacy HF 1183. That bill and SWCD's funding is opposed by the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) and a number of conservation groups that have received Outdoor Heritage Funding (OHF) because SWCD's funding along with other funding in the bill did not follow the LSOHC process and was not recommended by the LSOHC.
3. Please support funding SWCD by notifying your Rep and Sen. In response to future notices. Your emails to your Rep and Sen are critical to the passage of funding for SWCD. Go to MN Legislature 2013 and you can get the names of your Rep and Sen and their direct email. A suggested email to them will be provided.

Civic Service Committee

By Peter Tuomisto

1. Children's Freshwater Festival May 8. Volunteers and contributions needed. Please contact Melissa Koebernick at Melissa.Koebernick@mn.nacdnet.net. Contributions can be sent to Hubbard COLA at PO Box 746 Park Rapids, MN 56470 with Children's Freshwater Festival in the memo line.
2. Restore the Shore orders for 2013 will be coming into the Fairgrounds on May 2 to be

repackaged. Volunteers are needed to facilitate this. Please contact the new Restore the Shore Coordinator, Theora Goodrich, tdgoodrich@mac.com, if you can help. Orders will be available to pick up at the Fairgrounds between 3:00 and 5:00 pm.

3. Veliger Water Testing will be done again in July and August. It is normally done on the same weekend as the Water Monitoring so the samples can be sent to RMB Labs at the same time as the water samples. Please contact Peter Tuomisto ptuomisto@rescol.com cell 612-597-1386 if you are interested again to do this (Blue, Potato, Eagle, Big Sand, Little Sand, and Long Lakes from 2012 as well as SWCD tested lakes Spider, Ojibwa, Middle, East, and West Crooked) and also let me know if you want to participate for the first time. For those that have contacted Pete by May 1, the Veliger supplies will be available on May 15th at the Water Monitoring session at the courthouse. Cost for the net is \$200 for the net and \$90 for the sample; see handout at April 25th Cola meeting. Only one sample test per date is necessary. Cinder blocks will again be available (to hang on the side of the dock) at the June COLA meeting.
4. Hydro Lab. SWCD will again have the Hydro Lab available for those interested lakes in 2013. This is for monitoring the dissolved oxygen and the water temperature in your lake. Please contact Julie Kingsley with SWCD if interested. Julie.Kingsley@mn.nacdnet.net
5. Water monitoring kits will be handed out on May 15th at the Courthouse Training at 7:00 pm. Water monitoring registration form will be available if needed. Sampling dates are May 19 or 20, June 16 or 17, July 14 or 15, Aug. 18 or 19, Sept. 15 or 16.

AIS Task Force Report

Strategic Action #10_

By Ken Grob

1. Watercraft Inspections (LGU Contract Grant)—

(Julie Kingsley/Nate Sitz can update this report at meeting)

- ⌚ LGU Watercraft Inspection Grant received. Nate Sitz hired as AIS Coordinator. Hiring process for about 20 inspectors (full and part-time) has started. Expect 6 re-hires from 2012.
- ⌚ Training Schedule: Volunteer Training Sessions are April 20 -Detroit lakes; April 27-Bemidji; June 8-Lake George Area. All sessions are 9-12 a.m. Level 1 Training conducted on April 20 in Park Rapids. Level 2 Training in Little Falls in early May.
- ⌚ CW Chain and Farden Twp lakes are not represented in inspection program (See notes below on CW Chain). Ken to meet with Helga and Rockwood Twp Chairman and Lin Ward (Plantagenet Lake Association President) on April 23 to discuss higher level of participation and funding.
- ⌚ Funding support for 2013/2014 was very successful. In addition to continued funding from townships/cities who participated in 2012, new participants are Lakeport, Thorpe, City of Park Rapids, and Todd for 2013/2014. Hubbard County has contributed \$35,000 for 2013. Thirteen lakes (16 launch sites) are covered for 2013.

2. Watercraft Wash/Decontamination Station

- ⌚ Good news on this front. Nate Sitz and one other inspector will be trained as level 2 inspectors
- ⌚ Johnson-On-the-Water in Dorset is willing to have equipment placed at their facility. Weekend coverage and cost still to be worked out.

- ⌚ Equipment Spec/Type with input from DNR has been determined.
- ⌚ Need some more work to clearly understand DNR rules and requirements.
- ⌚ This is a start and a pilot for future stations; Still have to work out communication plan for public and inspectors.

3. **Other Initiatives**

- ⌚ Lake Zebra Mussel monitoring – See Peter Tuomisto’s Civic Service Report
- ⌚ 2013/2014 Public Awareness Grant...RFP expected by end of April. Plan to submit request for Resort folder materials, signage, and radio public service announcements.
- ⌚ County-Wide AIS Rapid Response Plan...this is a County Task Force Initiative.
- ⌚ Sustainable Funding...Lots of action in State Legislature...Outdoor Heritage Fund and other legislation. Chuck Diessner & Dan Kittilson to provide update at meeting.
- ⌚ Increase Resort/Campground participation to inspect of guest’s watercraft.
- ⌚ GFO AIS Publicity...Lots of initiatives..See Sharon Natzel’s Education Report
- ⌚ Nurture Leech Lake Association and Beltrami LARA. See Dan Kittilson’s President’s Report. Ken to present at Beltrami LARA in May.
- ⌚ State AIS Advisory Committee – Verbal update at COLA meeting.

4. **CW Chain Participation in AIS Monitoring and Watercraft Inspections**

- ⌚ Plan presentation at 10th/11th CW Lake Association semi-annual meeting May 18 (or 25th). Will invite City of Akeley Mayor, CW Chain resort owners, and other CW Chain AIS Coordinators and Lake Association leaders to presentation.

Governor’s Fishing Opener

By Larry Roberts

1. No written report