

HUBBARD COUNTY COALITION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS

Committee Reports and Announcements

June 27, 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. The program for the June COLA meeting will be a presentation of the Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs Master's Capstone Class report to the Hubbard County COLA and Lake Associations "Guidelines for Sustainable Lake Associations and Coalitions of Lake Associations: Research and Recommendations" by Professor Burney Fischer. A short question and answer period will follow the presentation. **All COLA Reps, Lake Presidents and COLA Committee members are encouraged to attend our June 27th COLA meeting to learn about the Indiana University, Capstone Project.** Each COLA Committee is to review the report and develop a summary of findings and recommendations for the July 25, 2013 COLA meeting.
- b. 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
- c. The executive committee has approved the development of a new website for Hubbard COLA. Jeff Mosner, our new web administrator, has begun the process of building our new website. Jeff will discuss the hosting of Hubbard COLA's website at our June COLA meeting and the executive committee will propose that the new website be ratified by the COLA Board of Directors.
- d. Heavenly Seven lakes responsible for July 25th social gathering include 10/11 Crow Wing, Belle Taine, Ham and Little Sand. 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. **Until COLA has a Secretary, the Heavenly Seven Lakes are responsible for taking minutes at the COLA meeting.**
- e. 2013 Water Testing Billing – The RMB lab cost is \$210/lake so COLA encourages each lake to pay the full amount (\$210), but recognize that this amount stretches the budget of some of the smaller lakes. Lake associations with limited resources must pay the minimum amount of \$155 per lake tested but we encourage larger lakes to pay the full amount. As in the past, we will invoice lake associations directly for the water quality monitoring in June. Thanks for your continued participation in this important activity.

2. President's Report and Announcements

- a. COLA held its second annual "President's Round Table" on May 30, 2013. The Round Table was well attended with 13 presidents or their representative attending. Lakes represented included Big Mantrap, Long, Ham, Peysenke, Potato, Stony, Tripp, Belle Taine, Gilmore, Palmer, Little Sand, Fish Hook and Bad Axe. The top three priorities identified for lake associations in 2013 included Aquatic Invasive Species, Water Quality Issues and Building Membership.

- b. Mark your calendar and save the date.....Attend the next COLA board meeting on July 25, 2013, social gathering at 6:30 p.m. and meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- c. COLA is still accepting donations for the 2013 Children's Freshwater Festival. **Funding for this event is currently at a deficit of \$255.81.** If your lake association would like to make a contribution, please send checks to Hubbard COLA at P.O. Box 746, Park Rapids, MN 56470. Make checks payable to Hubbard COLA and write Children's Freshwater Festival in the memo line.
- d. **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
- e. 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. Jeff Mosner is the new website manager replacing Judy Novak, who retired from the position.
2. Jeff, Dan Kittilson and I met to review existing website and discussed recommendations for improvements.
3. New website under construction. You can see the preliminary work at:
www.hubbardcolamn.org

Lakeshore Education Committee

Strategic Action 5

By Co-Chairs: Sharon Natzel & Richard Sederstrom

Item 1:

On Friday, June 14, the COLA Lakeshore Education team met with Sally Shearer, UM Extension Program Coordinator for Hubbard County and Eleanor Burkett, UM regarding a potential shoreline restoration program with hands-on this summer. The Shorelands topic received the highest amount of interest in the survey this past spring from the 55 COLA respondents, followed by Aquatics & Groundwater. Septic Systems, Watershed & Stormwater were the next runners-up. We will communicate specific date / details on as soon as they are firmed up and available for a shoreline restoration educational program yet this summer.

Item 2:

On Tuesday, June 18, the Kabekona Lake Association offered a Wildflower Seminar at the Laporte School community room. This program was generously made available to other Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations members also and communicated on the COLA website and in email to Presidents / Reps by Dan K. Steve Hall of Shoreline Creations and Sally Shearer, UM Extension Program Coordinator for Hubbard County collaborated on the presentations / materials. Shoreland Restoration information was also shared. The hands-on portion with planting seeds & plants, related to the County 37 paving project will be held at a later date and will be communicated to 6/18 participants. .

Item 3:

Steve Hall, Shoreline Creations will share information on Shoreland Restoration at an upcoming summer COLA monthly meeting. Dan K & Steve H determining timing.

Manage Public Image Committee

Strategic action #6

By Larry Roberts

1. Reviewing recommendations from Capstone study regarding public image.
2. Communications committee will begin working on action plan.

Membership Committee Report

Strategic action #7

By Hillary Stoltz

1. **New COLA Representatives, Presidents, and Email Coordinators from ALL lake associations** should contact Deb Rogers in order to update these lists. Please include first and last names, address (City, State and Zip Code), email addresses, phone numbers and Lake. These may be sent by email to BeeRog804@aol.com or by phone (218)732-3357.
2. New COLA representatives should ask previous rep from their lake for the **COLA Handbook**. Anyone in need of a new Handbook should contact Deb Rogers prior to the next meeting.
3. **SAVE THIS DATE** – Wednesday, September 11th will be the Annual Social Event at Zorbaz. (psst...If you have any logo wear from Zorbaz, remember to wear it so you get the Wednesday discounts).

New Membership Committee Chairperson is Hillary Stoltz. Feel free to share any ideas regarding Membership that you may have by emailing them to hillbob@arvig.net

This season's projects include:

- a. Assignment of all COLA Reps to an appropriate committee in need of additional members.
- b. Creation of a COLA logo/message bookmark that can be distributed by COLA and for free by area retailers.
- c. Create a guide with ideas that can be used by Lake Associations to increase membership.
- d. Continue to send Thank You notes for personal contributions and remind the Lake Associations that have not sent in their dues that November 1 is the last date for their full payments.

Finance Committee:

Strategic action #8

By Lynn Goodrich

1. **COLA's Wild Rice Project** – Support COLA's wild rice sale and order wild rice, gift boxes and pottery at your lake association meetings. Order forms for wild rice and accessories are available on the COLA website.
2. **COLA's Sponge Project** – HC COLA has assembled a sponge kit for you to inform and assist you in gaining your commitment to do your part in preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species in Minnesota's waters. HC COLA requests a donation of \$5.00 or more to our Hubbard COLA Project Fund. Please mail checks to: Hubbard County COLA, PO Box 746, Park Rapids, MN 56470. Use this sponge to CLEAN, DRAIN, AND DRY YOUR BOAT.
3. **"For the Sake of our Lakes"** - HC COLA needs your "valuable treasures & leftovers" and your "special talents". Special hand made items (i.e. Clocks, artwork, crafts), sporting

equipment (i.e. rods and reels, decoys or ?), gift certificates (i.e. tutoring, training, fishing guide trips) and more. Donate items and your talents in order to raise funds to ensure HC COLA's "Good Works" in protecting our lakes and rivers. These items will be featured at a fund raising event later this year. Contact Lynn Goodrich or Dan Kittilson with your ideas and items.

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, Bill Cowman, Ed Mutsch or Janine Weideman to learn more.
2. The Board of Adjustments continues to grant most of the after-the-fact variances and other variances that in a number of cases do not comply with the law in the IPA's opinion and in some cases also in Eric's opinion. In addition when such variance is approved the BOA typically does not impose mitigation requirements such as shoreline buffers, no mow areas, planting of trees and shrubs, gutters, etc.
3. JUNE 24TH LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FOR AIS AND SHORELAND RULES

A. The Governor's line item veto part of the Legacy Funding eliminated about (i) \$60M for FY 2014 and 2015 from the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage funding for new metro area projects and (ii) for \$6.6M for management, education, research and prevention of the spread of AIS and \$1.0M in each of those years for grants to LGUs to prevent the spread of AIS. Neither of these funding requests went through the LSOHC process. Governor Dayton said in vetoing these funding programs that they needed to go through the LSOHC process and that the legislature needed to follow the recommendations of the LSOHC. The governor's requirement that the legislature must fund only the projects recommended is not what the law require The law provides that the LSOHC can only provide recommendations of the projects to be funded and the legislature is the body that makes the ultimate decision on what projects are approved. The attached Tribune editorial provides a very good analysis of the Governor's veto.

B. BILLS THAT Died

HF 1183—the language of the Omnibus Legacy Bill that provided funding to Beltrami and Hubbard County SWCD for AIS programs was eliminated from the bill by the conference committee

HF 1022--Watercraft Surcharge provides for an increase in the \$5 watercraft license surcharge to \$10, \$20 and \$25 depending on the type/size of watercraft.

HF 1442--AIS Decal provides for an annual decal on all in-state and out-state watercraft ranging from \$5-\$20. Reduced fee for multiple watercraft. Proceeds to control and prevent spread of AIS with a portion allocated to LGUs.

HF 1277--Shoreland Ordinance Incentive Grants provides for \$100,000 grants to LGUs that have adopted advanced shoreland protection measures.

HF 990--Green Lake AIS Inspections and Decontamination provides Green Lake \$100,000 for inspection/decontamination and requires a non-state match.

HF 1265--Decontaminate changes the definition to require using the most recent recommended protocols and standards for inspections in western US.

SF 889--Rulemaking Authority authorizes the DNR to adopt shoreland rules using historical work.

HF – means House File

SF – means Senate File

Civic Service Committee

By Peter Tuomisto

1. For Restore the Shore order forms for 2014 please contact the new Restore the Shore Coordinator, Theora Goodrich, tdgoodrich@mac.com. Otherwise, the forms will be available at the **June 27th** COLA meeting.
2. Veliger Water Testing will be done again in July and August. It is normally done on the same weekend as the Water Monitoring (**July 14** and **August 18**) 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 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 are doing it again in 2013) and also let me know if you want to participate for the first time. Cost for the net is \$200 and \$90 for the sample. 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.
3. 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
4. Continue to do your Water monitoring. Sampling dates are **May 19** or 20, **June 16** or 17, **July 14** or 15, **Aug. 18** or 19, Sept. 15 or 16. Get them into Charlies Marine on **Monday** following the test date by 1:30 p.m.

AIS Task Force Report

Strategic Action #10_

By Ken Grob

1. County-wide watercraft inspection program is progressing very well. Julie Kingsley's leadership and Nate Sitz's management of the inspectors has brought the program to a new level. Almost 6500 hours are committed (a 40% expansion over 2012). Program has expanded to 19 lakes, with financial support from 11 townships and three cities in the County. Julie and Nate will be providing a detailed update at COLA meeting.
2. Hubbard County contributed \$35,000 to the program in 2012. With this support, we exceeded our 2013 goal of a 50/50 match of funding between lake associations and government. Great progress and support from all. With the addition of Plantagenet and 11th Crow Wing Lake, we now have a watercraft inspection initiative on every major watershed and major lake in the county. Each of the lakes has some support from a surrounding township or city. Please note article in Enterprise of Saturday June 15.
3. A decontamination station has been installed in Dorset at Johnson-On-the-Waters Marine Dealer facility. SWCD will publicize in Enterprise and provide direct communications to resorts on process for use. Four watercraft inspectors are certified at Level 2 (certified to operate system). **To schedule a boat for decontamination, call 218-252-3701.**

4. County AIS Task Force has started work on a County-wide AIS Rapid Response Plan. This plan will outline specific containment actions if a lake becomes infested. Bob Berdahl is leading the project.
5. Unfortunately the DNR did not issue RFP's for public awareness grants in 2013. We have cut back on our public awareness programs. COLA must fully fund any initiatives. We are still supporting billboards (at a reduced level) and local radio ads. We still intend to provide information packages to resorts, but will use "lower" quality materials.
6. GFO booth with AIS materials was well received. Our placemats were used everywhere at all the major meals. Great exposure. Every COLA member should be proud of the contributions made to the success of the GFO.

Governor's Fishing Opener

By Larry Roberts

Final reports are all in. Park Rapids set a number of firsts for fishing openers:

1. Largest raffle package in GFO history
2. First to sell 10,000 raffle tickets
3. First to have a three day event
4. First to ice on fishing opener
5. Best community picnic ever
6. Largest number of volunteers for the event

COLA members involved: 14 confirmed, but more were seen helping

COLA hours committed: 704 by my count.

Job well done. Thanks to everyone who helped with raffle ticket sales, youth education program, fishing hosts, packaging gift bags, community picnic, COLA display downtown.

Dayton's misguided Legacy funds veto

• Governor sided with special interests that opposed legislative input.

Minnesota elected officials entering office swear to uphold the state and federal Constitutions. They do not take an oath of allegiance to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, an advisory panel of 12 appointees who make recommendations to the Legislature each year on how to spend about \$90 million in Legacy Amendment sales tax dollars.

This basic but critical fact bears noting in the aftermath of a bitter legislative battle that erupted this spring when Minnesota House lawmakers drew the ire of outdoors special-interest groups for not blindly approving the council's approved list of projects.

(The money for which the council makes recommendations flows from the 2008 Legacy Amendment sales tax increase dedicated to the arts, parks and trails, habitat, and clean water. The Outdoor Heritage Council recommends projects eligible for some of this funding, but the Legislature still must approve spending for these initiatives.)

Lawmakers didn't reject any of the council's chosen projects — an important point that got lost in the debate. What lawmakers did do was exercise their authority to make a tweak. They added funding for two relatively small initiatives — about \$9 million for metro park improvements and additional aquatic invasive species safeguards.

The objections that followed were less about the projects' merits than about maintaining the myth that only the Outdoor Heritage Council's members are worthy and pure enough to allocate

the money. Preserving a funding process that has worked well for many outdoors groups, who have projects funded through the council, was also a motivation.

“This is not an issue of the availability of funds. This is an issue of control and power and perceived ‘authority’ of a group which is only authorized to make recommendations,” wrote former Minnesota Vikings great Paul Krause, now a Dakota County commissioner, in a letter sent to Gov. Mark Dayton.

In advocating for the two legislative projects, Krause was at odds with former Vikings head coach Bud Grant, who was a high-profile critic of perceived legislative meddling with the council’s recommendations. Other groups that publicly objected to the two projects: Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, the Nature Conservancy, Minnesota Outdoor Heritage Alliance and the Minnesota Shooting Sports Association.

Rather than respecting the legislative process and the state Constitution, which places the power of appropriation not in the hands of unelected officials but with lawmakers accountable to voters, Dayton regrettably caved to these special interests.

The governor recently signed the legislation funding all of the council-approved projects. But after video recently resurfaced of a campaign statement about fighting anything that might “usurp” the council’s authority, Dayton line-item vetoed the two new projects sought by legislators.

How exactly the legislation “usurps” the council’s authority is unclear. Had lawmakers rejected the council’s recommendations, that objection would have been more understandable. But lawmakers didn’t subtract from the council’s list — they added two projects.

Dayton’s veto of the aquatic invasive species safeguards is even more puzzling given the admirable priority his administration has placed on fighting Asian carp and other invasives that threaten Minnesota’s treasured waters.

The headlines accompanying Day-ton’s veto correctly said that he had sided with the council in the high-profile dispute. With the governor facing re-election in 2014, it’s easy to see the benefits of his taking a politically expedient course of action popular with powerful special interests.

But the public should be alarmed by the disturbing message the governor’s veto sent: that elected lawmakers should merely rubber stamp the spending recommendations made by the small, appointed Outdoor Heritage Council.

The council does good work and has dedicated, conscientious members. Nevertheless, it is not infallible. At Tuesday’s council meeting, some members expressed concern that they hadn’t given the metro parks proposal, which the governor vetoed after legislators sought it, enough scrutiny before rejecting it for funding when the project previously came before the panel.

The legislative process, while imperfect, is the most transparent way to allocate taxpayer money and plays a critical checks-and-balance role in ensuring accountability for Legacy dollars. Lawmakers’ input should be respected, not sidestepped or denigrated.

GOVERNOR’S VETO LETTER To read Gov. Mark Dayton’s letter explaining his line-item vetoes of two items on the Legacy bill, go to www.startribune.com/a2299.