

# HUBBARD COUNTY COALITION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS

Committee Reports and Announcements

September 26, 2013

[www.hubbardcolamn.org](http://www.hubbardcolamn.org)

## LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

Strategic Actions 1, 2 and 3

By Dan Kittilson

### 1. **Executive Committee**

- a. Several additional lake associations will be reporting on their review of the findings and recommendations of the IU Capstone project and any action items that they have selected to implement. **All COLA Reps, Lake Presidents and COLA Committee members are encouraged to attend our September/October COLA meetings to learn more about the Indiana University, Capstone Project.** Further committee updates will also be shared at our September meeting.
- b. **COLA is in need of a Treasurer and Secretary.** If you have an interest in one of these positions and have the necessary skills for Treasurer and/or Secretary or know of someone who has those skills and are lakeshore property owners, please contact us at [hccolamn@gmail.com](mailto:hccolamn@gmail.com)
- c. Check out the new website at [www.hubbardcolamn.org](http://www.hubbardcolamn.org) and click on the COLA Blog to comment on the website.
- d. Heavenly Seven lakes responsible for the October 31<sup>st</sup> COLA meeting social gathering include **Blue, Fish Hook, Gilmore, Hinds, Lower Crow Wing and Palmer.** 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. You also need to pick up the key at the Bank a day or two before the COLA meeting. **Until COLA has a Secretary, the Heavenly Seven Lakes are responsible for taking minutes at the COLA meeting.**
- e. COLA featured in 2014 Park Rapids Lakes Area Discovery Guide. COLA's participation in the Discovery Guide helps us get our message out to tourists that come to the Park Rapids Lakes area to vacation and enjoy our clean lakes. It fits with our public relations strategy by giving us a vehicle for sharing our values, expands our partnering with local businesses in supporting the Park Rapids area and affirms our commitment to work together with others to protect our lakes.
- f. **COLA partners with the Stony Lake Beavers 4-H Club in Nevis** to provide financial support for the 4-H Club to place a sign announcing that the 4-H Club maintains and cleans the public beach on the north side of Stony Lake. **Watch for information in the area newspapers about our partnership with the 4-H Club.**

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

- a. Mark your calendar and save the date.....Attend the next COLA board meeting on October 31, 2013, social gathering at 6:30 p.m. and meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Northwood's Bank Community Room.
- b. Fostering Citizen Leadership in our watersheds workshop series. This workshop series will involve participants from five watersheds including Crow Wing, Pine, Long Prairie, Redeye and Leech Lake. Participants representing the Crow Wing

River Watershed – Hubbard County include Hillary Stoltz, Wayne Swanson, Melissa Koebernick and Dan Kittilson.

- c. The UM Central Regional Sustainable Development Partnership (CRSDP) has invited Hubbard COLA to join their natural resources work group. Supporting the protection of the natural resources in Central Minnesota is the goal of the natural resources work group. Their vision is to further natural resources protection through promoting inclusive communication, fostering healthy relationships, furthering innovative ideas, capitalizing on opportunities and affecting change.

CRSDP invitation to Hubbard COLA states.....”To help make this vision a reality, we need informed, connected, committed work groups members, which is why we are asking the Hubbard COLA to consider having a representative serve as a member of the CRSDP natural resources work group. Because of your respected work in the region, we believe that Hubbard COLA would be a valuable addition to the work group and the Central Partnership’s efforts. Currently, the natural resources work group consists of representatives from Crow Wing LARA, Pine River Watershed Alliance, Nature Conservancy, Initiative Foundation, Mn DNR, Otter Tail COLA, UM Water Resources Center, University of Minnesota Extension Water Resources faculty and CRSDP board members.”

- d. COLA Reps that are unable to attend our COLA meetings are reminded that if you would like to participate in our COLA meetings via conference calling please notify me so we can make arrangements to offer teleconferencing during the COLA meetings.
- 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](mailto:johnhhastings@live.com) and Dan Kittilson at [drkittil@q.com](mailto:drkittil@q.com)
- f. Hubbard COLA’s e-mail address: Correspondence and questions can be sent to [hccolamn@gmail.com](mailto:hccolamn@gmail.com)

### **Improve Internal Communications**

Strategic Action #4

By Larry Roberts

- 1. The COLA VP’s met with Peter Pierson, a seasonal resident on Big Sand Lake and Freelance Writer / Communications Graduate Fellow-Prescott College. Peter has agreed to serve as an advisor/consultant to Hubbard COLA and provide assistance with COLA’s Communication, Public Relations and Education strategies. We will provide a brief summary of our meeting with Peter during the Capstone reports at the September 26<sup>th</sup> COLA meeting.

### **Lakeshore Education Committee**

Strategic Action 5

By Sharon Natzel

The University of MN Extension will offer a complimentary program entitled Septic System Care: Septic System Howmeowner Operation and Maintenance Education. This course will be held on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> from 9 to 10:30 AM at the Northwoods Bank Community Room. Sally Shearer, Program Coordinator, suggested you call 218-732-3391 UMN Ext to register in advance . This program will be advertised in the Park Rapids Enterprise and there is also info on the HC COLA website. Please let your lake association members know about this opportunity.

This was a topic area that 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the respondents to our Spring 2013 UMN Extension educational needs survey indicated interest in. The Septic System Care topic is also related to the Watershed topic area.

Began exploration of the 4-H Program water-related offerings & other potential opportunities with Mari Jo Lohmeier, 4-H Program Coordinator for University of Minnesota Extension in August. In September the Education Team developed a list of topic areas that would be possible to offer theoretically. We asked Mari Jo for feedback on the ideas. Mari Jo is determining if there will be a Hands On Day on Presidents Day 2/17/2014 – keep your calendar free for the day so you can join in the fun! **Also – for discussion at today’s meeting – are the HC COLA reps OK with us offering COLA volunteers to help / coaching on water-related topic areas to the 4-H Leaders in case they have kid(s) that are interested.**

Peter Pierson, Freelance Writer / Communications Graduate Fellow-Prescott College met with Dan / VP team members in Sept. More to follow related to HC COLA Education team - TBD.

As a result of the Capstone Study, some lake associations have expressed an interest in getting started with websites. The HC COLA Education Team has arranged to have coaches available for getting started with the free software Google Blogger 9/24 PM for websites similar to Long Lake Area Association at [www.longlakeliving.org](http://www.longlakeliving.org). The COLA Education Team is willing to schedule additional coaching sessions on different website software depending on interest by lake association website teams, so please let Sharon know. For example, Deb Rogers, Duck Lake is willing to share what she's learned using the free software Google Sites for their website <https://sites.google.com/site/ducklakeassociation/>. Jeff Mosner, who created our new Hubbard County COLA website using the iPage software, volunteered to help others get started too when he demonstrated the new website at the August meeting <http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/>. The iPage software could be especially helpful if your lake association plans to sell items.

Wayne Swanson, COLA Education team member provided the following information on Paul Bunyan Communications [www.paulbunyan.net](http://www.paulbunyan.net). They do web hosting for \$100 a year for non-profits. They charge \$75 an hour to put sites together and have local tech support. See their site for non-profit site examples that they host. Contact them directly if your lake assoc is interested.

### **Manage Public Image Committee**

Strategic action #6

By Larry Roberts

1. Refer to Capstone Report at September 26<sup>th</sup> COLA meeting.

### **Membership Committee Report**

Strategic action #7

By Hillary Stoltz

1. COLA REPORT:
  - a. Twenty-three (23) Lake Associations were represented by the 38 attendees at the August 29<sup>th</sup> COLA Meeting. Also present were Doug Kingsley from DNR Fisheries, Julie Kingsley and Nate Sitz from Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District. Marshall Howe is the new representative from Little Sand Lake...Welcome!
  - b. New representatives and newly elected Presidents need to inform Deb Rogers, [beerog804@aol.com](mailto:beerog804@aol.com), so they can be added to the COLA Master Lists, have name

badges made up, and obtain their Handbooks (if the previous representative did not pass theirs on to the new representative).

The pages for the Representative Handbooks will be available on the COLA Website so reps can print their own up-to-date pages. In the event Reps need help in doing this, there will be assistance from the Membership Committee

- c. The Social Gathering on September 11, 2013 at Zorbas proved to be a delightful time for the more than twenty-two members with their friends and spouses.
2. COLA Committees
  - a. Assignment of COLA Members and New Representatives shall be an ongoing effort of the Membership Committee. NEW REPRESENTATIVE SHOULD NOTIFY MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBER OF THEIR PREFERENCES, AREAS OF INTEREST AND/OR EXPERTISE.
3. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE “CAPSTONE STUDY” PROJECTS
  - a. **Action Plan Project:** The attractive and useful Bookmarks that recognize “COLA” and “Local Volunteerism” are available for distribution to all Lake Association Members and the Park Rapid area book stores. COLA’s website is printed on the bookmarks to make access convenient. Contact a Membership Committee member if you would like to distribute Bookmarks to your Association Membership.

### **Finance Committee:**

Strategic action #8

By Lynn Goodrich

1. **2014 COLA budget**
  - a. The finance committee is working on the 2014 budget. We hope to have it ready to present at the October meeting.
  - b. To complete the budget we need all standing committees to present a budget request ASAP. Deadline is October 1, 2013. Please email to Dan Kittleson or Lynn Goodrich ([tripplake1@mac.com](mailto:tripplake1@mac.com)).
2. **Spring “Back to the Lakes” get-together/fundraiser**
  - a. Planning for the “spring” get-together is underway. We are looking for donations of goods and services to sell/auction at our season opener next year. If you have items or ideas please contact Lynn.
3. **The holiday season is fast approaching**
  - a. The COLA “Wild Rice and Pottery” fundraiser continues. Please consider these wonderful items whether as a Holiday season gift or as a special something when visiting friends. Remember the proceeds benefit COLA in their efforts to sustain our wonderful lakes and rivers here in Hubbard County.

### **Impact Political Action Committee**

Strategic action #9

By Chuck Diessner

NO REPORT

### **Civic Service Committee**

By Peter Tuomisto

1. Veliger Testing Clean results so far in those lakes being tested.
2. Water Monitoring We will need a new Water Monitoring Chair next year to replace Jerry Knoblich. It helps to have a pick up with a topper to transport the samples and

collectors. Thank you Jerry for your years of service. Please contact me if you are interested.

**Thank you for your volunteer efforts in the testing and monitoring.**

### **AIS Task Force Report**

Strategic Action #10

By Ken Grob

1. County-wide watercraft inspection program continues to progress well for the summer. Inspections winding down. We are continuing to line up more inspection support for 2014. Presentations made to the Association of Hubbard County Townships on 9/16, County Commissioners on 9/3, and Frohn Township on 9/17(Beltrami County-Grace Lake). See Julie Kingsley's report for all the details on watercraft inspection results.
2. Almost all the Resort information folders have been distributed for this year, with a small survey on what the resort owners can do to help prevent AIS. Some Survey forms still need to be returned to Ken Grob so results can be summarized.
3. Work to develop a County-wide AIS Rapid Response Plan continues. Bob Berdahl is leading this project. Targeting end of year to have it completed.
4. I attended the presentation of the Cass County AIS Plan. Well done with lots of stakeholders involved. We hope to codify our Hubbard County Plan in a similar format before next spring.
5. I attended the Legacy Committee presentations on AIS funding requests. MN COLA Collaborative presentation was very professional and well done. Funds requested for LGU funding for inspections and decontamination stations was well thought out. Price tag too high (\$25MM). Waiting for Legacy Committee to publicize decisions of 2014 funding.
6. I attended a lecture by Dr. Dan Molloy (the inventor of Zequanox) who is one of the candidates for the Zebra Mussel Research position at the UM AIS Research center. His ideas on zebra mussel control were very impressive.....but the horizon for a solution is 5-10 years, depending on funding levels.
7. I intend to hold COLA AIS Committee and County Task Force Meetings in October to review 2013 results and set objectives for 2014.
8. LAKE ASSOCIATIONS NEED TO START PLANNING WATERCRAFT INSPECTION LEVELS FOR 2014. Actions needed:
  - √<sup>1</sup> Lake associations need to decide/commit to the level of inspections they want in 2014. This should be done by November.
  - √<sup>1</sup> Obtain commitments from lake residents (lake association) for 2014 financial support level
  - √<sup>1</sup> Contact their Townships/Cities to indicate what is needed for support in 2014 (same as 2013 or more)
  - √<sup>1</sup> Attend township annual meeting in March to confirm support