

HUBBARD COUNTY COALITION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS

Committee Reports and Announcements

February 6, 2014

www.hubbardcolamn.org

LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

Strategic Actions 1, 2 and 3

By Dan Kittilson

1. **Executive Committee**

- a. **Capstone Project Update** – In the spring of 2013, a master's capstone class at Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs undertook a project to analyze the sustainability of both Hubbard COLA and individual lake associations. As a result of this study, Burney Fischer, (et al.) are preparing an article on the Capstone Project findings for submission to the Lake Line Magazine, a publication of the North American Lake Management Society. If this article is published in the Lake Line Magazine, COLA has discussed utilizing Burney's article in conjunction with the distribution of the Capstone Report to other local and state-wide groups.
- b. **\$\$\$ ## ++ - AaBbCc; Times New Roman/Calibri; H2O**
 - i. What does all this stuff mean? COLA needs you, a lakeshore steward, to volunteer to be either our Treasurer or Secretary! These are prestigious jobs working to protect our lakes with passionate, dedicated people. If you have an interest in being our Treasurer and/or Secretary or know of someone who has those skills and are lakeshore property owners, please contact us at hccolamn@gmail.com
 - ii. Jerry Knoblich has done a great job for many years as COLA's Water Monitoring Coordinator. Jerry has decided to retire from this position so we need someone to replace Jerry. Please contact "**Tuomisto, Peter**" ptuomisto@rescol.com to learn about this position.
- c. Check out the **COLA's website** at www.hubbardcolamn.org and note the most recent updates and current events. You can link to the Park Rapids Chamber website and search for Hubbard COLA to check out COLA's connection to the Chamber. Thanks to Jeff Mosner for his valuable expertise with our website.
- d. 2014 will mark the beginning of a new season for the **Heavenly Seven lakes** responsible for hosting the social gathering at our COLA meetings. The first year was very successful with our members getting to know each other better as they work together serving as COLA's fellowship hosts. The fellowship hosts for the March 27th COLA meeting will include Eagle, Long and Stony 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. 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. **The great Chili Challenge is almost here!** Theora Goodrich and crew will again represent Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations at the American Legion on March 12 (Wednesday 11am -1pm.) This year, Theora will be making "Lake Lover's Chili". Last year, COLA won the People's Choice Award for most money collected for the Hubbard County Food Shelf. We collected \$1736 thanks to your generous contributions. We expect to repeat as the winners!!!

Did you realize that over one-third of Hubbard County's residents need food assistance (and take advantage of the food shelf?) They are pre-screened through MAHUBE and can only come once a month for food, except for produce and/ or bread. The need is great!! Last year, despite our contributions, food shelf donations were down and the need grew.

Theora is collecting monetary donations again from COLA members and friends and hopes to exceed the amount we raised last year. Please send this information to your lake owners and seasonal friends and ask for donations. We are so fortunate to own property in this beautiful area and need to give back to our community.

Theora will be collecting money/checks on Thursday at the February COLA meeting. Please pass this information along to your lake members. They can mail donations to :

Theora Goodrich
28933 State 87
Nevis, MN 56467

Please make checks out to the Hubbard County Food Shelf
Thanks SO much for your generosity!

- f. **Hubbard County Community Partners Offers mini grants.**
- i. Do you belong to a lake association and want to see some changes made to the lake's shorelines? Is your community or nonprofit organization interested in planting a rain garden? The "Community Partners Conservation Program" through the Hubbard County SWCD is looking for community partners that want to complete projects that will restore, protect or enhance water quality in lakes, rivers and streams. Projects must reduce storm water runoff and provide erosion control on your shoreline. The maximum grant is \$25,000 per group with a required 25% match of cash, in-kind or combination of both.
 - ii. Grant applications are available on the Hubbard County SWCD website at www.hubbardswcd.org and the next round of applications need to be in by March 31, 2014. For further information contact Julie Kingsley at 218-732-0121 or "Julie Kingsley" julie.kingsley@mn.nacdnet.net.
- g. **MN Lakes & Rivers Advocates (MLR)** lobby for our lakes. MLR is working to create a group of organized, informed PRIME CONTACTS who will build relationships with legislators and become familiar with the legislative process. By combining a large grassroots base with an organized group of prime contacts and professional advocacy, the lakes will finally get both the funding and legislative support they so desperately need. The Prime Contact Strategy will connect your lake and issues with local and state policy makers, funding opportunities and other activists across the state. As the effort to shield our lakes from Aquatic Invasive Species has made very clear, if we hope to preserve, protect and promote our lakes, we must work together to pass the laws and secure the appropriations lakes and rivers need.

Hubbard COLA will be working with MLR as a partner in their Prime Contact Strategy. We would encourage other lake associations in Hubbard COLA to join MLR and participate in the Prime Contact initiative. Please take on this role by emailing Jeff Forester at jeff@mnlakesandrivers.org or call 952-854-1317.

Participation in the Prime Contact Strategy will provide your lake with the tools needed for Prime Contacts to engage most effectively and efficiently in the legislative process on behalf of our lakes and rivers.

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

- a. Mark your calendar and save the date.....Attend the next COLA board meeting on Thursday, March 27, 2014; social gathering at 6:30 p.m. and meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Northwood's Bank Community Room.
- b. **Township annual meetings** will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at your township hall. Lake association members and lakeshore property owners are encouraged to attend your township annual meetings to ask for financial support from townships for lake protection strategies such as watercraft inspections.
- c. Hubbard COLA has expanded our meeting schedule to include the following dates in 2014: February 6, March 27, April 24, May 29, June 26, July 31, August 28, September 25 and October 30. COLA meetings were added during the months of March and May to facilitate planning during the critical time of the year.
- 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: Correspondence and questions can be sent to hccolamn@gmail.com

Improve Internal Communications

Strategic Action #4

By Larry Roberts

Continue to check website for updates and improvements.

Jeff Mosner is doing a great job managing the site.

Lakeshore Education Committee

Strategic Action 5

By Sharon Natzel

- 1) Education Team Members (Steve Hall, Julie Kingsley, Jan Rumpza, and Sharon Natzel) have been working on 3 water-related classes for the 4-H Project Day to be held on Presidents Day, Monday 2/17/2014; The Lake Game, Would You Drink This Water, and Shoreline Investigation. Mari Jo Lohmeier, 4-H Program Coordinator for the University of Minnesota Extension explained that the overall goal of the 4-H Project Day event is to allow 4-H children opportunities to learn beyond the normal classroom plus possibly peak an interest in a project area. This event will open the person to new ideas and plant seeds of curiosity to promote growth overall.

- We will share 5 minutes of the Shoreline Investigation class at tonight's meeting.

2) The Education Team is sharing information below on how you can each individually choose to be even more informed on two projects in the Park Rapids area related to groundwater, 1) Sandpiper Pipeline Project and 2) MN DNR Straight River Groundwater Management Area Project.

1) The 4 panelists provided information on how to be informed on the **Sandpiper Pipeline Project** during the 1/7/14 Park Rapids Area League of Women Voters Panel Discussion on the Sandpiper Pipeline Project by North Dakota Pipeline Company, LLC.

Panelist 1:

Tracy M.B. Smetana, Public Advisor, Consumer Affairs Office, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission; 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782; consumer.puc@state.mn.us.

- Go to Department of Commerce Project Website for Sandpiper Pipeline Info at <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/>

**Current status issued by MN Dept of Commerce 1/31/14:
Notice of application acceptance and public information meetings
– Hubbard County, Park Rapids Armory, Wed 3/12/14 at 11 AM**

Subscribe to the Docket: Receive email notifications every time new documents are filed. Note - subscribing may result in a large number of emails.

1. www.puc.state.mn.us
2. Select green box *Subscribe to a Docket*
3. Type your e-mail address
4. For *Type of Subscription*, select *Docket Number*
5. For *Docket Number*, select *13* in the first box, type *473* or *474* in the second box
6. Select *Add to List*
7. Select *Save*

Panelist 2:

Lorraine Little, Senior Manager of Public Affairs, Enbridge; for more information about the project go to www.enbridge.com/sandpiperproject

Panelist 3:

Winona LaDuke, Rural Development economist, author, and director of Honor the Earth. She has earned degrees from Harvard, did graduate work at MIT and has a Masters in Rural Development.

<http://www.honorearth.org/>

Panelist 4:

Nathan Kestner, Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist, MN DNR Division of Ecological & Water Resources, NW Region
nathan.kestner@state.mn.us

Park Rapids Enterprise Link on coverage of panel discussion:
<http://www.parkrapidsenterprise.com/content/pipeline-forum-draws-large-crowd>

Lakeland Public Television Link on coverage of panel discussion:
lptv.org/pipeline-project-discussion-informs-public/

Also two HC COLA member lakes – Palmer and Duck – have information on their websites too related to the Sandpiper Pipeline Project.
<http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/hubbard-lake-associations.html>

- 2) The MN DNR held a public meeting on Wed 1/15/14 from 6:30 – 8:30 PM at the Park Rapids Area HS for Stakeholders in the DNR Straight River Groundwater Management Area Project. MN DNR Doug Kingsley and Darrin Hoverson are part of the project Advisory Team. You may follow the project using the link below to signup for email notifications. If you have comments for the Advisory Team, Doug Kingley said we can contact him or other advisors!

Go to <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/gwmp/areas.html> and select groundwater management area of interest from list at bottom of page.

To review the draft Strategic Plan for Minnesota DNR's Groundwater Management Program from Oct 2013 go to:
<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/gwmp/planning.html>

The DNR's Groundwater Management Goal: Ensure that use of groundwater is sustainable and does not harm ecosystems, water quality, or the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

Manage Public Image Committee

Strategic action #6

By Larry Roberts

Working with Peter Pierson, Dan and Lynn to develop program where the membership and others in the community write brief articles about their experiences in the North Country and on our lakes, tying those experiences to COLA's mission, vision, values. Encouraging articles to be 500-700 words. Peter is working on an introduction for the program and how best to get public exposure for the articles. Initially articles will be in the monthly newsletter and on the website.

Help from the membership will be solicited at the Feb 6 meeting by Dan and Lynn.

Membership Committee Report

Strategic action #7

By Hillary Stoltz

The Treasurer and Membership Committee are thrilled to report that **ALL** 29 lake associations, including 37 lakes and 2,135 members, have paid their COLA dues for 2013-2014. I would like to thank the Membership Committee and especially Mary Ann Erpelding for their efforts to follow-up with lake associations and encouraging them to keep their membership in Hubbard COLA up to date. Your efforts are greatly appreciated....Dan.

Finance Committee:

Strategic action #8

By Lynn Goodrich

The winter months have been busy here at “Finance Central.” We are looking into a wide variety of fundraising activities to ensure the future fiscal stability of Hubbard COLA. They range from major events involving a street fair in Downtown Park Rapids in conjunction with the Park Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce to a “Back to the Lakes” spring get together and garage sale as a summer season kickoff. Another proposal, an “Up North Lake Lovers” Fund Raising Banquet is being investigated. I am looking for a few Fun Loving Talented people to help plan and execute some great fundraising activities to support Hubbard COLA’s mission. So step up, get creative, and be involved.

Secondly, we are looking for a person to take over as Treasurer. John Webber has stepped down after many years of dedicated service to COLA. We need someone that can keep us on the straight and narrow to ensure your dues are well spent. It only involves small time commitment as we have restructured the duties and responsibilities.

We still have a good selection of artisan pottery items and premium wild rice for sale. Please contact me @ triplake1@mac.com or (218) 652-3130

Impact Political Action Committee

Strategic action #9

By Chuck Diessner

No Report

Civic Service Committee

By Peter Tuomisto

Civic Committee activities for 2014

1. Children’s Freshwater Festival on Wednesday, May 7 at Wilderness Boy Scout Camp near Emmaville - **contributions are needed.** Please send checks payable 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 2014 will be coming into the Fairgrounds in early May to be repackaged. Volunteers are needed to facilitate this. The Shore Coordinator is Theora Goodrich.
3. Veliger Water Testing will be done again in July and August. In 2013, Potato, Blue, Eagle, Big Sand, Little Sand and Long as well as Spider, the Crooked Lakes and Ojibway participated in the testing. No veligers were found. Please let Pete Tuomisto know if your lake will continue testing in 2014 and if your lake would like to participate for the first time in 2014. I will be making blocks available (to hang on the end of docks) at each COLA meeting. We want more testing and monitoring!
4. Hydro Lab SWCD will again have the Hydro Lab testing for those interested lakes in 2014. This is for monitoring the dissolved oxygen and the water temperature in your lake. Please see Julie Kingsley at SWCD if interested. There will be a charge for SWCD to perform this test. SWCD will also Veliger Sample and Map Vegetation for a fee. Contact SWCD if interested.
5. Water Monitoring Kits will be handed out on May 14th at 7:00 p.m. at the Courthouse. Training will be available if needed. We are in need of someone to transport the samples to Detroit Lakes once a month. A truck with topper is needed.
6. Civic Committee meeting will be meeting **March 7** at 2:00 pm at SWCD. Firm dates for the above activities will be established at the meeting and reported at the next COLA

meeting. Those attending will be Pete Tuomisto, Jerry Knoblich, Bert Ahern, Sharon Natzel, Theora Goodrich, and Julie Kingsley. Others interested in helping out are encouraged to attend.

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 targets for 2014 have been established for each lake. SWCD working to obtain commitments for 2014 by end of February, so hiring planning can begin.
2. Detailed 2013 reports on watercraft inspections have been distributed to each lake association and township/city as appropriate. Overall summaries can be found on COLA website. Click on AIS and then County AIS Task Force link.
3. A Resort Support Sub-Committee (under COAL AIS Committee) has been organized to work with resorts in 2014 on guest awareness.
4. Work continues on developing a County-wide AIS Rapid Response Plan. An initial draft was presented to the County AIS Task Force last week. Bob Berdahl is leading this project. Targeting late summer to have it completed.
5. Ken Grob and Jeff Bjorkman presented an update on our AIS programs and the 2014 Watercraft Inspection Program goals at the November COLA Meeting. Presentation can be reviewed on the COLA website: Click on General Info and Committees; Click on COLA AIS Committee; It is listed as 10/31/2013 presentation. This is a good summary of our initiatives and strategy.
6. County AIS Task Force has set goals for 2014. Please see website for list of 2014 Goals.
7. State-wide DNR AIS Advisory Committee has published their Annual Report. Excellent document. See COLA website to review. Click on AIS-DNR Link. In this folder there are also two letters that Ken Grob has sent to the committee. One outlines a strategy for long term sustainable funding for LGU's and the other is a summary of Hubbard County's 2013 accomplishments.
8. The COLA website (AIS Folder; DNR Link) also has information on the Lake Mille Lacs walleye population crisis.
9. LAKE ASSOCIATIONS NEED TO COMPLETE WATERCRAFT INSPECTION COMMITMENT LEVELS FOR 2014. Actions needed:
 - √¹ Lake associations need to decide/commit to the level of inspections they want in 2014. This should be done no later than the end of February.
 - √¹ Obtain commitments from lake residents (lake association) for 2014 financial support level.
 - √¹ Contact their Townships/Cities to indicate what is needed for support in 2014 (same as 2013 or more)
 - √¹ Attend township annual meeting on March 11 to confirm support for 2014 and insure funds for 2015 are included in budget recommendations.