

HUBBARD COUNTY COALITION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS

Committee Reports and Announcements

March 27, 2014

www.hubbardcolamn.org

LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

Strategic Actions 1, 2 and 3

By Dan Kittilson

1. **Executive Committee**

- a. 2013 IU SPEA Capstone Project Update:
 - i. In the spring of 2013, a SPEA capstone course completed a project with the Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations which resulted in the report “Guidelines for Sustainable Lake Associations and Coalitions of Lake Associations: Research and Recommendations.” A publication from the 2013 class, “The Success of an Online Lake Resident Survey to Improve Lake Association Sustainability” by J. Okajima, J. McGee, B.C Fischer, and J.R. Farmer, is in review with LakeLines Magazine, which is published by the North American Lake Management Society.
- b. Fall 2014 IUB SPEA V600 Capstone Course Announcement
 - i. At the request of the Hubbard County COLA, IUB SPEA masters students will once again work with the organization, utilizing this 2014 capstone course to evaluate lake monitoring by the COLA and individual lake association members. Specifically, students may utilize monitoring data to make recommendations for best management strategies for lake associations to support both protection and restoration of lakes. **For further information on this project please refer to a flyer that will be distributed on “Enhancing the Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations’ Lake Monitoring Program”.**
- c. Volunteers Needed
 - i. COLA continues to seek volunteers to be either our Treasurer or Secretary! 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.
- d. Check out **COLA’s website** at www.hubbardcolamn.org and note the most recent updates and current events. You can read about the Chili Challenge and COLA winning the People’s Choice Award under the direction of Theora Goodrich. You can also re-visit COLA’s newsletters on the Communication page. Again, thanks to Jeff Mosner for keeping our website current.
- e. The Heavenly Seven Fellowship Hosts for the April 24th COLA meeting will 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. 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.**

- f. **Chili Challenge Honors – Thank You** to Theora and Lynn Goodrich and all the wonderful contributors who helped Hubbard COLA once again win the People’s Choice Award for the most money collected for the Hubbard County Food Shelf. Theora....your hard work and efforts are greatly appreciated.
- g. **MN Lakes & Rivers Advocates (MLR)** lobby for our lakes. Hubbard COLA is 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, April 24, 2014; social gathering at 6:30 p.m. and meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Northwood’s Bank Community Room.
- b. Hubbard COLA meeting schedule for the remainder of the year include the following dates in 2014: 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.
- c. State of Water Conference will be held on May 1-2 at Cragun’s Resort near Brainerd. Further information and registration is available at <http://www.conservationminnesota.org/state-of-water-conference/>
- 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

“Voices on The Water” will be discussed at the COLA meeting under unfinished business.

Lakeshore Education Committee

Strategic Action 5

By Sharon Natzel

- 1) Education Team Members (Steve Hall, Julie Kingsley, Jan Rumpza, and Sharon Natzel) taught 18 students in 2 combined classes at 4-H Project Day held on Presidents Day, Monday 2/17/14. We have been invited back next year too by Mari Jo Lohmeier, 4-H Program Coordinator for the University of Minnesota Extension at the request of the 4-H children. The live macro-invertebrate certainly drew attention to the booth. Come & be part of our team for Presidents Day 2015! We will share 5 minutes from The Lake Game tonight

- 2) Lake Related Education! The Park Rapids League of Women Voters invites all of us to this free program “Global Climate Change: Why, and What Now?” on Tuesday, April 1st, 6-7:30 pm in the Northwoods Bank Community Room. Erika Bailey-Johnson, adjunct professor and Sustainability Coordinator at Bemidji State University, will discuss causes and effects of global climate change; what must be done now to slow and eventually reverse the trend; how to mitigate adverse consequences of the warming and how we might adapt in the meantime. Questions from the audience will be welcomed. Light refreshments will be served.
- 3) Nevis’s Week of the Young Child contacted the Education Team – we will have a Fri 4/11 event called “Aquatic Investigation” from 3-5 PM for a parent/child activity - - located in the school. Help us educate our future lakeshore owners and lake users – contact Sharon please!
- 4) The Education Team is sharing information below on how you can each individually choose to participate, comment and be even more informed on two projects in the Park Rapids area related to groundwater, lakes, rivers and wetlands; 1) Sandpiper Pipeline Project and 2) MN DNR Straight River Groundwater Management Area Project.

Resources on the Sandpiper Pipeline Project below: 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. Plus there is a new group of Hubbard County residents who are committed to protecting the Mississippi Headwaters and the lakes, wetlands, rivers, and aquifers of northern Minnesota; science-based educational maps with pipeline route.

1-LWV Panelist 1: Tracy M.B. Smetana, Public Advisor, Consumer Affairs Office, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 651-296-0406

Current Status: The Comment Period for the Sandpiper Pipeline Route is open to the public until Friday, April 4, 2014 at 4:30 PM for the MN Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Docket Number: PL-6668 / PPL-13-474. Address & Details:

<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/Efiling/edockets/searchDocuments.do?method=showPoup&documentId=%7bF84B0ECD-21B5-429E-9861-8ED102E2A5A8%7d&documentTitle=20141-96003-01>

2-**Friends of the Headwaters**, a group of Hubbard County residents who are committed to protecting the Mississippi Headwaters and the lakes, wetlands, rivers, and aquifers of northern Minnesota. www.FriendsoftheHeadwaters.org and <https://www.facebook.com/savemississippiheadwaters> See the science-based educational maps which show the pipeline route.

3-LWV Panelist 2: Lorraine Little, Senior Manager of Public Affairs, Enbridge; for more information about the project go to www.enbridge.com/sandpiperproject

4-LWV 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/>

5- LWV Panelist 4: Nathan Kestner, Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist, MN DNR Division of Ecological & Water Resources, NW Region nathan.kestner@state.mn.us

Also three **HC COLA member lakes –Duck, Long and Palmer** – have information on their websites too related to the Sandpiper Pipeline Project, especially for their members and you too..... <http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/hubbard-lake-associations.html>

- 5) The MN Straight River Groundwater Management Area Project kicked off in Jan 2014. This includes the town of Park Rapids and also HC COLA member lake – Long Lake. MN DNR Doug Kingsley and Darrin Hoverson are part of the project Advisory Team. There are 3-hour monthly team meetings in Park Rapids. February and March meetings were held. The public is able to attend and observe the meetings. Public comments are allowed at the end. Follow the project by signing up for email notifications.

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>

- 6) The State of the Water Conference at Cragun's in Brainerd will be held 5/1-2/2014. Sign up at <http://www.conservationminnesota.org/state-of-water-conference/?ic=135&fs=1> Many interesting sessions and a chance to network with others who share your passion for water!
- 7) Also - there is a FM Walleye Educational Event coming up on May 15 at 7 PM at the Doublewood Inn in Fargo, ND. Carpool leaves at 4:30 PM. So hold the date.... More information to follow at our April HC COLA meeting.
- 8) A Course on Basic Plant / Lake Ecology and Basic Aquatic Plant Identification with plant key, herbarium, and live plants is being planned for July / August on a Friday late afternoon 4:30 PM to 9 PM. Mary Blickenderfer, UMN will provide the training and the live plants. We are working with Sally Shearer, Hubbard County UMN Extension to coordinate and offer this training free of charge for the attendee. Pizza / Pop will be provided for students.

Manage Public Image Committee

Strategic action #6

By Larry Roberts

As part of our new feature "Voices on The Water" we'd like to hear, and share, your stories. If you would like to share your words, your reflections (pardon the pun) On the Water, please send to: "Roberts, Larry" <lrobertsmn@gmail.com>; "Pierson, Peter" <p.pierson99706@gmail.com>; or hccolamn@gmail.com

Membership Committee Report

Strategic action #7

By Hillary Stoltz

No report.

Finance Committee:

Strategic action #8

By Lynn Goodrich

Spring is officially here; just don't look out your window or at your thermometer.

We are in the process of finalizing plans for the “Back to the Lakes” Water and Sports Garage Sale and get together. This event is targeted for early June. The date has not been finalized to ensure it doesn’t conflict the lake association meetings and ensure warmer weather. We plan to hold the sale/social at the Environmental Building on the Hubbard County Fair Grounds. Please look around your place for unused or no longer used sports items to donate for this fundraiser in support of COLA’s project fund. In addition to “stuff,” I need a group of COLA’s finest to help put on the event.

We still have a good selection of artisan pottery items and premium wild rice for sale. Please let me know of your needs for your lake association meetings. The rice and pottery has already generated needed funds to assist COLA in its good work.

COLA is still in need of a treasurer, as John Weber has stepped down after many years of service. The executive committee is taking some of the responsibilities that John had and moving them to the appropriate committees to lighten the treasurer’s load. Your responsibilities as treasurer would not be time consuming and would allow you to participate more fully in the future of COLA and our mission. Feel free to give me a call or email me about becoming a valuable member of the leadership team at COLA.

I am developing a proposal to create other forms of membership in COLA to encourage others that may not have membership in a lake association, but a do have strong desire to help us in our mission. This would also allow for another revenue stream for COLA. I will be presenting this to you later in the summer. I would encourage your thoughts or comments.

There have been suggestions for other fundraising activities and I am looking for a few “Fun Loving & Talented” people to take these ideas and turn them into successful fundraisers in support of Hubbard COLA’s mission today and into the future. So I will ask you to step up, get creative, and be involved!

Please contact me @ tripplake1@mac.com or (218) 652-3130

Impact Political Action Committee

Strategic action #9

By Chuck Diessner

The Hagert’s lost their legal challenge of the 2011 BOA’s denial of their requested variances to correct their violations under the Shoreland Management Ordinance for a garage setback, and guest house. They lost the appeal not on the merits of the case, but because the Hagert’s failed to properly commence their appeal within the time period allowed by law.

Since it was more than a year from their variance request in 2011, they applied for a variance only with regard to the setback violations for the garage. The other continuing violations relating to the guest house, septic under the garage floor, etc would be dealt with by them at a later date if the garage setback variance is granted. After a lengthy BOA hearing (about 2+ hours), the BOA unanimously denied the Hagert’s garage setback variance request.

The Hagert’s attorney indicated that the matter would again be appealed by them to the District Court.

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. Volunteers should contact Melissa at the SWCD.
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.
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. Further information and program registration forms will be sent electronically to lake associations.
6. Sharon reported that the 4-H project was an overwhelming success. The lake activities were very popular and interest was expressed in having COLA participate again next year. Interest has been expressed in having these activities at the Freshwater Festival in 2015.

AIS Task Force Report

Strategic Action #10

By Ken Grob

1. County-wide watercraft inspection program is in full swing. Annual Township meetings attended on March 11. Follow-up required in several cases at regular April Township meetings to confirm funding. SWCD (Nate Sitz) reports that lake associations have committed to about 7950 hours (a 20% increase over 2013). 24 lake associations, representing 28 lakes have committed to inspections. The County Commissioners have allocated \$35,000, and the DNR has funded two inspector grants. A Level 1 inspector (\$4000) and a Level 2 inspector (\$8000). The Level 2 inspector is critical to our strategy because it provides dedicated coverage for our decontamination station. This will be very beneficial to our inspectors and to resort owners. To appreciate how successful our Hubbard County program is, we should realize that about 17% of the 64,000 citizen lead watercraft inspection hours done under the 24 DNR LGU Grants in 2013 were done in Hubbard County. This is incredible and thanks to all involved.
2. DNR has finalized the Volunteer Inspection program for 2014. It has significantly changed. See the excerpt from my email to all AIS Coordinators below:

“The DNR has not published the details on the volunteer process. That will come in the next few weeks. However if your lake association intends to train and conduct volunteer inspections you need to sign up for one of the scheduled inspection dates/locations.

Location and time information is on a [Link that will be posted on the COLA website.](#) Unfortunately none of the training sessions are scheduled in Park Rapids. I am working on that. Lake George session is on May 3, Walker on May 7, and Detroit Lakes on April 16. Note that all of your association volunteers do not have to go to the same training session.

THERE ARE SEVERAL NEW PROCESS CHANGES THIS YEAR (Details will be published by DNR and will be covered in training). KEY POINTS TO NOTE:

- 1) There are two categories of volunteers....Volunteers and Ambassadors....For now forget the Ambassador category as it will not apply to Hubbard County.
- 2) ALL volunteers must go through the formal training program in 2014....New criteria applies so no exceptions even if you were trained in the past. Next year DNR is planning on having training on line for renewals.
- 3) Training sessions will shorter and last about 1-1/2 hours.
- 4) Background checks will be required...Formal letter of certification will be issued and must be carried on person when doing inspections.
- 5) Lake Associations must inform DNR (Mike Bolinski) at least one week before any inspection event is scheduled...even if it is only one inspector for a set number of hours. It can be by email. This is required to insure liability coverage and to make sure that inspections don't conflict with DNR inspections (Conflict with DNR inspections should not be a problem in Hubbard County as we there are no scheduled DNR inspectors planned for Hubbard County this year)...HOWEVER, Hubbard SWCD (Nate Sitz) should also be informed to insure coordination with SWCD inspectors.
- 6) When I get a good indication on how many lake associations intend to do volunteer inspections in 2014, we will try to get AIS Committee together to insure we are all following the same process.

FOR NOW...THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO DO IS TO SIGN UP AND ATTEND A TRAINING SESSION.”

3. A Resort Support Sub-Committee (under COLA AIS Committee) has been organized to work with resorts in 2014 on guest awareness. We will be applying for a DNR Public Awareness Grant to cover 50% of costs.
4. There are two state level initiatives underway to provide funding for Local Government Units (LGU's) for AIS prevention. The LSOHC funding to the Initiative Foundation (\$4MM) for pilot programs (2 year funding program) and 2014 Legislative Bill SF2342 introduced by Sen Skoe to provide \$10MM to LGU's for AIS. Please indicate your support to your legislators on these bills. None of the funding would be available until 2015.
5. Dates to remember:
 - √¹ LSP Training for Resort Owners in Walker (Hiawatha Beach Resort) on April 9 as part of the Congress of Minnesota Resorts Conference (Email has been sent to Resort Owners)
 - √¹ Lake Monitoring Training on May 1&2 as part of the “State of Waters” Conference at Cragun's Resort near Brainerd. Ken Grob will be a speaker at the conference on May 2 on watercraft inspection program