

HUBBARD COUNTY COALITION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS

Committee Reports and Announcements

April 24, 2014

www.hubbardcolamn.org

LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

Strategic Actions 1, 2 and 3

By Dan Kittilson

1. **Executive Committee**

- a. Fostering Citizen Leadership in our Watersheds
 - i. In the watersheds of Crow Wing, Leech, Long Prairie, Pine, and Redeye, there are current and emerging citizen leaders dedicating their time and energy to protecting and restoring the waters and lands. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency with the Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District and the University of Minnesota Extension are supporting these leaders through a two-year, two-part program that fosters the leaders' work in their watershed communities through skills, processes, resources and tools that can help strengthen their current efforts and nurture new ones. Year one of the program engages respected citizen leaders in five workshops (in-person and online) that provide opportunities for growth and collaboration. Year two will focus on emerging leaders and will begin late summer. If you're interested in applying for the emerging leaders program or would like further information, please contact "Melissa Koebernick, Park Rapids, MN" <melissa.koebernick@mn.nacdn.net>; or at 218-732-0121.
- 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.
 - i. Photos for COLA's Website
 1. Jeff Mosner needs new photos for the COLA website. It is important to keep our website photos updated to show that our website is being monitored and updated with new information.

COLA members are encouraged to send photos to Jeff for the website at "Mosner, Jeff" <jlmosner@gmail.com>;

- e. COLA presence at lake associations
 - i. Lake associations are encouraged to provide information about COLA at your lake association meetings. COLA Reps can provide updates on COLA happenings. COLA has a tri-fold available with COLA materials that can be displayed and is available for COLA Reps for their annual meeting. COLA leaders are available to discuss COLA's Vision, Mission, Values and Accomplishments.
 - ii. COLA invites lake associations to partner with COLA on various community events this summer such as Legend & Logging, Taste of Dorset, Hubbard County Fair, etc.
- f. Lake association annual meetings?
 - i. If you haven't sent the date for your lake association annual meeting, please send to Dan at drkittil@q.com
- g. COLA Speaker Phone
 - i. I would like to thank Chuck Diessner and his law firm, Fredrikson & Byron, P.A. for donating a high quality speaker phone to Hubbard COLA that we can use for conference calls during our COLA meetings.
 - ii. COLA members are encouraged to call in to participate in our COLA meeting if you are unable to attend our meetings in person. If you choose to participate via our conference call capabilities, please notify me so I can send you the calling information.
 - iii. At the March COLA meeting, Burney Fischer utilized our conference calling capabilities to introduce COLA to his new Capstone Class with Hubbard COLA starting this fall, 2014. You can learn more about the new Capstone Class in item (b) above.
- h. 2014 Park Rapids Rotary Fireworks Fund
 - i. If you would like to support the July 4th fireworks display you can make a tax deductible contribution to the Park Rapids Rotary. Make checks payable to the Rotary Fireworks Fund / NMF (a charitable 501 (c) 3 charitable donation.
 - ii. Donate on line at <http://www.nwmf.org/>
 - iii. Or Mail to: Park Rapids Rotary
P.O Box 704
Park Rapids, MN 56470
- i. 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.**
- j. **MN Lakes & Rivers Advocates (MLRA)** 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 MLRA 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.

On Tuesday, [April 22nd](#), the House Tax Committee will hold an informational hearing on [HF 2855](#) that would send, if passed, \$10 million *annually* in County Program Aid to counties to fund AIS work within those counties.

Local lakeshore owners and governmental units have been raising and spending millions of dollars in an effort to protect the public waters with little help from the state. With HF 2855 the state is poised to commit \$10 million a year to support these local efforts. MLRA has been lobbying this bill very hard working with both legislators and county officials on this proposal.

Contact your legislators and county commissioners and urge them to support this innovative funding solution for lake protection.

2. President's Report and Announcements

- a. Mark your calendar and save the date.....Attend the next COLA board meeting on Thursday, May 29, 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: 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. Nate Sitz has been participating in a Blandin Community Leadership Training along with other Park Rapids Lakes Area leaders. **Please note the following message from Nate pertaining to this training**....."Part of the Blandin Community Leadership Training was going forward with some project possibilities. The project I chose to be involved in was Community Clean-up. We are trying to gather information at this point and will meet as a smaller group to go over our findings from our outreach. I had COLA down as a group I would contact and have a few questions. Are you/your group interested? Have you done any similar past efforts, how did they work? Do you have any other plans or ideas? Does your group have specific needs? Does your group have specific skills/resources to help? Any insights you could provide on behalf of COLA would be greatly appreciated."
- d. **"Lakeshore Living"** – A new book published April 1, 2014 by a Minnesota DNR environmental scientist on lakeshore care by Paul J Radomski and Kristof Van Assche

In this remarkable and remarkably accessible synthesis of ecology, landscape design, and social sciences, the authors present an approach to lakeshore living that addresses the need to create rich, sustainable places and communities on the water, where both the loon and the family find a place, and where the cabin can be handed down with integrity to the grandchildren. Fragile shorelands require care, and that caring comes from knowledge, experience, and an environmental ethic.

- 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: Correspondence and questions can be sent to hccolamn@gmail.com

Improve Internal Communications

Strategic Action #4

By Larry Roberts

Jeff Mosner could use additional photos for this spring for the website. The winter photos were really great.

Lakeshore Education Committee

Strategic Action 5

By Sharon Natzel

- 1) 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 with science-based educational maps showing the pipeline route.

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

Here is link <http://www.puc.state.mn.us/PUC/index.html> Then Search edockets, then put in Year is 13 and then 474 is number and select Search to see all the public comments to PUC 3/31/14 is the date the PUC posted the comments from the 3/12/14 Park Rapids public meeting on the Sandpiper Pipeline Route...

As of 4/14/2104: Notice of Extended Comment Period

The new deadline for filing comments is Friday, May 30, 2014 at 4:30 PM for the Application of North Dakota Pipeline Company LLC for a Pipeline Routing Permit for the Sandpiper Pipeline Project in Minnesota.

Topics Open for Comment at this Time:

- √¹ **What human and environmental impacts should be studied in the comparative environmental analysis?**
- √¹ **Are there any specific methods to address these impacts that should be studied in the comparative environmental analysis?**
- √¹ **Are there any alternative routes or route segments that should be considered?**

Submit Public Comments:

Please include the PUC Docket Numbers (13-474) in all communications.

Email: larry.hartman@state.mn.us

Online: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#comment>

Fax: 651-539-0109

Persons without email access may send by U.S. Mail to:

**Larry Hartman, Environmental Review Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101**

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 with the pipeline route through the clearest lakes, over groundwater most susceptible to contamination, in the Straight River Groundwater area and near the wells and irrigation systems surrounding Park Rapids, some of which are already compromised with nitrates.

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>

- 2) 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. Thurs April 17th at 9 AM at Northwoods Bank Community Room is the next meeting. 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>

- 3) 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!

- 4) 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.... Sounds like a panel with multiple people and dealing with water issues such as AIS on a tournament lake.
- 5) A Course on Basic Plant / Lake Ecology and Basic Aquatic Plant Identification with plant key, herbarium, and live plants is being planned for Friday, August 8TH from 4:30 PM to 9 PM at Northwoods Bank Community Room. 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 by the Hubbard County COLA Education Team.
- 6) Nevis's Week of the Young Child contacted the Hubbard County COLA Education Team to participate with a class offering. The Friday, 4/11/14 Aquatic Investigation event focused on the young child and their relationship with the creatures of the lakes and rivers and their water environment. The Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations Education Team sponsored the event at School Readiness from 3 to 5 PM and included team members Jan Rumpza, Julie Kingsley and Sharon Natzel. The event was attended by 30 children and over 10 adults. "Gold Fish" and other snacks were enjoyed by all. The educational stations included the following:
 - a. Bingo checklist for the live creatures in the water (special thanks to Northern Bait Company in Park Rapids and Julie Kingsley for the variety of macro-invertebrates)
 - b. The Lake Game with age-appropriate questions where the children had the opportunity to answer what they would do in certain situations. These decisions then determined the condition of "the lake" in the tub... For example, would they rake just a bit of vegetation by the swimming dock, leaving some for fish habitat or use a chemical to remove all the vegetation in the large area...
 - c. The Shoreline Habitat demonstration table allowed the children to observe the water's reaction when sprayed from a bottle onto a rock's hard surface simulating wave action and into a soft moss mat which absorbed the water
 - d. Many of the children enjoyed creating Frogs and Turtles using paper plates and construction paper, coloring water-related creatures like fish, heron, frogs, stamping frog tracks on lily pads, and some crossword puzzles with water-related creatures went home in bags for future studies.
- 7) Please provide your suggestions for speakers / topics for upcoming HC COLA meetings to the Education Team. For example, in our educational survey last year in partnership with the UMN, we identified Shorelands, Aquatics and Groundwater as topic areas of interest. Let us know if there are others too!
- 8) When DarrinHoverson's schedule fits with our meeting schedule, we've asked Darrin to spend 30 minutes talking about groundwater / hydrology / lakes, surface water, etc. Also any grant information available.

Manage Public Image Committee

Strategic action #6

By Larry Roberts

Articles for the “Voices on the Water” series are starting to come in. Check the website out for the latest article. More are needed. Share your lake experiences in a short story 5-700 words.

Articles can be e-mailed to hccolamn@gmail.com

Membership Committee Report

Strategic action #7

By Hillary Stoltz

No report this month

Finance Committee:

Strategic action #8

By Lynn Goodrich

The winter was long, snow filled and quite cold. Now spring has arrived with its warmer days. Looking out the window as I write this, I don't see any snow or ice in our yard. White as a color can be tucked away until December. Green will soon be everywhere. Docks and boats will pop-up on our lakes and people will once again return to the waters we Minnesotans love.

√¹ At the March meeting, and in the last finance committee report, I asked for volunteers to help plan and execute our “Back to the Lakes” Water and Sports Garage Sale. So far the response has been nearly non-existent. We had this event targeted for early June. We now feel that July 10th, 11th or 12th would give us more time to get help lined up, collect donated items, ensure the best turnout and not conflict with lake association events that we have been made aware of. We plan to hold the sale/social at the Environmental Building on the Hubbard County Fair Grounds. Please look around your property for no longer used sports items to donate for this fundraiser in support of COLA's Project Fund.

There have been suggestions for other fundraising activities and I am looking for a few “Fun Loving & Talented” people to help take these ideas and turn them into successful fundraisers in support of Hubbard COLA's mission today and into the future.

√¹ We have received requests for Wild Rice and Artisan Pottery to sell at lake association meetings this summer. We have a selection of artisan pottery items and some premium wild rice on hand but need to plan our future purchases to fulfill your needs. COLA lake association representatives or presidents, please contact me with your needs for your lake association meetings this spring/summer.

√¹ COLA is **still** in need of a treasurer. Your responsibilities as treasurer are spelled out in a document distributed to you all by Dan K. This office is NOT time consuming, difficult, or complex. If you can write a check and balance your checkbook you are fully qualified. If you have any questions please feel free to give me a call or email me about becoming a necessary and valuable member of the leadership team at COLA.

√¹ The Finance Committee has been asked to review our membership dues policy. We will look at per member dues, lake association caps, voting and the benefits of COLA membership. After completion we will bring any proposals to the Executive

Committee for review and then to the full board and membership. Any changes in dues amount or policy will not take place until the 2015-16 fiscal year. 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 as we begin this process.

Today COLA runs on a very limited budget. Our success to date would have not been possible without the generosity of members and especially our COLA leaders. Their dedication and giving of both their time and dollars allow COLA to be the driving force guiding and encouraging to ensure the present and future health, beauty and viability of our lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands.

The task requires the dedication of us all. COLA needs you and asks you to step up, get creative, and be involved!

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

Impact Political Action Committee

Strategic action #9

By Chuck Diessner

No report this month.

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. [Belle Taine Fish Hook and Kabekona are showing interest for 2014](#). 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.

AIS Task Force Report

Strategic Action #10

By Ken Grob

1. County-wide watercraft inspection program is in full swing. Nate Sitz will present details at the meeting. Nate reports that lake associations have committed to about 8400 hours (a 25% increase over 2013). 26 lakes with 30 accesses will be covered. 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 some coverage for our decontamination station, which will be available at no cost to users. This will be very beneficial to our inspectors and to resort owners.
2. DNR has issued its annual report to the legislature on AIS for 2013. It is a very informative report. Jeff Moser has posted it on the COLA website.
3. 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 is 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.
4. A Resort Support Sub-Committee (under COLA AIS Committee) has been organized to work with resorts in 2014 on guest awareness. We have submitted an application for a Public Awareness Grant from the DNR to cover 50% of expenses.
5. Lake Monitoring Training Sessions have been scheduled around the state. None currently scheduled in Park Rapids, but I have asked for one. If we have enough interest, I can get one scheduled locally. See www.conservationminnesota.org (Click on “lakes, rivers, and waters”, then click on “2014 AIS monitoring trainings”) for location of sessions.
6. 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. Hubbard County would receive about \$265K under the current bill. Legislative Committee hearing is on Tuesday, April 22.
7. Dates to remember:
 - √¹ LSP Training for Resort Owners was held on April 9 in Walker (Hiawatha Beach Resort) as part of the Congress of Minnesota Resorts Conference (Email has been sent to Resort Owners). Nate Sitz attended and communicated Hubbard County info on watercraft inspection and our decontamination station for 2014.
 - √¹ Lake Monitoring Training on May 1&2 as part of the “State of Waters” Conference in St. Cloud. Ken Grob will be a speaker at the conference on May 2 on watercraft inspection program.
 - √¹ UMISC Conference in Duluth October 20-22. This is an excellent conference on AIS. It is the Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference that is sponsored every other year.