

# HUBBARD COUNTY COALITION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS

Committee Reports and Announcements

September 25, 2014

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

## Thank you Hubbard County COLA Members!

Ruby and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for our recognition at the COLA Social, my gift certificate from Reeds and for all your encouraging words of appreciation. I'm sure that my gift certificate will come in handy as I find more time to be on the water pursuing those elusive walleyes. I hope to continue seeing you at the COLA meetings and maybe even on the water enjoying our crystal clean lakes in the Park Rapids area.

I thank you for the opportunity to serve as your COLA President for the past five years and working with many special people who have an immense passion for protecting our lakes in Hubbard County. My time with you has truly been a "shared" experience with so many of you helping COLA achieve its vision, mission and values.

I am thrilled to have Lynn, Sharon and Steve step into their leadership roles with COLA and I know that we will be in good hands with our new leaders working toward COLA's vision....."COLA is the Leader in Protecting Hubbard County Lakes and Rivers. I encourage everyone to share in this tremendous responsibility and to touch our lakes in a gentle manner.

Dan & Ruby Kittilson

## LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

Strategic Actions 1, 2 and 3

By Lynn Goodrich

### 1. **Executive Committee**

- i. COLA welcomes Doug Kingsley: DNR Area Fisheries Manager to our September 25<sup>th</sup> COLA meeting. Doug will talk about Straight River Trout Management Area and its inclusion as a DNR Pilot Groundwater Management Area.
- a. FOH fundraiser @ Terrapin Station, Nevis on September 20<sup>th</sup> 5-8pm. tickets \$20
- b. **HCCOLA's mission is to protect and enhance the quality of our lakes and rivers, preserve the economic, recreational and natural environmental values of our shore lands and promote the responsible use of our waters and related habitats. COLA's mission enhances, promotes and protects the interests of lakeshore property owners, lakes associations, local government, the general public and future generations.**
- c. HCCOLA's annual meeting will was held on august 28,2014. . Lynn Goodrich, our former President-Elect, was elected as President. Sharon Natzel was elected to serve as our President-Elect. Steve Hall was appointed as HCCOLA Treasurer he will assume his duties in October 2014.

- d. Call for volunteers for Secretary, Executive Committee members and other committee members. If you have an interest in one of these positions, please contact me at [triplakel@mac.com](mailto:triplakel@mac.com)
- e. **The 2014-15 COLA budget was approved at the August meeting.**
- f. Watch for COLA's Ad and Enhanced Business listing in the 2015 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.
- g. 2014 League of Women Voters Candidate Forums - all will start at 7 p.m.
  - i. September 30 - Hubbard County Commissioner Districts 1 & 3 at the Northwood's Bank Community Room
  - ii. October 2 - MN House 2A & 2B at the Northwood's Bank Community Room
  - iii. October 16 - Park Rapids Mayor at the Park Rapids Area Library lower level meeting room
  - iv. October 23 - Hubbard County Commissioner District 5 at the Lake George Town Hall
  - v. To be scheduled - Menahga School Board
- h. Candidate Forum Volunteers needed:
  - i. Moderators: 1 per forum
  - ii. Question sorters: 2-3 per forum (from those e-mailed and during the event)
  - iii. Gather questions during the event: 1-2
  - iv. Room set up: 3-4 (COLA will assist)
  - v. Staff LWV table: 1-2 from 6:15 until 7:10
- i. **The Heavenly Seven Fellowship Hosts** for the September 25 COLA meeting will include Kabekona, Peysenske, and Tripp 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. **Please 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. COLA will be making copies at the Park Rapids Chamber of Commerce. COLA is a member of the Chamber so we will have "Member only amenity pricing" that will help minimize our copying costs.
- k. **IU SPEA students harness their skills to improve Minnesota lakes**  
In 2013, Hubbard COLA participated with Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs in a graduate capstone course focusing on lake association management. The project will continue for a second capstone in the fall of 2014 looking at lake association lake-monitoring programs.

The fall 2014 course will bring new challenges. Students will evaluate lake monitoring programs across the 29 Hubbard COLA lake management associations by studying water quality and clarity, aquatic invasive species, shoreline rules compliance and more. They will also review lake monitoring programs across more than 20 Minnesota counties. Finally, to assess government interests, they will speak with Minnesota officials at the state and county level. Lake associations will have an opportunity to participate in the second upcoming capstone project on lake monitoring. Hubbard COLA looks forward to the fall collaboration and urges all COLA lake associations to take an active role in the lake monitoring project.

Collected data will be compiled in a final report to the Hubbard COLA that will include lake protection and restoration best management strategies and guidelines for enhanced lake monitoring.

More information will be available at the September COLA meeting where COLA members will have an opportunity to participate in a conference call with the IU SPEA Capstone Class and Burney Fischer. Further information can be found on the Hubbard County COLA website at [hubbardcolamn.org](http://hubbardcolamn.org).

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

- a. Mark your calendar and save the date.....Attend COLA's next meeting on October 30, 2014; social gathering at 6:30 p.m. and meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Northwood's Bank Community Room.
- b. Interested COLA members that are unable to attend our September 25<sup>th</sup> COLA meetings will have the opportunity to participate in our "Teleconferencing" during the September COLA meeting. Burney Fischer and some of his graduate students will be participating via "Teleconferencing" to discuss the 2014 Capstone Course on Water Quality monitoring. Please let us know if you would be interested in connecting to our COLA meeting via teleconferencing.
- c. Hubbard COLA meeting schedule for the remainder of the year include the following dates in 2014: September 25 and October 30.
- 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 Lynn Goodrich at "Lynn Goodrich" <[tripplake1@mac.com](mailto:tripplake1@mac.com)>; or Dan Kittilson at [drkittil@q.com](mailto:drkittil@q.com)
- e. 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

Continuing to explore ways to improve communications with lake associations ,lake boards and individual members.

Coordinating with Sharon N. regarding communications portion of her COLA survey.

How do we keep e-mails focused on important areas, yet keep membership informed of lake issues. An informed membership is critical to the success of HCCOLA.

## **Lakeshore Education Committee**

Strategic Action #5

By Sharon Natzel

The simple 3-step process for doing a mailing to your lakeshore owners using the Hubbard County Geographic Information System (GIS) data is available on the HCCOLA website [http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/uploads/3/2/6/5/3265696/want\\_to\\_mail\\_something\\_to\\_every\\_land\\_owner\\_on\\_your\\_lake.pdf](http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/uploads/3/2/6/5/3265696/want_to_mail_something_to_every_land_owner_on_your_lake.pdf) Ed Mutsch confirmed last week that the process and output is still the same even though the Hubbard County interactive map system was upgraded.

If you need help doing a mail merge using Microsoft Word and Excel, the Education team can help coach you too!

## **Manage Public Image Committee**

Strategic action #6

By Larry Roberts

Articles for the “Voices on the Water” series are on the website. We have a new article on the website from Jeff Mosner’s daughter. Check it out. North Woods Press has expressed an interest in putting articles from the website in their paper. Would also include articles from anyone in the community. Share your lake experiences in a short story 5-700 words. Articles can be e-mailed to Larry Roberts, [lrobertsmn@gmail.com](mailto:lrobertsmn@gmail.com).

Peter Pierson, our public image advisor has recorded the article written by Vern Thompson “To the Last Loon on Little Sand Lake” for KAXE-KBXE, Northern Community Radio. Broadcast date has not yet been determined. Notice will be posted on our website. It will also be available on their website: [www.Kaxe.org](http://www.Kaxe.org).

The radio station has expressed interest in doing additional articles from HCCOLA.

## **Membership Committee Report**

Strategic action #7

By Hillary Stoltz

### A. COLA REPORT:

1. Fourteen (14) Lake Associations were represented at the August COLA Meeting.
2. Changes in COLA representatives and/or newly elected Presidents need to inform Deb Rogers so that they can be added to the COLA Master Lists and have their Badges made up.
3. Dues and Association Membership Info has been received from 12 of our 28 Lake Association Members. Reps should please follow up with getting these in before the October deadline.

## B. COLA Committees

1. Assignment to a COLA Committee for COLA Members and new Representatives shall be an ongoing effort of the Membership Committee. New reps should notify someone on the Membership Committee of their Committee preference, or they will be assigned where needed and notified.

C. The annual Fall Social Gathering of COLA Representatives and their spouses or guests was held on September 3<sup>rd</sup> at Zorbaz. Good food and good company made for a delightful event. In appreciation of their exceptional dedication to protecting our precious lakes and leading and representing Hubbard County COLA, Dan and Ruby Kittilson were each presented with COLA jackets and a \$500 gift certificate for Reed's Sporting Goods. Thanks to all for their thoughtful contributions.

## D. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE "CAPSTONE STUDY" PROJECTS

1. Lake Associations, as well as COLA, benefit when Memberships increase. The Membership Committee would like to compile "Success Stories" from the COLA Reps and Association Presidents as a part of producing a "Best Practices" document.
2. Social events and fund-raisers to broaden local interest, organizing and supporting events that may appeal to younger residents and the creation of leaders, and lake-related restoration/volunteer projects will continue as a focus of the Membership Committee.

### **Finance Committee:**

Strategic action #8

By Lynn Goodrich

We all need to get out on our lakes and enjoy them as fall is just around the corner. I have promised myself that I will spend time in the fishing boat before I pull it from the lake for the season.

- The board at the last meeting passed the HCCOLA 2014-15 budget. It calls for a total of \$9725.00 in expenses on revenue of \$9725.00.
- I will be transferring the duties of Treasurer to Steve Hall over the next month. One of Steve's 1<sup>st</sup> projects will be to look into the advantages vs. disadvantages of contoured use of the NWMF or obtain 501c3 status for HCCOLA. We would encourage anyone with expertise or experience to contact us.
- Do you like money? If the answer is yes, and we all know it is, here is your chance to help HCCOLA. Steve Hall is looking to add new members to the finance committee. You will get to work on all kinds of "fun" stuff and help to ensure HCCOLA has the where with all to continue its good work. Just contact Steve Hall or myself. We'll sit down together, answer all your questions and even buy you a cup of coffee to help seal the deal.

**Our mission requires the commitment of us all. HCOLA needs you and asks you to step up, get creative, and be involved!**

## **Impact Political Action Committee**

Strategic Action #9

By Chuck Diessner

1. **NOTICE:** The IPA Committee will no longer send a notice and agenda to members of COLA with regard to variances and other matters coming before the Board of Adjustment or the Planning Commission that involve property on a member's lake.
2. The annual calendar and monthly agenda for the Board of Adjustment and Planning Commission matters can be found at the Hubbard County website. The Calendar is under Quick Links on the first page. For the Agenda you need to fill in Environmental Service as the Department in the upper right corner and it is under the Quick Links

## **Civic Service Committee**

By Peter Tuomisto

Civic Committee activities for 2014

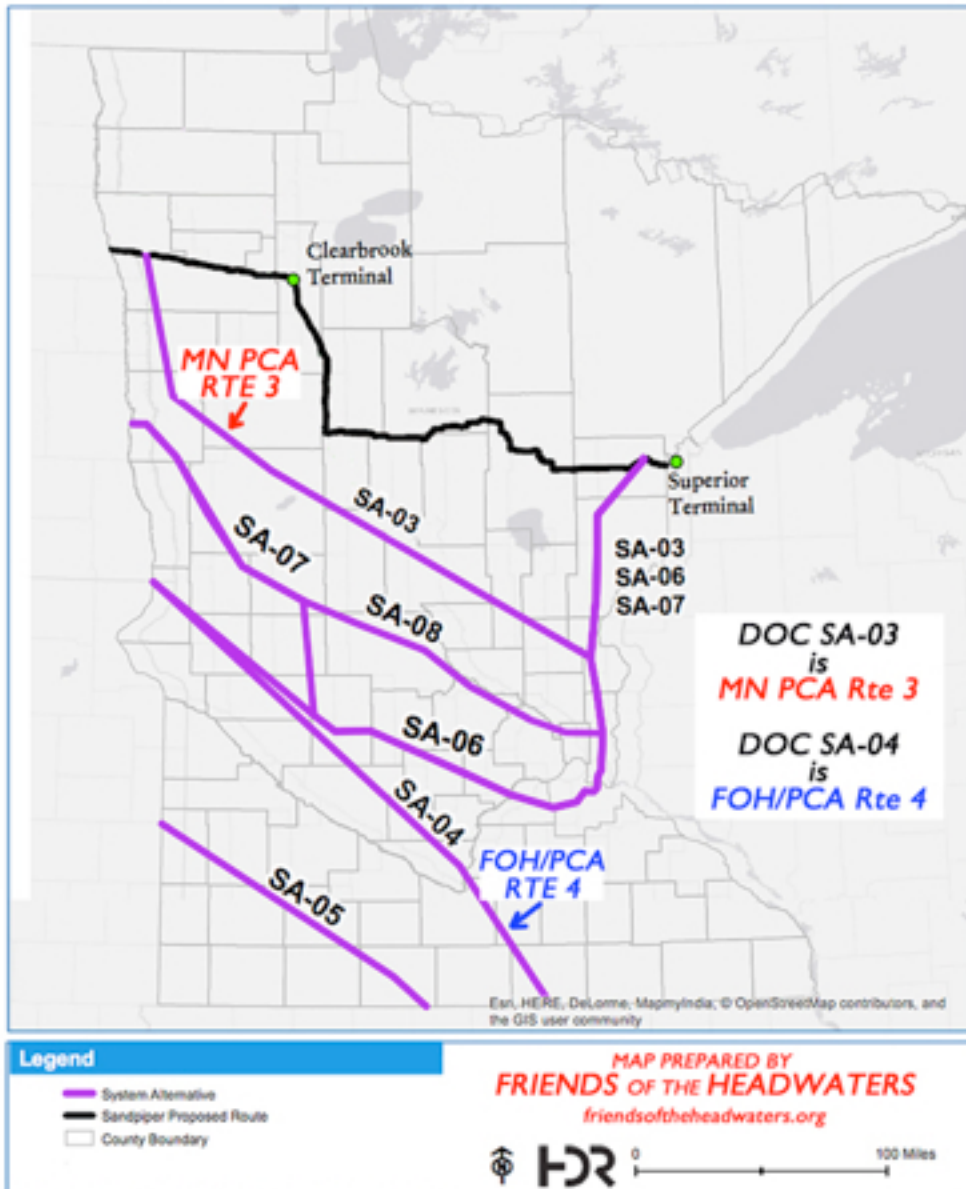
1. Restore the Shore orders for 2014 are due back to Theora Goodrich.
2. Veliger Water Testing was done again in July and August. In 2014, Potato, Blue, Eagle, Big Sand, Little Sand, Long, Spider, the Crooked Lakes, Ojibway, Belle Taine, Fish Hook and Kabekona participated. Please let Pete Tuomisto know if your lake would like to participate for the first time in 2015.
3. Hydro Lab SWCD will again have the Hydro Lab testing for those interested lakes in 2015. 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.
4. Water Monitoring is done for the year. Please remind your lakeshore members to keep an eye out for adult zebra mussels when removing docks and boat lifts. Contact the DNR immediately if any are found.-

## **AI Sandpiper Pipeline Update**

By Jeff Mosner

If you thought this Enbridge pipeline was a "done deal", read on...

September brought some very good news in our battle to move the proposed route of this pipeline out of our lake country. On September 11th the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) allowed for further study and comparison, 5 citizen-proposed alternate routes that bypass the Mississippi Headwaters and lake country, and one alternate proposed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). That agency and the state Department of Natural Resources had urged regulators to consider all-new routes because of the proliferation of lakes, wetlands and rivers along Enbridge's chosen pathway. Regulators ordered the state Commerce Department's environmental analysis unit to study the environmental implications of the six all-new routes. All of the alternate routes were advanced by the Friends of the Headwaters (FOH), except SA-03 which was proposed by the MPCA. See below graphic for routes to be studied.



**It is the first time the commission has ordered a review of an entirely different pipeline route than that proposed by an applicant.**

One other concern raised by the two state environmental agencies is that the Sandpiper route would become the pathway for another large crude oil pipeline project proposed by Enbridge.

In another major development, the PUC decided in this matter to not use the historical single process to decide if the PUC will grant the Certificate of Need (CON) and Route Permit (RP). It determined in this matter that the CON process would be completed first and the Route Permit process would proceed only if a CON was granted. The PUC separated the CON and RP processes because it wanted to be sure the process was fair for the public, it wanted to avoid the confusion of a single process and it wanted to provide an opportunity for the organizations that oppose the pipeline and have limited resources to be able to allocate their resources more effectively since there will not be a RP process if the CON was denied.

Enbridge's "cake walk" across Minnesota's north country did not take into account the passion of its citizens.

At September's COLA meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> a motion will be made to encourage Hubbard lake associations as well as individual members to support financially, the efforts of Friends of the Headwaters. I encourage you to visit FOH's website at <http://friendsoftheheadwaters.org/index.html> to retrieve the latest news, view events, read what local "voices" are saying as well as see what actions you can take to become a part of this effort. Also be sure to "like" FOH's Facebook site at <https://www.facebook.com/savemississippiheadwaters> to get the latest breaking reports.

## **AIS Task Force Report**

### **Strategic Action #10**

By Ken Grob

1. County-wide watercraft inspection program continues to progress well and is in the end-of-summer phase down mode. Nate Sitz will provide the detailed watercraft inspection report for each lake association at 6:00 pm before COLA meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Everyone welcome.
2. A sub-committee of the County AIS Task Force continues work on the plan for use of the State AIS funds for 2014/2015. A draft has been completed and is under review. A full task force review will be conducted in mid-October. A overview of the plan will be available at the October 30 COLA meeting. Plan is scheduled to be presented to county commissioners on Nov 4.
3. Dates to remember:
  - 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.
  - 2015 Aquatic Invaders Summit in St. Cloud January 20-21, 2105. Expert presentations from national AIS leaders on what local organizations can do to lower risk of AIS spread. Sponsored by MLRA, Initiative Foundation, & MN Association of Watershed Districts.
  - UMPS Seminar in Detroit Lakes September 30, 2014. Seminar will feature Jim Foust who was involved in writing the UPMS Standards and has designed watercraft decontamination equipment. UMPS is "Uniform Minimum Protocols and Standards for watercraft inspection for zebra mussels in the Western United States". This should be a very informative session. It will be held 10:00am to 3:00pm at the Detroit Lakes Holiday Inn.
4. **ALERT— "CABIN CLOSE-UP"**

The DNR has issued a press release on actions lake residents should take when removing watercraft and other lake equipment from the water for the winter. The actions are related to AIS prevention and attached below.





## **‘Cabin close-up’ a time to inspect boats and water equipment for invasive species**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources asks every cabin and lakeshore owner to watch for aquatic invasive species (AIS) when removing docks, boat lifts, swim rafts and other equipment from the water.

People should look on the posts, wheels and underwater support bars of docks and lifts, as well as any parts of boats, pontoons and rafts that may have been submerged in water for an extended period. In newly infested waters, adult zebra mussels may not be abundant and there may only be a few mussels on a piece of equipment. On a smooth surface, juvenile mussels feel gritty, like sandpaper.

If a new infestation of zebra mussels, faucet snails or other aquatic invasive species is suspected, the exact location should be noted, a photo taken and a specimen should be kept for positive identification.

Call 888-646-6367 or contact a local DNR AIS specialist or a fisheries office. Responding quickly to new AIS infestations is critical to help curb the spread into other water bodies.

There are also specific legal requirements for cabin owners and boaters when removing and storing watercraft and equipment for the winter – or hiring someone to handle it:

### **Transporting and storing watercraft**

- When hauling boats or other watercraft to a storage facility away from the shoreline property, make sure there are no invasive species attached. It is illegal to transport watercraft with invasive species attached.
- A list of permitted lake services providers is on the DNR website at [www.mndnr.gov/lakeserviceproviders](http://www.mndnr.gov/lakeserviceproviders).
- The form should be downloaded, completed, signed and kept in possession during transport. Zebra mussels and other invasive plants and animals must be removed before transporting the watercraft back to a lake or other water body.

### **Transporting and storing docks, lifts and equipment**

- It is legal to remove a dock, boat lift, dock, weed roller, swim raft, or irrigation equipment from infested waters and place it on the adjacent shoreline property – even if there are zebra mussels or other prohibited invasive species attached. A permit is not required to place equipment on the shoreline. Contact a DNR AIS specialist if an invasive plant or animal is found that has not been sighted on the lake before.
- However, if someone wants to transport equipment from infested waters to another location for storage, cleaning or repair, they must have an authorization form to transport equipment to legally move it to another location.
- If equipment is to be installed in another water body, all aquatic plants and animals such as zebra mussels and Eurasian watermilfoil, must be removed – and equipment must be dried for 21 days before placing in other waters.

## **Hiring a business or individual to remove boats and equipment from any water body**

- Any business or individual in Minnesota paid to decontaminate, install, or remove boats, docks or water-related equipment is legally required to complete AIS training and obtain a permit before working in state waters.
- Anyone hired to remove a boat or dock must have a current DNR permitted service provider sticker on their windshield. If they work for a lake service provider business, ask to see an employee certificate.
- A list of permitted lake services providers is on the DNR website at [www.mndnr.gov/lakeserviceproviders](http://www.mndnr.gov/lakeserviceproviders).

Learn more about Minnesota's aquatic invasive species rules and regulations, and the DNR's lake service provider program at [www.mndnr.gov/AIS](http://www.mndnr.gov/AIS).

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