

HUBBARD COUNTY COALITION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS (HCCOLA)

Committee Reports and Announcements

March 26, 2015

LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

Strategic Actions 1, 2 and 3

By Lynn Goodrich

1. **Executive Committee**

- i. The executive team is working on a new email subscription system to allow all members to subscribe to receive emails directly from HCCOLA. The 2015 pilot program will be presented at the March 26th meeting.
 - ii. Request that Jeff Mosner and Bob Berdahl be added as members of the Executive Committee.
 - iii. We are still looking to fill the vacant position of HCCOLA Secretary.
 - iv. Volunteer mentors are in place to assist Lake Associations and individual lakes that do not yet have a Lake Management Plan or need assistance in updating them.
- a. Call for members to fill important positions within HCCOLA. The Executive Committee (Team) is looking for people to help build communications within HCCOLA and to get our message out to the public. We need to inform and engage the public about the issues that affect the waters here in Hubbard County and northern Minnesota. Our waters affect us all, whether we live in the city, country, or on a lake, whether we are year round, seasonal, or occasional visitors. The future of this area is so closely tied to the environment that we must work tirelessly to protect and enhance it. Please help by sharing your unique talents with HCCOLA. You can email me at hccola.lynnng@icloud.com or give me a call.
 - b. Watch for HCCOLA's ad and Enhanced Business listing in the 2015 Park Rapids Lakes Area Discovery Guide. HCCOLA'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.
 - c. **The "Nifty Nine" Hosts** for the March 26 HCCOLA meeting are Big Mantrap, Blue, 10th & 11th Crow Wing Lakes. Each group is responsible for setting up the Northwood's Bank Community Room, providing and preparing the refreshments and treats, and doing clean up after the meeting. Until HCCOLA has a Secretary, the Nifty Nine hosts are responsible for taking minutes at the HCCOLA meeting.
 - d. **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. HCCOLA's mission enhances, promotes and protects the interests of lakeshore property owners, lakes associations, local government, the general public and future generations.**

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

- a. Mark your calendar and save the date.....attend HCCOLA's upcoming meeting on **Thursday, March 26, 2015**; social gathering/networking at **6:30 p.m.** and meeting at **7:00 p.m.** at the **Northwood's Bank Community Room.**

- b. Your action is needed to ensure the continued state funding of the local AIS County Prevention Aid program. Two bills have been introduced to the legislature in St. Paul. HF 570 and SF 1369 which would cut funding that is the foundation of the Hubbard County AIS prevention and inspection program. I would encourage you to write or email your legislators to encourage them to oppose these two bills and support the continued funding of the County AIS Prevention Aid program. I attended a meeting with Representative John Purcell where he stated that hundreds of constituent emails and thousands of Facebook posts had a profound impact at the legislature. As updated information is made available I will pass it on in an email to HCCOLA and LA leaders and members.
- c. Interested HCCOLA members that are unable to attend our March 26th HCCOLA meeting will have the opportunity to participate via our “Teleconference” during the meeting. Please let me (Lynn G) know if you would be interested in connecting to our HCCOLA meeting via your phone. I will email instructions to you.
- d. HCCOLA’s third board meeting of 2015 will be on - **Thursday, April 30, 2015.**
- e. **What’s happening on your lake?** Please provide updated contact information for your HCCOLA reps, presidents and e-mail coordinators so we can keep our contact lists up-to-date. Lake associations are encouraged to send their newsletters to Lynn Goodrich at <mailto:tripplake1@mac.com>, or Dan Kittilson at drkittil@q.com
- f. HCCOLA’s e-mail address: Comments, suggestions, and questions can be sent to hccolamn@gmail.com

Improve Internal Communications

Strategic Action #4

By Larry Roberts

No report this month. A full report will be included in April 2015 Committee report.

Lakeshore Education Committee

Strategic Action 5

By Sharon Natzel

- 1) The Speaker / Demonstration series for the monthly HCCOLA meetings in 2015 will include the Lake Monitoring types from the 12/2014 Capstone Report on Enhancing Hubbard County COLA’s Lake Monitoring Program by the Indiana University, School of Public and Environmental Affairs. HCCOLA Lake Association’s questionnaires on the monthly meeting lake monitoring tier will be available at each meeting for completion to help flesh out the entire HCCOLA lake monitoring matrix recap. Gaps and opportunity areas may appear pointing out training resources needed, for example. We are beginning anew this journey of Lake Monitoring, one of the key focus areas LA members desired.

March: Secchi Monitoring Tier – easy and free for each Lake to participate in. Some educational links and videos related to Secchi Monitoring include:

- MPCA Citizen Lake Monitoring Program:
<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/water-types-and-programs/surface-water/lakes/citizen-lake-monitoring-program/index.html>
 and
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZgYKkSAP8K4&list=PL33B0CD28ABD13A60&index=2&feature=plpp_video

- RMB Environmental Laboratories, Detroit Lakes, MN – Lake Program – Demonstration of Blue & Long Lake for examples: <http://rmbel.info/lakes/>
 - One Page Lake Summary includes link DNR Lake Level and DNR Fisheries
 - Secchi Graph from Lake Database as a result of May-Sept annual testing
- 2) Lake Management Plan Mentors have been identified who are willing to be resources for Lake Associations wanting to create Lake Management Plans or seek guidance to update.
 - 3) The subscription instructions for our 2015 pilot for HCCOLA Lake Association members who want to subscribe to HCCOLA news via email will be available through the HCCOLA website. For the 2015 pilot, the HCCOLA news will consist of the links to the Monthly Committee Reports and Approved Meeting Minutes. These subscribers may get duplicate information if their HCCOLA Lake Association does determine to send an update to their members on a specific topic area too. Within the email message, the unsubscribe information will be placed at the end of the message.

Our Communications team will manage the subscriptions and send out any links / pdf files provided by the HCCOLA President. We are asking for at least one HCCOLA lake association member to step up and run the pilot program for the year 2015. An evaluation at the end of the pilot will determine if the subscriptions continue, are modified, or ended.

- 4) Updated zebra mussel monitoring guidelines are in planning stages and being reviewed yet with DNR / others. These updated guidelines will be communicated when available.

Manage Public Image Committee

Strategic action #6

By Larry Roberts

No report this month. A full report will be included in April 2015 Committee report.

Membership Committee Report

Strategic action #7

By Hillary Stoltz

1. No report this month. A full report will be included in April 2015 Committee report.
2. Please report any changes/updates in Lake Association Presidents or Representatives or their contact information to Deb Rodgers.

Finance Committee:

Strategic action #8

By Steve Hall, HCCOLA Treasurer

1. Steve will present the treasurer's report at the meeting on March 26, 2015.

Impact Political Action Committee

Strategic Action #9

By Chuck Diessner

1. No report this month. A full report will be included in April 2015 Committee report.

Civic Service Committee

By Peter Tuomisto

Civic Committee activities for 2015

1. Children's Freshwater Festival 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 2015 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 2014, Potato, Blue, Eagle, Big Sand, Little Sand, Long, Belle Taine, Kabekona, Fish Hook 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 2015 and if your lake would like to participate for the first time in 2015. 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.

Water Monitoring Kits will be handed out on **May 13th** at 7:00 p.m. at the Courthouse. Training will be available if needed. Further information and program registration forms will be sent electronically to lake associations. **Registration Forms** will be available at the **March and April COLA meetings** also.

Sandpiper Pipeline Update

By Jeff Mosner

Hubbard COLA continues to support efforts by Friends of the Headwaters (FOH) to keep Enbridge's proposed crude oil pipelines (carrying "fracked" oil from North Dakota as well as tar sand oil from Alberta) out of Hubbard County.

In February and March, briefs by parties such as FOH were submitted to the PUC Administrative Law Judge Eric Lipman:

2/27/2015 Brief submitted to Office of Administrative Hearings for PUC by Friends of the Headwaters [Click here](#)

3/13/2015 Response Brief Final submitted to Office of Administrative Hearings for PUC by Friends of the Headwaters [Click here](#)

Also submitted to Ramsey County district court by MCEA, the legal representatives for FOH, is an appeal for an EIS:

3/11/2015 FOH Court Appeal for Environmental Impact Study [Click here](#)

On April 13, 2015 Judge Lipman must make his recommendation to the PUC commissioners to grant or deny Enbridge's request for a Certificate of Need to build the Sandpiper. The PUC commissioners then have until June to make their decision.

To find more information on this project, the PUC process and how you can help, please visit FOH's website at: <http://www.friendsoftheheadwaters.org/index.html>

Please refer to the HCCOLA and FOH websites for the latest information.

AIS Committee

Strategic Action #10

By Ken Grob

County AIS Task Force PPI Committee continues to make progress on 2015 Objectives. Status by project follows:

1. **Public Awareness:** DNR AIS Public Awareness Grant Application has been submitted for billboards, radio PSA's, and resort materials. This is a matching grant with COLA. The resort contact survey from 2014 has been summarized and report written. Results similar to 2013. Resorts are very supportive of the county AIS work and appreciate the information we provide. However, only about half of the resorts screen their guests and/or check their watercraft. In addition, they would like more help with putting links on their websites for their guests and the resort owners to access. The AIS Plan has improvements in all of these areas as an objective for 2015. Help with resort contacts is expected from lake association AIS coordinators again in 2015
2. **Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination:** Nate Sitz is making good progress with preparations for 2015 inspection program. Hiring process is progressing. Lake Association response to funding targeted supplemental hours has been outstanding. All Associations, except one, have met or exceeded target. Total supplemental hour commitments exceeded target by 1000 hours. Overall, Hubbard County will have watercraft inspectors at about 31 lakes and 37 accesses during 2015, with almost 15,000 hours scheduled. This is an increase of almost 6000 hours from 2014, thanks to the state aid funding and the strong commitment of lake associations and townships/cities. Itasca State Park is working on an inspection plan for 2015 (Task Force PPI Committee and SWCD have participated in Park plan discussions). PPI committee is still exploring options to find funding for Two Inlets Lake. This is a critical lake to the Fish Hook Chain, but in Becker County. Exploring funding commitments from Becker County and from other sources.
3. **Lake Monitoring:** Early Detection/lake Monitoring planning is progressing well. See Peter Tuomisto report. Dan Kittilson will describe plans at Board Meeting. It should be noted that the County AIS Plan provides funding for about 18 lakes to do veliger sampling (in 2014 sampling was funded by individual lake associations) and about 37 lakes to do concrete block sampling. These projects will require volunteers from lake associations. Dan has scheduled training session on lake monitoring for June 19.
4. **Rapid Response Planning:** Bob Berdahl has outlined a RRP plan for the county. Work to start on coordination planning with DNR. It is expected that once the overall plan is in place, several individual lake associations will be asked to develop a lake specific plan.
5. **General Information:** State AIS Advisory Committee is working on a strategic set of objectives for recommendation to the DNR...The four categories are: Legislative Agenda, Research Priorities, Communications, and On-The-Ground Strategies.
6. **Focused actions for next few months:**
 - Receive confirmation of DNR Grant Awards for Public Awareness and Inspection support.
 - Finalize allocation hours for all lakes. Confirm lake association and township/city commitments. Hire and train Inspectors. Place traffic counters at selected lakes. Schedule inspectors. Communicate decontamination station schedules.
 - Contact resorts to encourage their participation in screening guests for AIS, especially if the resort has a launch site.
 - Organize resort visit materials for distribution in June.
 - Organize the lake monitoring project. Train volunteers to do veliger water sampling and placing concrete blocks.
 - Continue progress on RRP Guidelines.