

# HUBBARD COUNTY COALITION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS (HC COLA)

Committee Reports, Announcements, Pipeline update

October 29, 2015

## LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

By Lynn Goodrich

### 1. **Executive Committee (E-Team)**

- a. Although this is the last Board Meeting of 2015 the E-Team has established “Winter Projects” to work on during the “solid water months”.
  - i. We will review and make changes the Board Meeting format to streamline the business portion and allow for an Open Discussion session to encourage members to share individual Lake Association success stories, find help in solving problems, get answers to questions from experts and others.
  - ii. We will also undertake a review of the hubbardcolam.org website to ensure that it is easy to navigate, find up to date information, and show links to other websites with topics of interest to our members.
  - iii. Set short and long range goals to support our mission.
  - iv. Review our financial position with a goal of establishing a fund to allow us to quickly respond to future challenges (AIS, etc.)
- b. In planning next year’s Board Meeting guest presentations we need feedback from you the members. Tell us what you would like hear. What topics are important to you, your lake and life in Lake Country? A questionnaire will be distributed at the meeting and we will compile the requests and use them in planning. But it doesn’t stop there! You can always call or email us with thoughts and suggestions. We will, of course, continue to inform you through meetings and emails the latest news and information affecting us.
- c. There is continuing discussion on how HC COLA, through influence and interaction with state, county and local officials, will address the threat of new AIS infestations in Minnesota waters and shield Hubbard County from these threats. The newest seems to be Starry Stonewort just found in Lake Koronis. We continue to see a spread to more lakes of Zebra Mussels, Curly Leaf Pondweed, Spiny Water Fleas and others.
- d. **Getting to know HC COLA lakes:**

Thank you to Alan Colander for his excellent presentation on Lake Plantagenet and its Landowners Association. Plantagenet, located on the northern border of Hubbard County, is the largest (area) in Hubbard County. Schoolcraft River flows through the lake. It has a varied fish population and is one of the top ten Muskie destination lakes in the state.
- d. **HC COLA’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. Our 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. We are a community -

HC COLA is made up of people from many areas and many walks of life. The primary thing that brings us together is our love for our waters and the natural environment here in Hubbard County. HC COLA’s mission is to ensure these lakes and rivers maintain or improve their quality both now and for future generations. This is a daunting task that cannot be accomplished by a few individuals; it takes all of us to lend our time and talents. We have been most successful in the past when we have engaged large numbers of you to help solve problems and encourage others outside of HC COLA to appreciate

where we live and commit to protecting it. I encourage you to join with me and get involved. Do what you can. Share your unique talent with your HC COLA community. If we can, as individuals and as a group, engage our friends, children, grand and great-grand children to value what they have, we will have made a great stride to achieve our mission. So if I call, email, or ask don't say no. Ask what can I do.

- b. Interested HC COLA members that are unable to attend our October 29<sup>th</sup> HC COLA meeting will have the opportunity to participate via conference call during the meeting. Please let me (Lynn G) know if you would be interested in joining the HC COLA meeting via your phone. I will email instructions to you.
- c. Mark your calendar and save the date.....attend HC COLA's next meeting the night of **Thursday, February 4, 2016 @ Northwood's Bank Community Room**. Information about the meeting will be available on the hubbardcolamn.org website and via email in January 2016
- d. Lake contact information and newsletters: Please review your Lake Association contact information and provide any updated information for your representative, president, treasurer, AIS coordinator, Restore the Shore coordinator and e-mail coordinator so we can keep our contact lists up-to-date and get the right information to the designated person.  
Lake Associations are encouraged to send their newsletters to Lynn Goodrich at [triplake1@mac.com](mailto:triplake1@mac.com), or Dan Kittilson at [drkittil@q.com](mailto:drkittil@q.com) □

### **Improve Internal Communications**

By Larry Roberts

No report this month.

### **Lakeshore Education Committee**

Strategic Action 5

By Sharon Natzel

1. No report this month.

### **Manage Public Image Committee**

By Larry Roberts

1. We continue to request articles/stories from HC COLA members and others regarding their lake experiences. You can also include a non-lake experience.  
Please forward articles to me at: [lrobertsmn@gmail.com](mailto:lrobertsmn@gmail.com)

### **Membership Committee Report**

By Hillary Stoltz

1. It was agreed that the increase or decrease of members in the individual Lake Associations that comprise Hubbard County COLA, directly affects COLA both financially and in terms of support and volunteers. Reaching out to get younger residents and members interested in the activities of COLA might be accomplished by forwarding Minutes and Committee Reports that are sent out to the COLA Reps and Presidents forwarded to members and also having Lake Associations recommend that their members send the COLA Minutes and Committee Reports to their children, if/when they receive them. Visits to the COLA Website should also be recommended and reiterated to members, including the COLA website address. The links are interesting and informative.
2. It was suggested that we approach the Education Committee and the Executive Committee with a suggestion of having future classes on Setting Up and Maintaining Websites for the Lake Associations that would like assistance. Maintaining and setting up a Facebook Page may also be

added to such curriculum.

### **Finance Committee:**

By Steve Hall, HC COLA Treasurer

1. Water Testing payments are overdue. Reminders were sent out in September to Presidents of Lake Associations who have not paid to date. Lakes still unpaid are: 2<sup>nd</sup> Crow Wing, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Crow Wings, Lake Belle Taine, Fish Hook and Skunk. Please get your Water Testing payments in as soon as possible.
2. Membership dues continue to come in. To date 21 of 29 Associations have paid their dues. Membership dues are considered overdue on November 1, 2015. Lake Associations who have not paid their dues to date are: Lower Crow Wing, Lake Belle Taine, Duck Lake, Fish Hook Lake, Little Sand Lake, Long Lake, Peysenske Lake and Stony Lake. Please check with your Lake Association Treasurer to make sure they have an invoice and are aware of the due date. If there is a need for an additional invoice, please have them call Steve Hall at 218-732-8907.

### **Impact Political Action Committee**

By Chuck Diessner

1. No report this month.

### **Civic Service Committee**

By Peter Tuomisto

1. Veliger Water Testing has been completed for this year. RMB Labs has found no veligers in our samples. Veligers are too small to see without a microscope but we can keep vigilant on the adult Zebra Mussels. Make sure to examine docks, boat lifts, pontoons, etc. as you take them out of the water for the winter. Also, as for the cinder blocks, please examine those also as you take the dock out. It is important for dock and lift service providers to also examine those docks and lifts as they take them out of the water.
2. Water Monitoring has finished for the year. September's samples have been collected and sent to the RMB Labs for testing and recording. If you haven't returned the collecting tube to Charlies, please do so. They will be cleaned and dried and stored for the winter.
3. Thank you for your volunteer efforts.
4. Please get the Restore the Shore orders in to Theora Goodrich.

### **AIS Committee**

By Ken Grob

1. No written report included.
2. The report will be presented at the Board Meeting on October 29, 2015

### **Pipeline information update**

By Jeff Mosner

#### **Appeals Court rules that the PUC "jumped the gun"...rescinds Cert of Need permit and requires EIS...MN Supreme Court to weigh in next**

This past winter, Friends of the Headwaters (FOH) and its legal representative, the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA) initiated an appeal regarding the necessity for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Enbridge's proposed Sandpiper pipeline. On September 14<sup>th</sup> the MN Court of Appeals ruled that the PUC must conduct an EIS prior to deciding whether to approve a Certificate of Need permit to Enbridge.

In this unanimous decision, the Court concluded that “MEPA requires an environmental impact statement to be completed before a final decision is made to grant or deny a certificate of need.” As a Mpls Star Tribune article pointed out: “The Friends of the Headwaters argued that conducting certificate of need proceedings before completing an environmental impact statement violated the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act. The appeals court agreed.”

Subsequent to this Appeals Court ruling, on October 14<sup>th</sup> both Enbridge/NDPC and the MN PUC filed a petition requesting the MN Supreme Court review this ruling. The MN Supreme Court has 60 days to decide whether it will hear this case. These rulings have important ramifications for Minnesota as they will set precedent for this and future pipeline projects.

Friends of the Headwaters believes that, IF oil pipelines are needed, they should be located away from Minnesota’s most pristine water resources. You can help us by sharing our updates, visiting our website, sharing our posts on social media, liking our Facebook page, attending our fundraisers, and donating money for FOH legal expenses.

*Please consider writing to the governor, legislators, and newspapers announcing your emphatic support for the Court of Appeals’ decision requiring an EIS.*

I encourage you to visit FOH's website at <http://friendsoftheheadwaters.org/index.html> to donate to this cause, 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.