

HUBBARD COUNTY COALITION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS (HC COLA)

Committee Report, President's Message, Events and Announcements

April 28, 2016

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. HCCOLA Board Meeting - Thursday, April 28, 2016
(Host lakes: Potato, Palmer, 8th & 9th Crow Wing Lakes)
- b. PR Flower & Garden Show, April 30 (10-5) - May 1 (11-4) @ PR Armory
 - i. HC COLA will have presentations and displays both days
- c. Restore the Shore tree distribution May 6-7-8 @ HC fairgrounds (look for signs)
 - i. Friday 6th 1pm - 6pm, Saturday 7th 9am - 3pm, Sunday 8th 1pm - 3pm
- d. HC COLA Water Testers meeting, May 11, 2106 7pm @ Northwoods Bank
 - i. Short meeting & cooler/sampling equipment (tube) pickup
 - ii. *REQUIRED ATTENDANCE by monitors*
- e. SWCD Children's Fresh Water Festival, May 18 @ BSA Camp Wilderness
- f. HC COLA Board Meeting Thursday, May 26, 2016 *DO NOT MISS THIS ONE!*
 - i. The extreme cost of infestation by AIS...first hand experience
 - ii. Guest presenters: Joe Shneider (Christmas Lake) and Kevin Farnum (Lake Koronis)
- g. HC COLA 3rd annual "Sports Sale", June 16, 17 (Thursday-Friday)
 - i. Hubbard County Fair Grounds - Environmental Building
- h. Our Watersheds: Your Major Role in the Minor Watershed...How do you fit in?
 - i. Presented by Karen Terry, UM Extension Educator on June 17th 4:30-8:30pm
- i. AIS Summit ver. 2, Oct. 5-6, St. Cloud: details forthcoming.
- j. Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference, Oct. 17-19, Lacrosse WI

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We have an event filled end to April and first week of May. Our board meeting on the 28th, Flower and Garden Show on the 30th and 1st, Restore the Shore tree and plant repackaging on May 5th with delivery on May 6th-7th-8th. Later in May there is the Distribution of Water Monitoring equipment and information on May 11th and the annual Children's Fresh Water Festival and the very important May board meeting.

It is a feather in the HC COLA caps that so many of our member lakes have existing Lake Management Plans that were completed in the early 2000s. The speaker at our April 28th meeting was instrumental in creating many of them through his with the "Healthy Lakes and Rivers Partnership" program. Don has long been involved in the efforts to keep our wonderful resource, our lakes, pristine. He is very knowledgeable and is coming back to HC COLA to assist us with bringing those plans up to current standards and to incorporate current science. I am hopeful that after hearing Don, other member lakes that do not have a LMP, will be inspired to create one. It is not just the resulting plan that is beneficial but also the process, which will be a great vehicle to involve a new group of lake residents and encourage them to become responsible stewards. Additionally, Don will give us some great ideas on obtaining outside funding to assist us with our preservation and improvement efforts.

I am very pleased to announce that Kevin Farnum and Joe Shneider will be visiting our May 26th board meeting. Joe and Kevin will share with HC COLA their experiences dealing with AIS infestations in the lakes they reside on. Joe is from Christmas Lake and was a key player in the efforts to try and eradicate the Zebra Mussel (ZM) population. Kevin is leading and is very deeply involved in the effort to control the Starry Stonewort (SS) infestation at Lake Koronis. He hopes to keep it isolated to that lake, as it is the first with SS in the state. He fears that without proper protocols Lake Koronis become the exporter SS to other lakes in Minnesota. The both have intimate knowledge in working with the MN DNR, other state and federal agencies, the extreme cost to local lake associations and governmental units of these efforts, the frustration of seeing lakes that have been a central part of their family's life degrade, as we all would. Their conversation with us will reinforce the importance of the Hubbard County AIS program, which is designed to shield our waters and protect the interests of lakeshore property owners, lake associations, local government, the general public and our local economy. It looks to be an active summer and hopefully we will all find the time to enjoy our "UP NORTH" time.

We are the "Land of 10,000 Lakes!" Let's make sure they are the absolute best they can be and will continue to be for generations to come.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Leadership Committee

By Lynn Goodrich

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

- a. HC COLA will be taking a very active part in the Park Rapids Armory Flower & Garden show at the end of April. We will have a main floor booth and access to 2 classrooms. We have developed a full set of classes/presentations for one classroom and will use the other to house demonstrations, answer questions, have one-on-one discussions involving a wide area of topics including: AIS, water quality & quantity (surface and subsurface) shoreline restoration, erosion, aquatic plant identification, wildlife, Watersheds (major & minor) and more. Please support HC COLA by volunteering to share your expertise or by your attendance.
 - b. We have once again the need to fill a couple of leadership positions on our E-team. Larry Roberts, after serving HC COLA for many years resigned, last year. Larry filled an important role as our Communications Chairperson. In August, my term as your president will end. Sharon Natzel will step into my role and she will need a "second chair." The office of Vice President/President elect is critical to HC COLA sustainability. As an organization with over 2100 members it should not be a problem to find a candidate or two to fill these very important roles. Please consider accepting the call to protect our heritage, the way of life we all love.
 - c. HC COLA, along with MLR's Jeff Forester, DNR's Nicole Kovar, SWCD's Julie Kingsley participated in a meeting facilitated by Pastor Chip Nelson, the pastor at Riverside United Methodist Church. The meeting was organized to address the AIS issue to members and leaders of the various faith communities in our area. It was an informative evening and will be the first of many events to reach out to this segment of our population and elicit their involvement to stop AIS. We expect this to be an ongoing relationship and to work with him on future initiatives concerning AIS.
 - d. As those of you that went south for the winter return please be aware that our meeting time has been adjusted earlier. We now have Coffee & Conversation at 6:00pm and start the meeting at 6:30pm. It is our hope that this will allow time for interesting presentations and discussions and still allows us all to get home earlier.
 - e. Our website: hubbardcolamn.org website is dynamic and ever-changing. Jeff has made some changes and will continue to update it over the summer. Visit often to view the latest information, announcements, activities, member submitted photos, and so much more.
 - f. The HC COLA presence on facebook has been reviewed and updated to encourage more people to view and "Like" us. Thanks to C. C. White and the education team for spearheading this effort. Expanding our use of social media was a primary recommendation from the first HC COLA/Indiana University Capstone report. We encourage you to "Like" us on facebook and recommend others to do the same.
 - g. During our budget planning process we will be looking at new ideas to earmark funds for specific projects. We need to be prepared with funds to be able to respond to challenges in the future.
2. **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.**

Civic Service Committee

By Peter Tuomisto

Civic Committee activities for 2016

1. Children's Freshwater Festival at Wilderness Boy Scout Camp near Emmaville - **contributions and volunteers 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 2016 will be ready for pickup at the Fairgrounds on May 6-7-8. Hours for pickup

are Friday 6th 1pm - 6pm, Saturday 7th 9am - 3pm, Sunday 8th 1pm - 3pm. The trees and plants will be repackaged on May 5th at the Fairgrounds. Volunteers are needed to facilitate this. The RTS Coordinator is Theora Goodrich (218) 652-3130

3. Veliger Water Testing will be done again in July and August. In 2015, Potato, Blue, Eagle, Big Sand, Little Sand, Long, Belle Taine, Kabekona, Fish Hook, Island, Duck, Big Mantrap, Bottle, Boulder, 6th Crow Wing, Plantagenet, 11th Crow Wing, 8th Crow Wing, 3rd Crow Wing, 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 2016 and if your lake would like to participate for the first time in 2016. 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 2016. 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 11th](#) at 7:00 p.m. at the Northwoods Bank Community Room. 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 [April COLA meeting](#).

Finance Committee / Treasurer

By Steve Hall

1. The treasurer's report will be presented at the meeting on May 28, 2016
2. Membership dues are all in with the exception of Stony Lake.

Lakeshore Education Committee

By Sharon Natzel

Hold the Date! Friday June 17 from 4:30 to 8:30 PM at Northwoods Bank Community Room Hubbard County UM Extension Educator, Karen Terry Presents **Our Watersheds: Your Major Role in the Minor Watershed...How Do You Fit In?** The class is free and open to the public. This class is being held in cooperation with Hubbard County COLA.

Learn about watersheds. Find out why the minor watersheds are important. Learn how buffers, rain gardens, and other proactive steps help protect them. Karen Terry will be facilitating the Watershed Game, which is an interactive tool that helps individuals understand the connection between land use and water quality. Participants learn how a variety of land uses impact water and natural resources, increase their knowledge of best management practices (BMPs), and learn how their choices can prevent adverse impacts.

TO REGISTER: call the Extension Office at 732-3391 or email Sally Shearer at sshearer@umn.edu

AIS Committee

By Ken Grob

1. **Hubbard County continues to make progress on 2016 Objectives.** Status by project follows:
 - **Public Awareness:** Billboards have been contracted with Wildlife Forever again in 2016. Bob Berdahl is working with the DeLaHunt Broadcasting for public service messages on AIS and our decontamination station. Resort notebooks with AIS info have been assembled and Bob Gack has started to resort visits. Key emphasis this year is for resort owners to compile info on guest watercraft and to screen/inspect boats before launch at resort.
 - **Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination:** Responsibility for watercraft inspection and decontamination has been transferred to the County ESO (Eric Buitenwerf). SWCD staff continues to help with the transition and Lynn Goodrich is covering a lot of the details. All lakes have provided their commitment for supplemental hours. Response has been great...thanks to all. County plan has about 15,000 hours scheduled. Hiring for about 42 inspectors in process, with Level 1 training scheduled for April 30. COLA to provide lunch. Decon station will be operating

- at Park Rapids Waste Management Facility like last year. All lake association members are encouraged to use it when necessary and to encourage their guests to use it as necessary. Last year we grew to 135 decontaminations. We hope to grow this substantially in 2016.
- **Veliger Sampling and Lake Monitoring:** Program progressing very well. Dan Kittilson has been working hard to get the protocols in place. He will discuss the process at the COLA meeting on the 28th. We are expecting a much higher participation rate this year.
 - **Rapid Response:** Bob Berdahl is working on a plan to encourage several Lake Associations to draft a lake specific AIS response plan in 2016. Potato, Long, and Belle Taine have committed to date. See Bob for more details.

2. Transition Status

The AIS program for Hubbard County is being transferred to county staff in 2016. The size of the program has outgrown the capacity of SWCD and volunteers (County AIS Task Force) to manage. County has decided to assign the AIS Program to the ESO Office under Eric Buitenwerf. Transition planning and activities have been on-going since January. Fiscal responsibility has been transferred to county. ESO is in the process of hiring a staff person to manage the watercraft inspection and decontamination program and assume the role of AIS Coordinator for the county. Bob Berdahl is leading a transition team of County staff, a Commissioner, and the PPI committee members from 2015. SWCD staff is continuing to help with the WID transition until a new coordinator is hired.

3. Other Information

- Five COLA individuals (Kittilson, Berdahl, Goodrich, Grob, Natzel) attended the Freshwater Society Conference on April 14-15. Water quality was the theme, with AIS being a big component. Governor Dayton was a guest speaker.
- The AIS Summit will be held on October 5-6 in St. Cloud. This is an excellent conference with full attention to AIS. Focus is on local actions for AIS prevention.
- The UMISC will be held on October 17-19 in LaCrosse, WI. This conference is held every other year. It includes several upper mid-west states and covers all invasive species. Many technical and research presentations on a full range of invasives. 220 presentations, 6 concurrent sessions, over 600 attendees. Lots of exhibits. A real professional conference. Ken Grob is on the planning committee and will be one of the presenters on AIS.

Pipeline Update

By: Jeff Mosner (Friends of the Headwaters)

Last month I provided a fairly extensive explanation of developments over this past fall and winter related to the Sandpiper and Line 3 pipelines proposed to cross Hubbard County. [Click here](#) if you missed this report (or need a refresher). This month we have been provided with three new opportunities for our voices to be heard. These are outlined below:

Change to “RGU”

On March 10, 2016, the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) received a citizen request for a different Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU) for the environmental review of the North Dakota Pipeline Company LLC’s proposed Sandpiper Pipeline and Enbridge Energy, Limited Partnership’s proposed Line 3 Replacement Pipeline projects.

More specifically, the citizen requests that the EQB relieve the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) of its current RGU status for the above-entitled projects and replace it with a joint RGU consisting of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (“PCA”) and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (“DNR”).

At this time EQB is gathering additional information on the merits of the request to designate a different RGU for the proposed projects.

Consequently, the EQB is providing a 30-day comment period, starting on Friday, April 1, 2016 through 4:30 pm on Monday, May 2, for additional information relevant to Minnesota Rules 4410.0500 and whether to designate a different RGU for the proposed Sandpiper Pipeline and the proposed Line 3 Replacement Pipeline.

Comments may be provided to EQB in writing via email at Pipelines.EQB@state.mn.us.

The EQB will present a Findings of Fact, Conclusions and Order which will come before the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board at its regular meeting on May 18, 2016.

PUC Hearings on Scoping of the Environment Assessment for Sandpiper and Line 3

There will be a PUC hearing in Park Rapids on Tuesday, May 3, 2016 10:00 am –1:00 pm American Legion 900 East 1st Street and again from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm Park Rapids Century School 501 Helten Avenue. Please consider attending one of these hearings to learn more or lend your voice.

http://www.friendsoftheheadwaters.org/uploads/3/4/7/4/34740584/2016_04_11_scoping_hearings.pdf

[Click here](#) for more detailed information related to these hearings scheduled across the state between April 25 and May 11 as well as how to submit written comments. Written comments will be accepted through Thursday, May 26, 2016 online or by mail.

Friends of the Headwaters wants to ensure that this Environmental Impact Statement is done right--that the planned EIS is supervised by scientists and specialists, people with the expertise, academic credentials, and experience necessary to complete a comprehensive and honest EIS on an oil pipeline. We are working to make that happen.

Sign our Petition

You can quite easily help by signing our petition to insure that the EIS for the Sandpiper and other new oil pipelines crossing Minnesota fully complies with all State laws and provides for the highest level of protection of its natural resources. What better way to make your voice heard especially with Earth Day just last week, a week proclaimed by Governor Dayton as **Water Action Week. Please [click here](#) to view and sign the petition (and share with like-minded friends).**

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.