

Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Association (HC COLA)
Committee Report & Events and Announcements for May 26, 2016 Meeting

Upcoming Events— *scroll down on HC COLA website* <http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/index.html>

- a. HC COLA Board Mtg – Thurs, May 26, 2016 Host Lakes: Big Sand, Boulder & Duck
- b. HC COLA Board Mtg Thurs, June 30 – Host Lakes: Little Sand, Ham, Stony & Middle Crow Wing
- c. HC COLA 3rd Annual “Sports Sale” Thurs-Fri June 16, 17 Environmental Bldg at Fair Grounds
- d. UM Ext Class “Our Watersheds: Your Major Role in the Minor Watershed...How Do You Fit in?”
On Fri June 17 from 4:30-8:30 PM at Northwoods Bank Community Room with Light Supper – RSVP
- e. AIS Summit II on Oct 5-6, St. Cloud; more details in July; <https://www.ifound.org/community/aquatic-invasive-species/aquatic-invaders-summit/>
- f. Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference, Oct 17-19, LaCrosse, WI <http://www.umisc.net/>

Civic Service Committee Report – Peter Tuomisto

HC COLA reminds Water Monitors that the next testing weekend is June 19th and 20th with the coolers returned to Charlies by 11 AM on the 20th. Refresher on standardized protocols here: <http://rmbel.info/lakes/videos/>

Lakeshore Education Committee Report – Sharon Natzel

- 1) **Please share** the following **UM Extension Class** information with your Lake Association members!
On Friday **June 17th from 4:30 to 8:30 PM** at the Northwoods Bank Community Room, the following class will be offered: **“Our Watersheds: Your Major Role in the Minor Watershed...How Do You Fit In?”** This class is free and open to the public.

Class Details: 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.

This class is being held in cooperation with HC COLA and who is providing the light supper for participants. TO REGISTER: call the UM Extension Office 218-732-3391 or email Sally Shearer at sshearer@umn.edu

- 2) **Lake Management Plan info provided by Don Hickman on our HC COLA website:**
<http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/other-resources.html>
 - a. Developing a Lake Management Plan
 - b. Lake Management Plan Problem Solving Worksheet & also a Template
- 3) HC COLA Resource used at the Flower & Garden Show on **Lake Association Formation**
<http://www.shorelandmanagement.org/quick/ol.html>

Aquatic Invasive Species Committee Report - Ken Grob

1. **Hubbard County continues to make progress on 2016 Objectives.**
 - **Public Awareness:** Billboards have been contracted with Wildlife Forever again in 2016. DeLaHunt Broadcasting (97.5 FM and 870 AM) airing public service messages on AIS and our decontamination station. Resort notebooks with AIS info have been assembled and Bob Gack will start resort visits in June. 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:**

County has compiled a detailed inspection schedule with Always-There staffing company. 42 inspectors trained and scheduled to conduct inspections.

Lake Associations have been slow in forwarding checks for supplemental inspection hours. Major push last week to encourage them to send checks. Several responded and sent or committed to send checks by 5/27 (Potato, Blue, Eagle/Island, BSLA, LSLA, Big Mantrap, ESB, Duck, Palmer). It is important that funds be submitted by end of May
Key lakes that are delinquent and have not committed to a date to provide funds that they committed to are:

- ✓ *Belle Taine*
- ✓ *Kabekona*
- ✓ *11th/10th Crow Wings*
- ✓ *Fish Hook*

Emails have been sent to lake association leaders requesting payment. If info needed on where and why to send checks, please contact Ken Grob.

2. Transition Status

The AIS program for Hubbard County is being transferred to county staff in 2016. Transition planning and activities have been on-going since January. ESO has hired a new AIS Coordinator. Bill DonCarlos will start May 31. Inspector Training was completed and inspections started with fishing opener.

Decontamination unit hours posted and unit in operation. Bob Berdahl is leading a transition team of County staff, a Commissioner, and the PPI committee members from 2015.

COLA AIS Committee's main role has been focused on obtaining supplemental hour funds from lake associations and townships.

3. Other Information

- 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 - Submitted by Jeff Mosner

As per consensus gained at the April HC COLA meeting, a letter was sent on behalf of its members to the Department of Commerce regarding the Environmental Impact Study (EIS) scoping. The letter emphasized the following 4 points:

1. The Memo of Understanding (MOU) with the MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the MN Pollution Control Agency (PCA) should be strengthened by the inclusion of specific provisions and tasks that turn potential assistance and oversight into actual assistance and oversight. Currently marginalized by the Department of Commerce, scientists, specialists and managers at the MPCA and the MN DNR should have active opportunities to monitor and supervise the EIS.
2. As authorized by MEPA, we request the establishment of an expert panel to provide oversight and assistance with the scientific, economic, technical and procedural aspects of EIS scoping.
3. Any outside consultant contracts used in the EIS scoping should be awarded based on an open, unbiased bid procedure.
4. All "system alternative routes" submitted for this pipeline corridor should be included and compared in the EIS analysis.

The entire letter can be read at this link on HC COLA website:

http://hubbardcolamn.org/uploads/3/4/5/6/34563649/hc_colamay_2016_letter_on_eis_scoping.pdf

In other news, the Environmental Quality Board voted on May 18th to retain the Department of Commerce as the "Responsible Governmental Unit" (RGU) for the EIS. A citizen had petitioned that this task be completed by the DNR, PCA or both.