

# HUBBARD COUNTY COALITION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS (HC COLA)

Committee Reports, President's Message, Events and Announcements

August 25, 2016

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Fall Member/Spouse Gathering will be held on September 14, 2016 at 5 PM at Zorbaz.
- b. HCCOLA Board Meeting - Thursday, September 29, 2016
- c. AIS Summit ver. 2, Oct. 5-6, St. Cloud: registration is now open
- d. Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference, Oct. 17-19, Lacrosse, WI

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I complete my term as president of this wonderful organization, I am reminded of the many people that have committed themselves to the cause of protecting our beautiful lakes and rivers since its formation in 1988. It all started with Pat Alberg and the idea that we as a community could make a difference in the future of our waters. Through the years people such as Jim Nabor, Everett Miller, Herm Bailey, Frank Smith, Judy Novak, Ken Grob and Dan Kittilson have lead HC COLA. Numerous others have contributed their time and talents. I never had the opportunity to meet many of them, as I am a relative newcomer to HC COLA and life in Hubbard County. Jerry Knoblich comes to mind for his dedication water testing. Chuck Deissner for his commitment to ensure the shoreline ordinances were applied fairly and consistently through the county. Ken Grob for his commitment to seeing that AIS was addressed throughout the state and in Hubbard County. Dan Kittilson for his passion for our waters and educating our legislators and others about this important resource. There are so many more we owe a debt of gratitude for their past service, and there will be many more that will step up to the plate to ensure HC COLA and its mission will live on.

I feel that the future will be bright under the leadership of Sharon Natzel. She is dedicated and energetic. Her commitment to Long Lake has made it a better place for all who live and play on its waters. She will bring that same level of commitment to her time leading HC COLA. Let me remind you that this organization has too great a mission to be fulfilled by a few. It will take all of us to ensure our waters are as inviting to future generations as they have been to all of us.

I am proud of the way HC COLA has taken on the challenges presented in the past few years that I have been involved. I am overjoyed that our Hubbard County waters remain free of any major AIS infestation. I am proud of our fund raising that has given us the financial strength to set aside funds to counter future threats to our lakes. I am proud of how, when I attend meetings throughout the state, others look to us for help in solving their challenges. I am most proud that I have discovered and been associated with a great group of people.

Despite what has been said in recent press releases and articles the Sandpiper and Line 3 replacement projects are not dead. There is a great deal happening, and if you are interested I encourage you to look at the Friends of the Headwaters ([friendsoftheheadwaters.org](http://friendsoftheheadwaters.org)) and other sites for the latest news.

You should be proud to be a member and leader of HC COLA. We are the leaders in protecting Hubbard County Lakes and waters throughout Minnesota.

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. We have been searching for a leader to fill the position of Vice President. Although the search is not finished, I am pleased that those we have asked took the invitation very seriously. The right person is out there, as we found in Nancy Gibbs our secretary, we just haven't identified him/her yet. To facilitate our search the E-team has determined that we should eliminate "President Elect" from the job description. Although we feel that as vice president a person will become better

prepared to understand the role of president, it should not be a requirement. The role of vice president is a two-year commitment.

- b. At the August meeting we will be electing a new president. Sharon Natzel, our current vice president, is ready to fill this position and her name will be put in nomination. If you would like to nominate someone else, we will accept nominations from the floor for both president and vice president. Upon electing new officer/s they will be installed on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Our Secretary (Nancy Gibbs) and Treasurer (Steve Hall) will be reappointed for the new president's term.
- c. The "Restore the Shore" tree order program is undergoing some needed changes and will be presented at the September meeting. The SWCD is trimming the list of available trees and plants to make the program more manageable. They have reviewed the sales history and removed unpopular items. HC COLA to greatly simplify the payment process and record keeping will require full payment at time of order. If we are unable to fulfill the order a refund from HC COLA funds will be made.
- d. The E-team recommends that HC COLA's support of the Fresh Water Festival which has relied upon lake association and individual contributions, with HC COLA filling in any shortfall of the \$1200 commitment, be changed to a benefit of membership and the full amount be taken from our general fund. We set aside monies for education and feel that this program fits HC COLA's mission as it serves the children of Hubbard County. Individual and Lake association contributions should be made directly the HC SWCD.
- e. The Lake Water Testing program will also see some changes to more fairly share the financial contribution from the Local Water Plan (LWP) though the SWCD. We will set the fee upon confirmation from RNB Labs of the cost of testing and discount that amount by dividing the LWP contribution by the number of HC COLA Lakes participating. We are investigating creating an HC COLA grant program to help new lake associations, those new to the water testing program, and small lakes. I encourage your input during this grant development process. Healthy lakes regardless of size are a benefit to everyone.
- f. The E-team and finance committee are recommending changing our fiscal year from (9/1 – 8/31) to (1/1 to 12/31) to simplify the record keeping and reporting process. This will be discussed and voted upon at the August 25<sup>th</sup> meeting
- g. HC COLA has in place an AIS fund at the Northwest Minnesota Foundation (NMF). The original reasons for creating it were to accept and set aside funds for use to respond to the AIS threat. Additionally it acted as a 501c3 non-profit for HC COLA. In today's environment with the cost and complexity of responding to AIS infestations and other threats to our lakes and with HC COLA's current financial strength, it is an appropriate time to set aside ( earmark) additional monies. As you have heard recently in on television, online, in the newspapers and presentations here at HC COLA having the ability to rapidly respond to threats and infestations is vitally important. A number of our member lake associations have such funds set aside. We are encouraging the county and others to do the same. It is appropriate for HC COLA to lead by example. The E-team is discussing how to set this up and what guidelines would be appropriate for use of the monies. I encourage you to get involved and voice your opinion. A meeting will be set up for this purpose if there is interest.

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. Changes to the HC COLA Restore the Shore program will be presented at the September 29<sup>th</sup> meeting along with a new order form.
2. The online reporting of "Cinder Block" early detection will commence soon. Please remind everyone on your lake to report his or her findings.

## Finance Committee / Treasurer

By Steve Hall

1. The treasurer's report and proposed 2017 budget will be presented at the meeting on August 25<sup>th</sup>.
2. Recommendations to change the HC COLA fiscal year, FWF support, Water Testing Program, etc will be made at the August 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.
3. It is time to renew your membership in HC COLA for 2017.

## Lakeshore Education Committee

By Sharon Natzel

We now have information on our HC COLA website on Forming a New Lake or River Group under Helpful Links and Resources → Other Resources.

[http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/uploads/3/4/5/6/34563649/forming\\_a\\_new\\_lake\\_or\\_river\\_group.pdf](http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/uploads/3/4/5/6/34563649/forming_a_new_lake_or_river_group.pdf)

Chances are you have acquaintances that live on one of the 335 lakes here in Hubbard County (per MN DNR Lake Finder) or numerous rivers that don't have a Lake or River Group. Invite them to a HC COLA meeting and provide them the link to the website information. Forming a lake association may help interested parties come together to help fund water quality monitoring, for example. This helps the lake "converse" with the lakeshore owners. Opportunities can be discovered, communicated and actions shared. Please let us know if you know of someone that is potentially interested in understanding the benefits of and learning more about forming a New Lake or River Group.

## AIS Committee

By Ken Grob

1. **Hubbard County continues to make progress on 2016 Objectives.** Status by project follows:
  - **Early Detection and Lake Monitoring:** Program progressing very well. Dan Kittilson will update us on the cinder block program reporting process at the COLA meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup>. 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. **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 La Crosse, 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 invasive. 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)

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.