

HC COLA Strategic Action #8 Shield Lakes & Rivers from Aquatic Invasive Species - By Ken Grob

1. Hubbard County AIS Program

- All lake associations submitted their commitment for supplemental inspection hours by the end of January as requested. Thanks for the timely responses and thanks to Sharon Natzel and Bill DonCarlos for their efforts to make it happen.
- Reminder to lake associations that their inspection hour payments are due to County ESO by March 1 and that the township payments are due to ESO by April 30. These payments are very important so that the AIS Program Coordinator can commit to hiring the inspectors for the summer.

2. Transition Status

- County Commissioners have selected members for the AIS Advisory Team. Each commissioner selected a person from their respective district. I am pleased to report that Janine Weideman was appointed to the team by District 2 commissioner Char Christenson. HC COLA has a voice on the team.
- Bob Berdahl has been working with ESO and the County AIS Coordinator to establish a COLA Team to work with the County on AIS issues. The COLA Team is Bob Berdahl, Dan Kittilson, Al Judson, and Jeff Mosner. The role of the team will be to coordinate COLA AIS initiatives with the County AIS Coordinator's objectives.

3. Other Information

- COLA will have a major initiative in 2017 on Early Detection/Lake Monitoring. Veliger testing, veliger samplers, lake equipment inspections, and vegetation checks by lake association monitors are planned. Dan Kittilson is coordinating the program. See his report for more information.

Zebra mussel veliger monitoring 2017 - By Dan Kittilson:

Zebra mussels have become a large threat to our lakes, and early detection can prevent the spread to other water bodies. Hubbard COLA, in conjunction with the MNDNR and the RMB Laboratories, recommend a comprehensive monitoring program that includes both zebra mussel veliger and adult monitoring.

As a result of the transition of our AIS Prevention Program to the Environmental Services Department of Hubbard County, the County has decided to not support funding for the veliger monitoring which includes the costs for the RMB Lab analysis and the field work for the collection of water samples for several targeted lakes in Hubbard County.

HC COLA continues to support a comprehensive monitoring program for zebra mussels. Due to the lack of financial support from Hubbard County for this worthwhile program, HC COLA

proposes that we continue this program in 2017 as we did before the AIS County Aid Program was implemented throughout Minnesota. Consequently, we are encouraging lakes to continue the veliger monitoring at their expense. Costs would include \$160 for the RMB Lab analysis which would include a \$10 discount per lake if RMB Lab can issue one invoice for all participating lakes. HC COLA can qualify for the \$10 discount if we have 20 or more lakes participating. To manage the veliger monitoring program and achieve the available discount, HCCOLA would be the fiscal agent for the veliger monitoring and lakes would pay HCCOLA for their lakes RMB Lab analysis costs.

As in the past, this program can be implemented by volunteers where the field work and water sample collection can be conducted by lake association members.

In addition, HC COLA is recommending that we continue to sample several targeted lakes that are not members of HCCOLA. These non-COLA lakes include George, Benedict and Garfield and are more at risk due to the recent discovery of zebra mussel veligers in Leech Lake.

Hubbard COLA proposes to pay for the total costs for zebra mussel sampling in these 3 lakes including field sampling costs conducted by the SWCD and RMB Lab analysis fees. Total costs for zebra mussel monitoring on these 3 lakes is \$1320. Monitoring costs for these 3 lakes will be paid by the HC COLA Sleeping Fawn AIS fund or the Sporting Goods Sale fund. *(Note from 2-16-17 mtg: there is more homework being done on this topic area in prep for March 23^d Board Mtg per HC COLA Board motion to continue Veliger Testing Program for 2017 at the level of the 2016 program with the HC COLA E-Team to come back to the HC COLA Board with how to fund and pay for the RMB lab work.)*

HCCOLA feels strongly that zebra mussel veliger monitoring is part of our multifaceted lake monitoring / early detection program. Veliger sampling is one of several techniques for lake monitoring / early detection. Without it, a zebra mussel program is only partially effective. No one technique for lake monitoring is fully inclusive and sufficient to cover all aspects of early detection of AIS. Many eyes, frequent visual checking and multiple locations in a lake are needed.

AIS Lake Monitoring / Early Detection 2017

In 2017 and beyond, Hubbard COLA will continue pursue a variety of actions that can be undertaken by all lake users to learn about aquatic invasive species and expand the capacity of AIS Lake monitoring / early detection in Hubbard County. HC COLA's 2017 campaign for AIS Lake Monitoring Early Detection Plan will focus on the following elements / priorities:

- Continue to offer education in identification of invasive species, and sampling and monitoring techniques.
 - **Expectation that one volunteer** from each Hubbard COLA lake association receive training for invasive species identification and monitoring techniques.
- Expansion of AIS Lake monitoring **teams and leaders** for lake monitoring.

- Expand the level of awareness for AIS Lake monitoring and increase the intensity of the early detection effort in Hubbard County through the following actions:
 - Maintain and expand the **dedicated approaches** to AIS sampling and monitoring that were initiated in 2015 / 2016 including:
 - Monitoring for zebra mussels (zebra mussel settlement samplers, veliger sampling, and shoreline and equipment surveys).
 - Monitoring for aquatic invasive plants.
 - Expand AIS monitoring to focus on **opportunistic approaches** to AIS detection in an effort to boost our "eyes on the water" for the purpose of looking for AIS.
- Implementation of Hubbard COLA's AIS Lake Monitoring Resource Guide that features tips and tactics that will assist lake associations with lake monitoring and early detection of AIS.
 - Develop easy to use fact sheets to simplify lake monitoring / early detection efforts.
- Advocate for enhanced communication and outreach to foster our AIS detection and monitoring actions.
 - Expand the number of AIS citizen watch volunteers who are looking and searching for AIS on Hubbard County lakes.
 - Expand HC COLA's on-line survey conducted in 2016 to include other monitoring strategies and engage more participants from all area lakes.
- Increase AIS lake monitoring efforts to include searching for invasive plants, especially Starry Stonewort (a new invasive to Minnesota first discovered in Lake Koronis and now in Northern Minnesota).
- Foster community partnerships to further engage all lake users in the "early detection" of AIS on Hubbard County lakes.
 - Promote early detection in "faith focused events" such as the Riverside Methodist Church event on AIS prevention held in conjunction with Jeff Forester from Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates.

What can you do to help? Prevent AIS. Use Clean-Drain-Dry techniques plus Hubbard County's Free Decontamination Station. Spread the word about the importance of lake monitoring and early detection with your neighbors, friends, family, visitors and your lake association members.

Civic Service Committee - by Peter Tuomisto

- 1) The Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District (HC SWCD) is planning the May 17, 2017 6th Graders Freshwater Festival for area schools which takes place at Wilderness Boy Scout Camp near Emmaville. To volunteer, call the HC SWCD office at 218-732-0121 Ext/4. HC COLA is providing the \$1200 donation for member lake assoc's.
- 2) Please contact the HC SWCD if you want to hire them to perform Hydro Lab testing on your lake for monitoring the dissolved oxygen and temperature of water column.

- 3) Restore The Shore (RTS) Orders for 2017 will be coming into the Fairgrounds in early May to be repackaged. Volunteers are needed to facilitate this. The RTS Coordinator is Theora Goodrich tdgoodrich@mac.com
- 4) Aquatic Plant Surveys is a service that RMB Environmental Labs can perform for a fee. <http://rmbel.info/field/aquatic-plant-surveys/>

Water Quality Monitoring & Zebra Mussel Veliger Monitoring Programs:

Program registration will be sent electronically to lake associations (LA) for these two programs so that volunteer contact information can be updated and LA commitments established.

On Wed, 5/10/17 at 6 to 6:30 PM all monitors are cordially invited for a complimentary Light Supper served by HC COLA at Northwoods Bank Community Room. At 6:30 PM, Moriya Rufer from RMB Environmental Laboratories will conduct required training to standardize protocol. The Water Monitoring Kits with the Coolers, Integrated Sampler Tubes, Zebra Mussel Veliger water sampling bottles and paperwork will be distributed at 7 PM after the training.

Please mark your calendars for the 3rd Sun / Mon of May - Sept. Coolers will again need to be at Charlie's by 11 AM Monday for the shuttle to Detroit Lakes.

Water Quality Monitoring Schedule for 3rd Sun / Mon of May - Sept:

May 21 or 22 June 18 or 19 July 16 or 17 Aug 20 or 21 Sept 17 or 18

Zebra Mussel Veliger Monitoring Schedule for 1st & 3rd Weekends in July:

Hubbard County lakes participating in the Zebra Mussel Veliger (ZMV) Monitoring should conduct their sampling in conjunction with the July 16 or 17 Water Quality Monitoring to facilitate the transport of the ZMV samples to RMB Environmental Labs in Detroit Lakes.

Lakes should collect their veliger samples on the 1st and 3rd weekends of July with samples returned to Charlie's Boats & Marine by Monday, July 17th by 11:00 a.m.

Remember, the Veliger samples do not need to be refrigerated. Veliger samples should be preserved in 91% alcohol. The ratio of alcohol to the water sample is 3:1.

Background on ZMV from Moriya Rufer at RMB Environmental Labs for HC COLA:

From our testing of infested lakes in northern MN, we have found that the zebra mussel reproduction peaks in July and is very low the other times of year. Here is a link to the research we have done on Pelican Lake near Detroit Lakes. Testing lakes in the Alexandria area last year confirmed this same pattern. Look at Figure 5 especially.

Cinder blocks will be available through Peter Tuomisto at the HC COLA meetings. Dan Kittilson will have the settlement sampler order information and costs.

In 2016, 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, Portage, as well as Spider, the Crooked Lakes and Ojibway participated in the testing. No veligers were found.

Education Committee - Sharon Natzel

Sharon's Summary from attending the Environmental Quality Board's Environmental Congress which was held Fri 2/3/17 in St. Paul.

<https://www.eqb.state.mn.us/environmentalcongress>

The EQB had the 2017 Environment and Energy Report Card available and it has great suggestions for our waters and more... <https://www.eqb.state.mn.us/2017-environment-and-energy-report-card>

The Governor kicked off the Environmental Congress and then Paul Douglas, former WCCO chief meteorologist, spoke about climate change. He also incorporated faith and has co-authored a book just released "Caring for Creation: The Evangelical's Guide to Climate Change and a Healthy Environment;

<http://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2016/11/20/paul-douglas-book-climate-change/>

I attended the session on water ethics. It used storytelling and story listening plus serving each other water to connect folks in that session.

For the storytelling and story listening - these were the questions after the thought-provoking videos:

1. After the Waskosky's story of the flood that affected their home: What has happened in your life that inspired you to take action to serve water? (relationship to Dr. Mae Davenport's presentation: Emotivation—inspiring responsibility and action)
2. After the Duncanson story about the water storage solution on his farm: Tell a success story! What have you seen work? (relationship to Dr. Mae's presentation: Conservation coaching and support—experimentation)
3. After the Sharon Day/Nibi walkers video: Are there cultural or spiritual practices that shape your water ethic? (relationship to Dr. Mae Davenport's presentation:

Community building—social norms of behavior) This link explains what topic is about but not the exact video they used: <http://www.nibiwalk.org/>

More on presenter Dr. Mae Davenport <https://www.forestry.umn.edu/people/mae-davenport> & <https://www.changinglandscapes.umn.edu/>

Sharon's Summary from attending the Governor's Water Summit II in Morris, MN which was held Fri 1/27/17.

Here is a recap from the Governor's Water Summit in Morris, MN at UMN-Morris. There were approx 500 rural and urban folks at this conference. Recorded presentations / panels are here: <http://mn.gov/governor/issues/town-hall-water-summit/> Go to 3:52 into the recording link to hear Larry Krohn, Otter Tail County Coordinator / Administrator explaining the value of water-related property value to their county and water quality is very important to them. (remember that Hubbard County assessor is going to update our 2013 study in 2017)

Opinion Boards allowed placement of stickers as votes for areas of concern related to water. Could also write sticky notes and place by concern related to water. I did write one regarding pipeline placement away from water and in soil that would help prevent leak pollution.

At our table at lunch was Steve Morse, Executive Director from Minnesota Environmental Partnership (MEP). Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA) is one of the organizations that is a member of MEP. <http://www.mepartnership.org/> He brought up the water quality issue in our area.

We were able to recycle everything in our box lunch as UMN Morris is sustainability focused with biomass, wind and solar power. Even the chip wrapper of foil & condiments wrappers from mustard and mayo in plastic is put in a special box with other things that don't break down naturally and then the items are used to make things like benches, etc. Poster Child for other education-based and corporate campus sites!

In the morning, the map in pdf link was held up to help educate on what is occurring with Mississippi River. <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/wq-iw8-08ab.pdf> Here is an interesting article on the MPCA study outcome too: <http://www.brainerddispatch.com/news/4206808-state-study-highlights-river-health-central-mn> and here is official MPCA site: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/news/upper-mississippi-river-what-protect-what-fix>

One of the handouts that was available at the Registration Desk in the morning for the Governor's Water Summit was the "We Are Water" - 2016-2017 Visitor's Guide mnhum.org/waterways for the partnership formed to tell Minnesota's water story

collaboratively, bringing together personal narratives, historical materials, and scientific information.

NOTE VIP! The MN Tour will be in Detroit Lakes from Feb 25 - April 9 So make a point to get to one or more of these events to enhance your relationship with water: <http://mnhum.org/waterways/detroitlakes>

Other docs on the registration table were Beyond the Status Quo - 2015 EQB Water Policy Report <https://www.eqb.state.mn.us/beyond-status-quo-2015-eqb-water-policy-report> AND 2017 MN Environment and Energy Report Card <https://www.eqb.state.mn.us/2017-environment-and-energy-report-card>

Also map and text regarding Our Upper Mississippi River Study - www.pca.state.mn.us/upper-miss/

Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation - Spring / Summer 2016 newspaper-like publication was available. http://leechlakewatershed.org/media/Document_38.pdf

Water Bar was very interesting! The water bartenders are supposed to be the local folks that know about the water (coached by the artists of the water bar organization to help facilitate others to talk about their own water and water sources, etc.) Website: www.water-bar.org

HC COLA E-Team Updated Strategy Map & Strategic Actions Documentation:

<http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/current-initiativesstrategy.html>