

## July 27, 2017 HC COLA Committee Report:

### 1. AIS

#### **AIS Citizen Watch Volunteers – Let's keep our "Eyes on the Water" for AIS in 2017.**

**By Dan Kittilson**

HC COLA strives to inspire our lake association members and lakeshore property owners to become involved and raise the level of awareness and observations around aquatic invasive species. Lake associations are encouraged to review their current level of participation in HC COLA'S AIS Lake monitoring program and endeavor to expand your AIS Lake Monitoring program in 2017.

In 2016, HC COLA was effective in engaging more lakes and lakeshore property owners, who were monitoring their lake for zebra mussels. During our 2016 campaign, 24 lake associations and one non-member lake group participated in our AIS Lake monitoring program. For our early detection program to be effective, we need to further expand our eyes on the water looking for AIS.

In 2017, HC COLA continues to expand our AIS Citizen Watch Volunteers. Citizen watch volunteers are lakeshore residents who monitor their lake for AIS, including zebra mussels and invasive plants. Citizens can inspect their lake shore equipment, shoreline habitat and monitoring devices such as settlement samplers, cinder blocks and PVC tubes for AIS.

Again this year, HC COLA will be implementing our on-line survey that will focus on monitoring for zebra mussels and other invasive species. This year we will expand our on-line survey to include monitoring efforts for invasive plants, such as Starry Stonewort or Eurasian Water Milfoil.

In early September AIS citizen watch volunteers will be receiving a survey, because of their participation / relationship with the Hubbard County COLA AIS Lake monitoring early detection program. We invite you to participate in this very important study concerning the early detection of AIS, especially zebra mussels in Hubbard County lakes.

The goal of this study is to expand our communication and outreach for AIS Lake monitoring and to increase our number of "eyes on the water" in Hubbard County looking for AIS. If you do not have a special monitoring devices (such as a settlement sampler) on your lakeshore, HC COLA's on-line survey can still provide an opportunity for you to inspect your shoreline and lake shore equipment for zebra mussels and other AIS.

Last year our on-line survey focused mostly on our AIS Citizen Watch volunteers who had zebra mussel monitoring devices. Our 2017 on-line survey will be expanded to include AIS Lake Coordinators and Lake Association Presidents, who in turn can invite all their lake association members to participate in this very important matter.

If you have new AIS Citizen Watch volunteers on your lake please email contact information to [hccolamn@gmail.com](mailto:hccolamn@gmail.com) so we can invite them to take part in our on-line survey. Thank You!

### 2. Civic Engagement by Peter Tuomisto:

Awaiting zebra mussel veliger test results

### **3. Education**

**Water-related activities to share information on with your Lake Association, keep informed about and to also participate in potentially - by Sharon Natzel**

1. Starry Trek – Sat 8/5 8:30 to 1 PM at latest – still need volunteers for our Hubbard County team lead by Bill DonCarlos. You will get training that morning and help with the aquatic vegetation analysis at one or more of the 10 high risk public access locations in Hubbard County’s Starry Trek - - looking for Starry Stonewort across the State of MN. <https://www.maisrc.umn.edu/news/starrytrek-reg>
2. Leech Lake One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) – comment period for what to cover open til 9/8/17
  - i. We are inviting all recipients of this notice to submit water management issues they feel the process and resulting plan should address and any expectations for the plan. Please submit the requested information by September 8, 2017, to: John Ringle Director, Cass County Environmental Srvices Department Cass County Courthouse PO Box 3000 Walker, MN 56484 218/547-7256 [john.ringle@co.cass.mn.us](mailto:john.ringle@co.cass.mn.us)
  - ii. Also be aware that a public kick-off meeting for the planning effort is scheduled for Friday, September 15, 2017 at the Walker Community Center to review and compile watershed data, discuss priority issues identified by stakeholders, and provide additional opportunity for the Leech Lake River Watershed One Watershed One Plan Partnership to gain feedback. [http://www.co.cass.mn.us/government/county\\_directory/environmental\\_services/leech\\_lake\\_river\\_one\\_watershed\\_one\\_plan\\_partnership.php](http://www.co.cass.mn.us/government/county_directory/environmental_services/leech_lake_river_one_watershed_one_plan_partnership.php)
  - iii. HC COLA – Sharon N will participate to learn & provide input in prep for Crow Wing River 1W1P
  - iv. MN Board of Soil & Water Resources info: <http://bwsr.state.mn.us/planning/1W1P/index.html>
3. Here is the MPCA “Our Upper Mississippi River Large River and Basin Restoration and Protection Strategies <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/wq-iw8-08ab.pdf> Maybe will give ideas about B. above...
4. Nitrogen Fertilizer Rule Draft – especially affects southern Hubbard County townships – think of the cabin owners private wells as review. Comment period closes 8/25/17... <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/nfr>
5. Rapid Response Plan by Hubbard County Released (for Aquatic Invasive Species discovery) - <http://www.co.hubbard.mn.us/Hubbard%20County%20Rapid%20Response%20Plan.pdf>
  - I. On HC website is link to MN DNR referenced plan also [http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/natural\\_resources/invasives/rapid-response-ais.pdf](http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/natural_resources/invasives/rapid-response-ais.pdf)
  - II. Here is link to generic lake association rapid response plan – please get your LA RRP updated/created: [http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/uploads/3/4/5/6/34563649/example\\_lake\\_association\\_ais\\_rapid\\_response\\_action\\_plan.pdf](http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/uploads/3/4/5/6/34563649/example_lake_association_ais_rapid_response_action_plan.pdf)
6. MN 25% improvement by 2025 (25x25) - Bemidji is for a town hall discussion on Sept 13, 6:30-8:30 pm. <https://www.eqb.state.mn.us/content/25-2025-overview> OR Crookston on Sept 5<sup>th</sup> evening.
7. Minnesota 2017 Aquatic Invasive Species Research and Management Showcase – Sept 13 in St. Paul – registration required. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2017-minnesota-aquatic-invasive-species-research-and-management-showcase-tickets-35942145926>
8. HC COLA Line 3 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Comments provided to the MN Department of Commerce on 7/7/17. Final EIS projected to be available 8/10/17 with 10 day public comment period. FOH legal representation is now from the leading environmental advocacy organization in the Midwest – Environmental Law & Policy Center, <http://elpc.org/>. FOH Legal Representative is based in Twin Cities - <http://elpc.org/staff/scott-strand/>