

## Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations Board of Directors Hybrid Sept Meeting Minutes

Thursday, Oct 26, 2023 at 6:30 PM – Approved 4-25-2024

Northwoods Bank Community Room, 1200 1st St. E, Park Rapids, MN 56470 In-Person and Zoom

In-person attendance 10 plus Zoom attendance 21 for a total of 31 participants. Quorum established with 24 member lake associations present out of 31. HC COLA Meeting was called to order by President, Sharon Natzel at 6:30 PM.

**Presenter Aaron Anderson**, Hubbard County Environmental Services Dept, Environmental Specialist-AIS Prevention Manager, **recapped the 2023 watercraft** inspection program with data through 10/17/23 (2 lakes still have inspectors working through Oct). Once that data is incorporated, the 2023 report will be placed online on the Hubbard County AIS prevention webpage [https://co.hubbard.mn.us/departments/environmental\\_services/ais/index.php](https://co.hubbard.mn.us/departments/environmental_services/ais/index.php). **Aaron also shared the plans for 2024**. He will be sending out the supplemental watercraft inspection funding opportunity letter in mid-Nov for 2024. The supplemental funds receipt deadline from lake associations and townships is Wed 1/31/2024. If your lake association's AIS Prevention Coordinator contact information has changed, please advise Aaron at email: [aaron.anderson@co.hubbard.mnm.us](mailto:aaron.anderson@co.hubbard.mnm.us) and/or phone: 218-732-3890 and us at [hccolamn@gmail.com](mailto:hccolamn@gmail.com). Aaron's presentation /video are here: <https://hubbardcolamn.org/presentations.html>

The **Consent Agenda** included the Minutes for 8-31-2023 and 9-28-2023 plus the October Treasurer's Report. HC COLA dues are payable by 11/1/23 for 2024.

The **HC COLA Charitable Fund 2023 grantee report** was provided by the Long Lake Area Association (Hubbard County) Foundation's AIS Prevention Coordinator, Sharon Natzel. This every 5-year professional survey of aquatic vegetation included not only point-intercepts (P-I) sampled at a 65-meter distance but also used sonar plus observation for early detection of AIS in between the P-I points. The comparison chart of vegetation found as compared to the previous 2 professional surveys in 2011 and 2018 was shared. The early detection of a small patch of Starry Stonewort (SSW) 5 ft in diameter at 10 ft depth about 75 to 80 ft from shore near the south access that was treated was discussed. Long's volunteers will continue near-shore aquatic vegetation monitoring 2 times per summer in the area from shore and out 100 ft from shore.

In support of AIS prevention and early detection goals for 2024, **Gene Hanson, AIS Operating Team Lead**, explained that the team would like the **HC COLA Board** to consider, **for 2024 only, offering another \$4,000** for granting for aquatic vegetation surveys for lake associations who apply using the HC COLA charitable fund process / requirements which already has \$4,000 available for 2024 also. So that would make \$8,000 available. **Limit still per LA is \$2,000 and match would still be required**, details here with **applications due 4/15/24**: <https://www.hubbardcolamn.org/hc-cola-charitable-fund--grant.html> The motion **was made by Gene and seconded by Jon Dennis. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.**

**Aaron Anderson** explained that the **county AIS Prevention Program** is open to using state-funded AIS prevention program **reserve funds** in the event they feel a **new infestation** can be **sufficiently neutralized using field-proven methods.**

**Deb Massey** shared her experience this year with the **hybrid cattail management** process she began at her lakeshore residence on Lower Twin Lake in 2022. She has a DNR permit for this activity and is working with a plant management firm. View the videos of Deb's presentations this year and last year here: <https://hubbardcolamn.org/presentations.html>

### Committee Reports:

We will have a **pilot called "Rake Toss Tuesday"** in 2024 with volunteers, including AIS Detectors who'll coach/train, that do early detection of AIS in near-shore aquatic vegetation on lake(s) without lake associations and that aren't on Starry Trek 2024. Please hold Tuesday 7/9/2024, 7/23/2024 and 8/8/2024 afternoons. Be part of the pilot team for 1 or more Tues. We'll end with a toast to the health of the lake(s) checked that day. More to follow at our April 25, 2024 HC COLA Hybrid Mtg, 6:30 pm.

The Hubbard County SWCD continues working with each of the nurseries to obtain information on the 2024 products / pricing. When available, our HC COLA order forms will be provided by email to the HC COLA list of **Restore the Shore (RTS)** Coordinators for the lake associations (LA) & LA Presidents. As a **pilot in 2024**, we will be able to turn in our HC COLA orders in early 2024.

To **continue the sharing between lake associations on the LA-specified desired topic** areas as identified by LAs in the HC COLA Aug & Sept mtgs, we will **pilot 3** optional 1-hour Zoom discussions, 6:30 PM, the last Thurs of month Nov 2023, Jan & Feb 2024.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

**Attendee List Key:** LA = lake association, P = in-person, Z=zoom, \*=lake association's "designated voter" for this meeting

Bad Axe LA: Stacey Barrow – Z\*

Belle Taine LA: Andrea Dutcher – Z\*

Big Mantrap LA: Burney Fischer – Z\*

Blue LA: Peter Tuomisto – P\*

Boulder LA: Bob Wolf – P\*

Eagle- Island LA: David Fastenow – Z\*

Emma-Stocking-Bottle (ESB) LA: Gene Hansen – P\*

Fish Hook LRA: Gary Smith – Z\*

Middle Crow Wing Lake Assoc: Andy Schmidt – P\*

8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Crow Wing LA: Kristin Basinger – Z\*

Gilmore LA: Keith Minkel – P\*

Ham LA: Walt Stachon – Z\*

Hinds LA: Christina Hill – Z\*

Kabekona LA: Ingrid Bey – Z\*

Little Sand LA: Cindy Nollette – Z\*

Long Lake Area LA: Sharon Natzel – P\*

Plantagenet LA: Krystie North – Z\*

Portage LA: Tom Stennes – P\*

Potato LA: Ken Grob – P\*

Spider LA: Dan Olympia – Z, Rose Lawler – Z, Jon Dennis – Z\*

Steamboat LA: Mike Jacobson – Z\*

Stony LA: Mike Glynn – Z\*, Rodney Bliss - P

Tripp LA: Lynn Goodrich – Z\*

Twin LA: Deb Massey – Z\*

Guests – Aaron Anderson – P, Brad Hoxsey – Z, Shelley – Z, Shannon Geisen - Z