

Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (HC COLA)
Minutes of The Board of Director's Meeting ; Thursday 5/28/2020 – Approved 6/25/2020
6:30 PM Meeting – Video-Conference

“HC COLA is the Leader in Protecting Hubbard County Lakes and Rivers” www.hubbardcolamn.org

1. The meeting was called to order by President Sharon Natzel. There were 24 attendees, including 2 guests, 1 sustaining member, and 19 lake associations at the Zoom video-conference.
2. **Presentation:** Nicholas Macklem, Environmental Specialist, Hubbard County Environmental Services, updated us – see his presentation and hear the audio recording: <http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/presentations.html> on the current status of the Hubbard County AIS Watercraft Inspection Program – adjusted in response to COVID-19 Pandemic with reduction in lower risk dates / lesser traffic sites.

There were 48 Level 1's trained with the DNR online class available just a week or so in time for opening of fishing. Nick also updated us on the decontamination station opening with last year's Level 2 inspectors when 2020 training completed. The AIS budget covers 75% of Nicholas' time in Environmental Services and he updated us on the resorts outreach program plus AIS status in the county. The Hubbard County website for Aquatic Invasive Species http://www.co.hubbard.mn.us/departments/environmental_services/ais/index.php contains the summary of the supplemental funding received from local lake associations \$104,428 and cities/ townships \$42,006 which will continue to be applied for 2020 AIS watercraft inspections. The schedule of watercraft inspections is also updated with the adjusted hours http://www.co.hubbard.mn.us/departments/environmental_services/ais/watercraft_inspection_schedule.php

If you have any questions, Nicholas Macklem asks that you contact him directly at nick.macklem@co.hubbard.mn.us or phone 218-732-3890.

3. **Approval of Minutes:** Consent approval was given for the minutes of the 2/27/2020 minutes. The Treasurers report was reviewed; the E-team will review / approve them for May/June.
4. **Charitable Fund Grant:** Motion by Lynn Goodrich and seconded by Burney Fisher to approve the HC COLA Charitable Fund Advisory Committee's recommendation on seeking grant proposals for up to \$2000 with a deadline 3/1/2021 and disbursement by 6/1/2021. Passed unanimously.

This is similar to past two years but has been increased from \$1500. There were no grant applicants for 2020 so more funds are available. Documentation and work with Northwest MN Foundation on the press release will be updated. The 2019 information is available at <http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/hc-cola-charitable-fund--grant.html>. This info will be replaced with the 2020-2021 information when available.

5. **Freshwater Festival:** Motion by Deb Massey and seconded by Bob Bray to contribute \$1200 to the Freshwater Festival for 2020. Passed unanimously.

The festival is for area sixth grade students and the contribution was originally planned and budgeted and is the same as has been contributed in the past years. The physical event was cancelled due to COVID-19. The contribution will provide funds for the HC SWCD plans to develop an online curriculum.

6. **Participation Opportunities:** Discussion was held on opportunities for participation in HC COLA – an all volunteer organization. Membership on the Executive Team, AIS Operating Team, Community-Based Social Marketing and the Education Committee were highlighted. Vice-President(s) opportunities exist too with HC COLA Annual meeting coming up in August too. On-line meetings may provide opportunities to some who wish to participate more but because of travel distances have been hesitant to volunteer. The structure of HC COLA is here: http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/uploads/3/4/5/6/34563649/hc_colan_structure_-_v_3-24-2020.pdf
7. **Annual Meetings:** Discussion was held on how lake associations are handling their annual meetings and elections during the pandemic. Some are having electronic meetings, a drive-thru payment of dues for one, while others are canceling or postponing meetings to a later date.
8. **HC COLA Committee Reports:** Committee reports are found on the website at <http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/2020.html> The May report contains information about the schedule adjustment for the cooler shuttle and other matters. Steve Hall will have the trailer at Charlies Boats & Marine from 9 AM to 11 AM on the Monday's of our water testing weekends beginning in June. Peter will remind water monitors as it gets closer too!
9. **HC COLA Updates:**
 - Park Rapids was added to the Kare 11 Cabin Cast weather map for 2020 thanks to Wildlife Forever. KARE 11 features lake photos as part of their Cabin Cast broadcast during the 10 PM News Thursday evenings and also on weekend broadcasts. Members are encouraged to submit photos. The ad which is aired during the broadcasts is found at <https://www.wildlifeforever.org/home/invasive-species/cabin-cast/>
 - The billboard featuring a wakeboat and the Clean, Drain, Dry message from the Wildlife Forever program has been installed south of the potato plant on Hwy 71 and is viewed driving north into Park Rapids.
 - Our HC COLA ad in the Discovery Guide with CBSM "Keep your waters pristine" is in Resident's Guide and upcoming July Summer Scene
 - A nice article with a photograph appeared in the Northwoods Press about the distribution of water quality supplies as well as a description of the program in cooperation with RMB Labs.
 - Movie theater ad https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=roeCR_5dNOg when theater open
10. **Adjournment:** Motion by Deb Rogers and seconded by Deb Massey to adjourn. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted
Keith Minkel, Secretary