

**Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (HC COLA)**  
**Minutes of The Board of Director's Meeting ; Thursday 6/25/2020 – Approved 7-30-2020**  
**6:30 PM Meeting – Video-Conference**

“HC COLA is the Leader in Protecting Hubbard County Lakes and Rivers” [www.hubbardcolamn.org](http://www.hubbardcolamn.org)

1. The meeting was called to order by President Sharon Natzel. A roll call attendance was taken at the Zoom video-conference with 17 attendees responding representing 15 lake associations. A quorum was verified. One LA representative called via phone just prior to the meeting start time to indicate preference on upcoming issues and was unable to attend due to health. Two additional individuals representing 2 associations joined later during the meeting.
2. **Approval of minutes:** Consent approval was given for the 5/28/2020 minutes.
3. **MN COLA:** Lynn Goodrich gave an update on the MN COLA Annual Meeting. A Zoom meeting was held with 35 attendees. Elections and reappointment of 13 board members took place.  
<http://mncola.angelfire.com/index.html>

The organization currently has \$10,000 on deposit and funds are used state-wide to promote water quality projects. \$4000 is being donated to a private enhanced wake research project in cooperation with the U of M to determine the effect of wake boats on water quality. Corporate, organization and private entities are being solicited in the hopes of acquiring \$100,000 additional funds.

The legislature requested a project to develop recommendations for AIS surveillance and early detection in Minnesota lakes and rivers. The project is headed by Dr. Amy Kingsley of the U of M and will use all of the data that has been gathered state-wide by inspections, agency reports and the like. Specific areas and/or water bodies will be able to be pinpointed for needs to best use financial and other resources.

A report was provided on the success of various pilot projects to detect, eradicate and combat AIS. Over \$4 million from the state have supported these projects with much useful data having been gathered to assist and inform various agencies and organizations. <https://www.maisrc.umn.edu/about-ais> and <https://www.maisrc.umn.edu/june20-newsletter>

4. **Wildlife Forever:** Wildlife Forever has a new catalog with Tools.  
<https://www.wildlife-forever.org/home/invasive-species/tools-resources/> For Cabin Cast, Wildlife Forever is requesting input as to the theme and focus for a new :30 second commercial / Public Service Announcement (PSA) for 2020. Each attendee was given the opportunity to select from 3 options. The options and results are summarized below:
  - 1) Nonmotorized watercraft (canoe / kayakers) – AIS Prevention Steps (33%)
  - 2) Pontoons – AIS Prevention Steps (20%)
  - 3) Decon Station – What is it, Why Do it, What to do when Unavailable. (47%)

Option 3) Decon Station was chosen as our recommendation to Wildlife Forever for the PSA.

Information on a Clean In-Clean Out Roadside Station was shared. The unit provides storage of various cleaning tools at launches and other sites. The cost is \$1980 per station with tools separate. Numerous tools are available to be used with the unit.

5. **Watercraft Decon Station:** The FREE Hubbard County decon station is opening up 6/28/20. Call 218-252-6738 for an Appointment. Hubbard County Contact Info here:  
[http://www.co.hubbard.mn.us/departments/environmental\\_services/ais/educational\\_information.php](http://www.co.hubbard.mn.us/departments/environmental_services/ais/educational_information.php)
6. **“Summer Scene” Magazine 2020:** The publication will start up again next spring 2021. A One-Time Replacement called “Lakes Area Leisure”, with 20,000 copies to be printed July 29<sup>th</sup> with extensive

shelf life as content isn't driven by dated events but rather talking about our Lakes Area natural amenities; big reason people live / play here. A full page in this "Lakes Area Leisure" for non-profit rate of 35% off is \$536.25. We are able to have our community-based social marketing full page ad up front on a right-hand page. This is an educational opportunity! There will be no Fair Booth 2020.

Motion by Burney Fischer and seconded by Larry Roberts to approve \$536.25 for the add in the "Lakes Area Leisure." Motion passed unanimously.

7. **Committee Reports:** Committee reports are at <http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/2020.html> Highlights of the reports are:

- Deb Massey resigned from both the E-Team and the VP/President Elect positions due to health. She will continue as HC COLA Rep for Twin Lakes Association and on the HC COLA Finance Team.
- Restore the Shore "Shoreland Advisors" educational opportunities are being delayed until next year. The use of Master Gardeners and a recorded class are encouraged to be used <https://itascawaters.org/shoreland-advisors>
- A reminder that the drop off time for water quality monitoring has changed and the veliger samples should be taken.
- The AIS Operating Team recommends a letter to county commissioners to clarify the need for county funding for AIS watercraft inspections. The DNR and county has approved the placement of samplers on public access docks. Additional pvc zebra mussel settlement samplers are available – email [hccolamn@gmail.com](mailto:hccolamn@gmail.com) for delivery.

8. **What's Happening on Your Lake:**

- Burney Fischer reported that Big Mantrap has a verified infestation of Eurasian watermilfoil at the landing. It is unknown how extensive the infestation is at this time as research is still being conducted. Treatment will likely be coordinated with the vendor used by Bad Axe Lake Association.
- Mark Warisch reported that Garfield Lake has experienced a significant reduction in sunfish numbers and size. He confirmed this by researching through DNR Lake Finder back to 1958 and tracked the sizes and number of fish for Garfield. Mark found that the last few fish surveys are painting a very poor picture for sunfish (includes six different kinds). Garfield Lake Association is requesting that the DNR implement harvest restrictions to improve the number and size. A letter will be drafted by HC COLA in support of the recommendation also.

The DNR is currently requesting anglers to participate in the DNR Sunfish survey to provide input on whether to keep fewer bluegills from some MN lakes as a way to protect and improve the sizes of one of the state's most prized and frequently caught fish. <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/fish/sunfish/index.html> You will see that 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Crow Wing Lakes are included already on the DNR list of lakes to be considered. When you are asked in the survey, list "general" instead of a "specific lake" and then you'll get an optional question and can add "Garfield Lake in Hubbard County" too.

9. **Next Meeting:** The next Zoom online meeting is scheduled on Thurs 7/30 at 6:30 PM. Christine Herwig, MN DNR Assistant Regional Manager - Northwest Region, Ecological and Water Resources will speak about the importance of monitoring loons and how to collect meaningful data. Christine will also share about other non-game wildlife we may be interested in. One suggestion received thus far was if the range of the cardinal is expanding to our area. Are there other ideas? Please let us know by emailing [hccolamn@gmail.com](mailto:hccolamn@gmail.com) The meeting invite with connection information will be sent out 7/23.

10. **Adjournment:** Motion by Lynn Goodrich and seconded by Hillary Stoltz to adjourn. Passed.