

Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (HC COLA)
Minutes of The Board of Director's Meeting - Thursday 7/30/2020 – Approved 8-27-2020
6:30 PM Meeting – Video-Conference

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

1. **Introductions:** The meeting was called to order by President Sharon Natzel and a roll call was taken. There were 22 members representing 17 lake associations responding with 3 additional members from 3 associations joining after the roll call.
2. **Presentation: Christine Herwig, MN DNR Assistant Regional Manager - Northwest Region | Ecological and Water Resources presented on non-game wildlife.** The range of many birds has changed over the past decades due to range expansion, range contraction, species recovery and restoration. Factors affecting the change are climate changes, AIS and land development/use. The importance of loon monitoring was discussed. It is important in any type of monitoring to have specific protocols that are consistently followed for data to be meaningful. Many volunteer opportunities are available to those who have an interest. It is estimated that 50% of the adult loons in the lower 48 states resided in Minnesota.
Christine's slides along with audio and other presentations are available to be viewed on HC COLA's website under "Communications": <http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/presentations.html>
3. **Approval of minutes:** Consent approval was given for the minutes of the 6/25/2020 minutes.
4. **Big Mantrap Lake Infestation:** Burney Fischer, Big Mantrap Lake Assoc HC COLA Rep, gave an update on Big Mantrap Lake's containment of Eurasian Watermilfoil. The invasive was first found in the fall of 2019 and confirmed in June, 2020. Nicole Kovar surveyed and removed plants, and the lake association has contracted treatment coordinated with the Bad Axe Lake contractor with the initial \$2000 cost being shared by the county government and the lake association. They will use their loon monitoring model to canvas the lake with emphasis on the west end and other launch areas. Active communication with association members was a point of emphasis. If necessary, funds designated to inspections will be shifted to eradication efforts. On a positive note, Burney noted that Big Mantrap has 74 adult and 23 juvenile loons swimming their waters. <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/news/2020/07/13/eurasian-watermilfoil-confirmed-big-mantrap-lake>
5. **Long Lake Infestation:** Sharon Natzel reported that Long Lake has a verified finding of adult zebra mussels. A single zebra mussel was found on a plant rake when conducting routine sampling on Long Lake. Two additional adult zebra mussels were found near the south public access and fishing pier on Long Lake on a subsequent search by DNR divers. The specimens were breeding adults that were likely in the lake prior to this year.
6. **Wave and Wake Study:** The E-team approved a donation of \$1000 (\$760 from the sports sale and \$240 from the General Fund) for UMN St. Anthony Falls Laboratory research initiative that looks to measure the height and energy of waves, and depth and force of propeller wash generated by wake boats and other large watercraft to better understand and quantify their impacts on lake bottoms and shorelines. This information can help build understanding on how best to manage and protect our lakes for future generations. Two links giving information about the project follow:
 - i. View the informative Webinar About the Wave / Propulsion Research at the very bottom of this link: <https://www3.thedatabank.com/dpg/529/pm.asp?id=80896&nav=1&aacwc=3755652927595751080780896266905157%20target>
 - ii. Univ of MN St. Anthony Falls Laboratory research info and funding: https://crowdfund.umn.edu/?cfpage=project&project_id=36111

7. **Other:** A number of communications were sent as attachments to the agenda:
- A letter from the DNR addressing Garfield Lake's request to be included in future bluegill restrictions indicated a good possibility of being considered.
 - Spider Lake produced a one page informational flyer on AIS. It was suggested it be shared and/or modified to other lake associations or HC COLA with permission.
 - Newsletters from Twin Lakes and Duck Lake were shared.
 - Checking on if there is an easy way to communicate with private lakeshore rental providers in the county in order to provide educational information for guests.
 - Garfield Lake shared information about their loon program and terrific photography <https://garfieldlakeassociation.com/category/loons/> . This is adding to the enjoyment of their website: <https://garfieldlakeassociation.com/>
8. **Committee Reports:** Committee highlights are:
- Members were encouraged to sign-up for the Starry Trek to be held on 8/15/2020
 - Lake Associations are encouraged to engage with the lake's resorts for AIS prevention.
 - The website www.LakeAdmin.org is available to associations for numerous resources.
- Full committee reports are available on the website: <http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/2020.html>
9. **Meeting Adjourned**

Respectfully Submitted,
Keith Minkel, Secretary