

Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (HC COLA)
Minutes of The Board of Director's Meeting; Thursday 7/29/2021; Approved 8-26-2021
6:30 PM Meeting – Video-Conference

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

1. **Call to order and determination of quorum:** The meeting was called to order by President Sharon Natzel. There were 24 attendees representing 17 lake associations and 3 guests. The meeting was hybrid in nature with 8 attending in person and 19 attending virtually.

2. **Presentation:** Meg Duhr, Univ of MN AIS Research Center Outreach Specialist, spoke about zebra mussels' impact on a lake ecosystem and the recreational experience. She also addressed why continued AIS prevention efforts are needed and reviewed legal protocols.

The filtering of water by the mussels creates clearer water which in turn allows for more vegetation, and if AIS vegetation is present it becomes more dominant. The clearer water has a negative impact on walleye and their growth rates, while having a more positive impact on bass and pike. Habitat and food availability are altered.

Recreational use is impacted with the sharp shells creating hazards both in water and on shore. Moving natural shoreline rocks to deeper water may help in making an area more swimmer friendly but it also alters the habitat for fish and other aquatic life.

Outboard motors may be damaged when veligers become entrapped in the cooling systems. Users should be sure the lower units are out of the water when not in use and drain all water from the system.

Research is ongoing as to how to slow the reproduction rate and eradicate an infestation.

This, as well as other presentations, can be found at
<http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/presentations.html>

3. **Reports Approval:** Consent approval was given for the minutes of the 6-24-2021 minutes, and voice vote approval of the treasurer's report .

4. **Committee Reports:** Sharon reviewed the committee reports. Some highlights:
 - The County Commissioners will consider adoption of the Shoreland Management Ordinance changes at its Aug 17th meeting. No additional public meetings are needed.
 - Short term rental owners will be sent a letter and offered an AIS Prevention binder like HC COLA provided Resorts.
 - Lake associations should send updates of officers and representatives if changes occur.
 - Starry Trek will be held on August 21 with training on Wolf Lake at the border of Beltrami and Hubbard before surveying 15 lakes in the northern part of the county.
 - Early detection of AIS vegetation and animals training will take place at the Long Lake south access at Hubbard, MN on Wed 8/4 at 10 AM.

Committee reports can be found at <https://www.hubbardcolamn.org/2021.html>

5. **BOD Meeting Schedule:** Discussion was held on the pros and cons of the hybrid model. More in person attendance is encouraged for those that desire. The lack of facilities to accomodate large groups with WiFi access is a problem at the present. The Luther Room at Calvary Lutheran will accomodate around 20 persons and has 360 zoom technology for video-conferencing. Stuart Larson will check on the availability of the room for HC COLA.

The annual meeting will be held on 8/26/2021 at 6:30 PM and will be hybrid where you can attend either by zoom or in person. The location is being determined. The Election of officers will be held and other items may be voted on.

The presenters will be:

Jake Shaughnessy, Water Quality Resource Technician from the Hubbard County SWCD, presenting "Developed Lands Pollinator and Runoff Reduction Gardening Grant".
Rob Rabasco, Assistant Area Wildlife Manager | FAW - Section of Wildlife, MN DNR. will update us on the MN Loon Restoration Project in which Hubbard County will be participating.

6. **Adjournment:** Motion by Lynn Goodrich and seconded by Alan Colliander to adjourn. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted
Keith Minkel, Secretary