

Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (HC COLA)
Minutes of The Board of Director's Meeting; Thursday 8/26/2021 – Approved 9/30/2021
6:30 PM Meeting – Hybrid

“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 37 attendees representing 21 lake associations and 6 guests. The meeting was hybrid in nature with 11 attending in person and 26 attending virtually.
2. **Presentations:**
 - Jake Shaughnessy, Water Quality Resource Technician from the Hubbard County SWCD and Claire Hansen of HC SWCD gave information regarding the "Developed Lands Pollinator and Runoff Reduction Gardening Grant". The Hubbard County SWCD has been awarded a grant to address green spaces in developed areas with a focus on agriculture, habitat, and water quality. The HC SWCD has funds available for no cost site visits to help landowners develop plans to reduce erosion, improve water quality, and increase erosion resilience.

The emphasis of the grant is educating property owners of the importance of controlling and/or treating storm water by the use of buffer zones, rain gardens, bio swales and pervious surfaces while considering the “uphill” needs as well as at the water's edge.

Email Jake at jake.hcswcd@gmail.com or Claire at Claire.hcswcd@gmail.com

- Rob Rabasco, Assistant Area Wildlife Manager, FAW - Section of Wildlife, MN DNR gave an update on the MN Loon Recovery Project in which Hubbard County will be participating. Information regarding the Loon-Friendly Lake Registry was shared. HC COLA will provide him with a list of lake association loon liaisons. Loon Liaisons may email Rob to work on your loon-friendly lake management template.

Rob can be contacted at MLRP.DNR@state.mn.us and 218-203-4321.

2 sources for loon research include: Walter Piper who heads a research project called ‘The Loon Project’, and the website is: <https://loonproject.org/> plus the Biodiversity Research Institute <https://briwildlife.org/loon-program/>

- Nicole Kovar, MN DNR Northwest Region Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist and Andrea Dutcher, HC COLA Rep for the Lake Belle Taine Association provided an update on a recent watercraft inspection in which adult zebra mussels were found on the sea legs of an exiting pontoon. The pontoon was initially launched during non-inspection hours and came from the Alexandria area. A Conservation Officer has been notified and action may be taken against the owner for transporting AIS. The Lake Belle Taine Association is increasing monitoring to determine if an infestation may be present.

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

3. **Reports :** Consent approval was given for the minutes of the 7/29/2021 minutes. Motion by Ken Grob and seconded by Jon Dennis to approve the treasurer's report. Approved unanimously. Committee reports can be found at <https://www.hubbardcolamn.org/2021.html>

4. **Election of Officers:** No nominations for either the Vice President or President positions were made. Motion by Lynn Goodrich and seconded by Jon Dennis to approve Sharon Natzel and the current officers to serve in their current roles for one year. Approved unanimously.

HC COLA officers are President - Sharon Natzel (Long); Vice President – vacant;
Treasurer – Steve Hall (Boulder); Secretary – Keith Minkel (Gilmore).

The E-Team will be discussing and proposing structural changes to the position of president so that the burden of administration does not become the responsibility of the president alone.

5. **Sustaining Membership:** The Mississippi Headwaters Audubon Society has requested membership as a sustaining member. Current by-laws only address individuals as sustaining members and not organizations. Action was tabled until the E-Team can discuss various options and present to the BOD.
6. **Socials:** The membership committee polled members to determine the interest in “on you own” meals at the outdoor facilities at Zorbaz during the spring or autumn. The majority of those responding preferred a social gathering next spring rather than this fall.
7. **Garfield Lake:** The Garfield Lake Association is requesting support of the initiative to include Garfield in the Quality Sunfish Initiative. They are requesting members vote positively for the inclusion of Garfield. The survey is open until October 31 and is found at Input opportunity on proposed changes to lake specific fishing regulations (office.com) . Garfield is #24. There will also be an open meeting for people's input to the DNR in September or early October.

Adjournment: Motion by Ken Grob and seconded by Jon Dennis to adjourn.

Next HC COLA Meeting: Thurs, Sept 30, 2021 HC COLA Hybrid Meeting at 6:30 PM (Zoom & Calvary Lutheran Church- Park Rapids, MN). The presenter will be Dan Steward, retired BWSR and will present "Forests and Fish, The Critical Connection!" with an introduction by Peter Jacobson, retired MN DNR

Respectfully submitted
Keith Minkel, Secretary