

## Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (HC COLA)

Minutes of The Board of Director's Hybrid Meeting; Thursday 5/26/2022, 6:30 PM: Approved 6-30-2022  
"HC COLA is the Leader in Protecting Hubbard County Lakes and Rivers" [www.hubbardcolamn.org](http://www.hubbardcolamn.org)

**Presentations.** We had two educational presentations. We had 33 attendees and 4 guest representing 22 lake associations attending.

- Topic 1, Lead and Loons – A Toxic Relationship.** Presenter Kelly Amoth is a program coordinator with the "Get the Lead Out" tackle program with the MN Pollution Control Agency. Prior to working at the MPCA, she was a naturalist for 15 years at several Minnesota nature centers. Kelly emphasized that just a very small amount of lead can kill loons, and that 20-25% of the loon deaths are currently caused by lead. Lead can be ingested two main ways: 1) by consuming fish that have lead tackle in remaining in their bodies and 2) from ingesting lead tackle that has fallen to the bottom of the lake; loons dive to the bottom of lakes to get gravel for digestion (i.e., for their gizzards).
  - Meeting attendees were encouraged to bring lead tackle to the meeting in exchange for lead-free tackle. It was also noted that HC COLA will have a tackle exchange at the Hubbard County Fair in mid-July and will display samples of lead-free tackle as well. MPCA is also implementing a rebate program for bait shops that sell lead-free tackle.
  - Lake associations are also encouraged to collect lead tackle from their lake residents. If there are lake associations that are interested in getting a collection kit from us, they can fill out this form:
  - <https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=RrAU68QkGUWPJricIVmCjPplV62aAfdEonv0qLXAhe9UNVBPNTQzODZCMUpNSIUxVVRUSTFYSjIUUyQIQCN0PWcu>
  - More information about the rebate program for bait shops can be found here:
  - <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/living-green/lead-free-fishing-tackle-rebate-program>
- Topic 2: Promoting Shoreline Quality.** Jake Shaughnessy, Water Quality Resource Technician from the Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District (HC SWCD) team and Libby Martin, Bemidji State University, presented on the grant received from the Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership to assist in promoting community-driven water quality and fisheries protection.

The HC SWCD partnered with the Crow Wing County SWCD and a Bemidji State University graduate student on a grant which includes 3 chains of lakes. The lakes in focus in Hubbard County include the Mantrap Chain of Lakes: Big Mantrap, Upper and Lower Bottle Lakes, Big and Little Sand Lakes, Lake Emma, Spider Lake, Lake Belle Taine, Shallow Lake and Deer Lake. This Mantrap Chain of Lakes was selected due to the ecological roles and fisheries of these systems. However, the HC SWCD encourages anyone interested to join the virtual and field events that will be held in the future. For more information, contact Jake Shaughnessy at [jake.hcswcd@gmail.com](mailto:jake.hcswcd@gmail.com) or at 218-732-0121, x112.

The 5-26-22 video of the speakers' presentations is available on the HC COLA website. Note: The HC SWCD portion begins at "34 minutes" into the recording: <https://www.hubbardcolamn.org/presentations.html>

The HC SWCD "Bee House" door prize awardee was determined by a random number generator for the 19 "hybrid" meeting attendees who were vying for it. It was awarded to Tom Harmon from Fish Hook Lake & River Association. He'll let us know how it "did" as a bee hotel next year in July 2023 when he cleans it for the 1<sup>st</sup> time after hanging now. The HC SWCD will reach out to those attendees on zoom that wanted the free Shortgrass Prairie Seed Mix seed packet.

### **Business Meeting**

- Call to Order and Determination of Quorum:** The meeting was called to order by President, Sharon Natzel.
- Secretary:** We have not yet heard from volunteers to serve as our HC COLA Secretary. The business meeting was recorded for transcription of minutes. MaJeana Hallstrom, Little Sand Lake, volunteered to transcribe the minutes for this meeting. We will rotate to another lake association volunteer each meeting until position filled.

3. **Reports: Approval by Consent:** The Minutes from the 4-28-2022 HC COLA Meeting, which were sent out to HC COLA representatives on 5/10/2022, were approved. There was no Treasurer's Report presented. Our new Treasurer, Keith Minkel, is being trained in June by Past Treasurer, Steve Hall. The bank signatures for our account and safety deposit box have been updated. There will be a Treasurer's Report from Keith at our Thursday, June 30th HC COLA Meeting.
4. **Northwest Minnesota Foundation and Grant Information:** Sharon mentioned that HC COLA would be receiving its annual spendable fund amount on July 1 from the HC COLA charitable (i.e., endowment) fund maintained by Northwest Minnesota Foundation. She also mentioned that lake associations may apply for grants available through the HC COLA charitable fund starting June 1, 2022.
5. **Hubbard County COLA Charitable Fund Advisory Committee:** The HC COLA Charitable Fund Advisory Committee is a team of 5 who reviews the grant applications for our annual grant process which begins 6/1/2022 and ends 4/15/2023. This review process is associated with the spendable portion of our endowment fund with the Northwest Minnesota Foundation. William Karsten, retired CPA and accountant, from the Garfield Lake Association, has volunteered to serve now on this team of 5. A motion was made by Burney Fischer and seconded by Ken Grob to approve William Karsten (*aka Bill*), Keith Minkel, our new HC COLA Treasurer, and existing team members Gene Hanson, Larry Roberts and Sharon Natzel in the now updated Hubbard County COLA Charitable Fund Advisory Committee. Motion was carried, and the full team of 5 were approved. The updated team documentation required will be provided to Northwest Minnesota Foundation.
6. **Laporte Independence Days Event.** Sharon requested that anyone who can volunteer at a potential HC COLA booth on Saturday, July 2, from 9 to Noon, to let her know after the meeting. Without a volunteer, HC COLA will miss an important educational opportunity offered through the Laporte Lions Club, where we would share a tent with the HC SWCD for that morning, while HC SWCD offers water testing for nitrates. <https://www.facebook.com/Laporte-Independence-Days-110344363121030/>
7. **HC COLA Committees:** Sharon Natzel provided the [HC COLA Committee Guide](#), 12-20-21 version and reviewed the various committees that operate under HC COLA and highlighted openings where, when filled, we will be better together. Volunteers stepped forward and were added to 3 committees:
  - Craig Bihrlle, Potato Lake – Communications Team
  - Christina Hill, Hinds Lake – Education Team with focus on children
  - Steve Stromme, Blue Lake – AIS Operating Team

If you would like to consider volunteering for the Executive Team openings where the Planning role exists, attend our next HC COLA Executive Hybrid Team Meeting on June 22 at 9:15 AM on Zoom and in-person at the PR Chamber of Commerce Conf Room. Email [hccolamn@gmail.com](mailto:hccolamn@gmail.com) for the zoom registration link.

Other openings for HC COLA committees in addition to VP and Secretary can be viewed in the Organization Structure file – scroll down here to locate: <https://www.hubbardcolamn.org/organization--strategy.html>

The HC COLA Committee Report details for May 2022 are on the HC COLA Website under Communications: <https://www.hubbardcolamn.org/>. The Committee Reports older than 2018 were archived by our webmaster now as the list was getting long. The older committee reports and meeting minutes and are now available under “History” on the HC COLA website. You will also find past presidents and historic newsletters there too.

8. **HC COLA Water Monitoring Program:** Peter Tuomisto - Blue Lake Association is Coordinator of our HC COLA Water Monitoring Program. Please check your June cooler now to make sure you have all the things you need. Also see if you need zebra mussel veliger sampling bottle(s) for your plankton net testing for late June and around the second week in July; the bottle(s) preserved with 91% alcohol, can be turned in with the Monday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, cooler at the PR Chamber of Commerce. If you are missing something, please let Peter know now.

9. **HC COLA Restore the Shore (RTS)**: Cheryl Hilgemann - Middle Crow Wing Lakes Association is our Coordinator for our HC COLA Restore the Shore (RTS) program. Cheryl reports that all orders were delivered to the lake association RTS coordinators on May 13 & 14th. There were 13 lake associations participating this year; similar to the past 2 years. She also noted:
  - The process will likely be updated for next year.
  - Be sure your lake association's RTS coordinator is named and that Cheryl and our HC COLA master list has all the updated contact information - email [hccolamn@gmail.com](mailto:hccolamn@gmail.com) with modifications.
  - Order forms will again be coming out late this Fall 2022 for delivery of orders in May 2023. Order(S) will need to be completed within 2-3 weeks, so there will be little time for "discussion" with your lake association then.
  - Last Fall, 2021, Cheryl had a few calls about "how to participate", etc. Please contact Cheryl this summer with any questions so you can be sure your lake association is ready to participate in our RTS program - - email [jchilgemann@arvig.net](mailto:jchilgemann@arvig.net) .
  - Many thanks to all of the RTS lake association coordinators for your participation, support, and patience!
10. **HC COLA's Shoreland Advisors** are trained and willing to help coach lakeshore owners on Hubbard County lakes that would like to slow the flow of runoff from their lakeshore to help protect water quality. Lakeshore owners may email [hccolamn@gmail.com](mailto:hccolamn@gmail.com) with their contact information and lake name for a complimentary consultation. Our shoreland advisors are also available to speak at your lake associations' meetings about the program and how to reduce runoff and erosion to help preserve the healthy water quality of our lakes.
11. **Hospitality Unit Booklets by HC COLA**: About 100 of these packets were distributed in April / May 2022. See our HC COLA website for the updated educational opportunities available for visitors and residents: <https://www.hubbardcolamn.org/resort-resources.html> These are for resorts, short term rentals and campgrounds. If you need some for your visit to your hospitality units on your lake, email [hccolamn@gmail.com](mailto:hccolamn@gmail.com)
12. **HC COLA Events**: Members are encouraged to review upcoming HC COLA events at <https://www.hubbardcolamn.org/events.html>
13. **MAISRC AIS Research Update** on Starry Stonewort, Zebra Mussel Management, Plant Survey Database and more will be held on June 9, from 9 AM to 3 PM in Detroit Lakes at M-State campus. There is no charge. HC COLA, a co-sponsor, will have a display table at the conference. Registration suggested to help with planning – [www.prwd.org](http://www.prwd.org). See the [Flyer](#) with links to agenda, speaker bios, and registration. Please share the Flyer. Promote this great opportunity within your lake association boards & membership to learn from world class staff! (Note: With Starry Stonework found in Leech Lake, it will be important to know how to do early detection! See the DNR Table there with Nicole Kovar and preserved AIS samples to aid in identification education.)
14. **Next HC COLA Hybrid Meeting**: Thursday, June 30, 2022, at 6:30 PM, with in-person at Calvary Lutheran Church.

Our presenter will be Leif Olmanson from the University of MN who will help us understand the Satellite Data that is available on Water Quality on Minnesota lakes through Remote Sensing of Water Resources.

Register in advance for your personal Zoom ID if you plan to attend virtually on 6/30/22 at 6:30 PM :

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYrfu-hrj0sGNcZ0IS4sxWdpmD8kqbBUpdI>**

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the mtg.

15. **Adjournment**: Motion by Gene Hanson and seconded by Ken Grob

Respectfully submitted, MaJeana Hallstrom, Little Sand Lake, Acting Secretary