

**Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations Board of Directors Hybrid Annual Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, August 31, 2023 at 6:30 PM – Approved 10-26-2023**

Northwoods Bank Community Room, 1200 1st St. E, Park Rapids, MN 56470 In-Person and Zoom

In-person attendance 16 plus Zoom attendance 10 for a total of 26 participants. Quorum established with 21 member lake associations present out of 31. HC COLA Meeting was called to order by President, Sharon Natzel at 6:30 PM.

The Consent Agenda included the draft minutes from 7-27-2023 HC COLA Board Meeting and the August Treasurer's Report.

The Proposed Budget for 2024 was presented by Keith Minkel, Treasurer and discussed. Lynn Goodrich made the motion to adopt the budget as presented. Jon Dennis seconded. No further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

The HC COLA membership in MN Lakes & Rivers Advocates (MLR) was discussed. The motion was made by Ken Grob to provide an additional \$500 donation in 2023. It was seconded by Lynn Goodrich. We discussed that as a 501(c)(3), the HC COLA E-Team did check regarding our exempt tax status and joining as a member and contributing to MLR, which does lobby for lakes at the MN legislature. This does not put us at risk of losing our tax exemption. ( Here is the legal opinion from John James, former Commissioner of MN Dept of Revenue <https://mnlakesandrivers.org/contributions-to-mlr-do-not-affect-a-lake-associations-charitable-exemption/> ) We also discussed the advantages of individuals and lake associations becoming members of MLR. ( <https://mnlakesandrivers.org/join/> ) The motion passed unanimously. HC COLA will become a Gold Member of MLR at the \$1000 level.

The HC COLA Charitable Fund Advisory Committee recommended that for 2024, we increase the available dollars to be awarded out of our Northwest MN Foundation spendable so more grant applications may be funded, for example, for aquatic vegetation surveys. Gene Hanson made a motion that we set the total amount of dollars available from the Charitable Fund for grant proposals at \$4,000 for 2024, with a maximum single grant for \$2,000. Ken Grob seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Grant proposal applications are due 4/15/2024; <https://hubbardcolumn.org/hc-cola-charitable-fund--grant.html>.

A motion was made by Sharon to accept Mike Glynn, Stony Lake Association President, as a member of the Executive Team. Tom Stennes seconded. Mike agreed to try it for a year. The E-Team meets via Zoom. The motion was approved unanimously.

Sharon reported on the Long Lake Area Association Ready Response to the Starry Stonewort discovered in a 5 ft diameter patch about 10 ft deep and about 1-1/2 to 2 ft tall by the vendor Aquatic Survey Professionals near the south access. They were performing the planned aquatic vegetation survey conducted every 5 years. The timeline for chemical treatment and diver hand pulls was shared. Researching Stop Starry Program grant for LGU for CD3 unit with wet/dry vac and blower for south access. Learned that our volunteer shoreline monitoring of our high risk areas can be expanded to incorporate observation and rake sampling from near-shore out to 100 ft. The HC COLA Charitable Fund grant was awarded this year to the LLAA Foundation for \$2000 toward the professional survey.

#### Committee Reports:

The AIS Operating Team plus volunteers for the Community Based Social Marketing Team with Jon and Sharon as co-chairs will look at updating our messaging in AIS Prevention with a mid-Oct timeline for the Discovery Guide.

For the Keep It Clean MN / Be Nice to Our Ice education program, HC COLA will do a combined order for lake associations that are interested in purchasing posters for your kiosks. Bring your order to the Oct 26<sup>th</sup> mtg. We will also check with the local fishing tournament organizers in case they would be interested in table tent reminders.

Announcements included the upcoming MAISRC Showcase and also the MNCOLA meeting,

Lake associations shared a two-minute update on 2 things that are working well and wished to share with other lake associations plus an area the lake association would like to learn more about from other lake associations.

We will start with where we left off with lake presentations following the speaker on Beaver Management at our Sept 28, 2023, 6:30 PM Hybrid Meeting. The recap of the lake presentations will be a separate document.

Meeting adjourned.

**Attendee List Key:** LA = lake association, P = in-person, Z=zoom, \*=lake association's "designated voter" for this meeting

Bad Axe LA: Betty Haukebo – P\*  
Belle Taine LA: Andrea Dutcher – P\*  
Big Mantrap LA: Burney Fischer – P\*  
Blue LA: Brent Wittenberg – Z\*  
Boulder LA: Bob Wolf – P\*  
Duck LA: Bridgett Cook – P\*  
8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Crow Wing LA: Cheri Godfrey – Z\*  
Emma-Stocking-Bottle LA: Gene Hanson – P\*  
Garfield LA: Mike Frank – P\*, Mark Warisch - P  
Gilmore LA: Keith Minkel – P\*  
Ham LA: Walt Stachon – Z\*  
Hinds LA: Christina Hill – Z\*  
Little Sand LA: Cindy Nollette – Z\*  
Long Lake Area LA: Sharon Natzel – P\*, Jaimie Beretta – Z  
Palmer LA: Phil Kirkegaard – Z\*  
Portage LA: Amy Aasen – P\*, Tom Stennes - P  
Potato LA: Ken Grob – P\*  
Spider LA: Jon Dennis – P\*  
Stony LA: Bill Petersen - Z\*, Mike Glynn - P  
Tripp LA: Lynn Goodrich – Z\*  
Twin LA: Deb Massey – Z\*  
Sustaining Member: David Nelson - P