

July 2021 HC COLA Committee Report:

E-Team

E-Team's subcommittee review of the shoreland management ordinance amendments being proposed by the Hubbard County Commissioners including short term rentals was completed 7-27-21. See HC Commissioners mtg 7-20-2021 http://www.co.hubbard.mn.us/government/board_of_commissioners/board_meeting_documents.php

AIS Operating Team

The HC COLA website resort materials <https://www.hubbardcolamn.org/resort-resources.html> related to AIS Prevention were updated for Resources for **Resort / Campground / Short Term Rental (STR)**. We plan to have 3-ring binders available for STR owners if desired; like the Resort binders recently updated. A letter will be sent to STR owners.

Nick Macklem provided an update on Hubbard County AIS inspection activities at the AIS Operating Team Mtg 7/20:

- The Decon station was out of service for a short time awaiting repairs and is now back on line. The backup unit was able to be utilized during that timeframe with just a slight reduction in daily hours that decon was available. Approximately 75 boats have been decontaminated so far this season.
- Hubbard County has approximately 45 AIS inspectors working this summer, versus 50 in a typical year. A couple of scheduled inspection shifts were missed in early July, which will be made up later in the season.
- No new infestations have been noted on Hubbard County lakes this season. Nick will alert inspectors to be aware of the fact that starry stonewort has been found on [Steamboat Bay on Leech Lake](#).
- The state DNR portable decon station was at the Long Lake south access at Hubbard recently to facilitate on-site decontamination.

Long Lake has had good results with the [aquatic vegetation removal stations](#) they have installed at two boat launches. Added an unsecured aqua weed stick at each access for use when the cabled one is in use.

UMN St. Anthony Falls Lab is preparing the wake study results for peer review. Some activity on wave mast idea at lab.

Starry Trek will be held on Sat August 21, 2021 to search for Starry Stonewort and other AIS across MN. HC COLA, as host, will focus on 15 lakes in the northern part of the county. Register here and select the Cass Lake (Wolf Lake Wildlife Management Area) <https://www.maisrc.umn.edu/ais-detectors/starrytrek> Training will be provided at 8 AM at the undeveloped access at the Wolf Lake Wildlife Management Area where you will learn to identify starry stonewort and other invasive species. Bring an extra pair of shoes to change to at the close of training. Be sure to search your own lake high risk accesses for starry stonewort in mid-August. See the short 3 min video " AIS Above and Below the Waterline " for a reminder on why this is important! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MS2fr00QWHI>

AIS volunteer training is online. Sign up is as follows:

Volunteer training is available online this season. Here is a link to the course, it has all of the info about it so be sure to read through it all to ensure volunteers/ambassadors are completing everything required.

https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais_volunteer/training.html

HC COLA was successful in speaking about the stopspiny.org program and providing 190 spiny waterflea swedish dishcloths and demonstrating how to wipe a line and reel with pictures of wiping live well at our local fair where we had a table in the environmental education building Wed - Sat 7/14-17. Two zebra mussel samplers were adopted too!

MAISRC, and UMN AIS Detectors from Long Lake- Hubbard County and two other MN lakes are part of a zebra mussel monitoring pilot project. 14 samplers were deployed at the end of July in Long Lake in 14 defined zones according to specific protocol from MAISRC. This pilot is totally separate from the HC COLA " Eyes on the Water " program.

Membership Team

Please provide updates for our HC COLA Master List of your lake assoc lake reps / officers to hccolamn@gmail.com

Lake Water Monitoring

The water monitoring for May – July have been completed. Preserved Zebra mussel veliger samples were turned in. Some lakes asked for Spiny Waterflea Analysis too from the lab for the ZMV samples. Training is available from the education team if you have new monitors throughout the season; email hccolamn@gmail.com

Steve Hall will be retiring from transporting the samples in the trailer in 2022. We will continue to use the Chamber of Commerce parking lot for cooler drop off next year. We have appreciated Steve's service these past 2 years in this capacity along with the handy trailer! We will go back to utilizing Dorset Storage for the cooler storage June thru August.

Education

There was good response to the HC COLA booth at the Hubbard County Fair in the Environmental Education Building. Kids picked up fishing bobbers and fish rulers. Lead fishing tackle was turned in (4.4 pounds) and 75 lead-free samples were given out as examples. The MPCA "Get The Lead Out" is part of the Loon Restoration Program. Consider participating in that program for your own lake association annual meeting in 2022 or before. See more about this in the Presidents Note in the July [E-newsletter](#) Thanks to Deb Rogers, HC COLA Membership Team and Gene Hanson, AIS Operating Team Co-Chair for volunteering to help Sharon Natzel, Education Team!

Our shoreland advisors team members on Kabekona have been busy with 3 site visits already this summer and 2 planned yet. [Long Lake's annual meeting featured a game show](#) designed by their master gardener / shoreland advisor. Fish Hook's shoreland advisor collaborated along with many of the shoreland advisors in our recent visit with a lakeshore owner on Hinds Lake plus Hinds Lake Assoc President, Steve Hill and the Hubbard County SWCD. All learned about runoff / erosion challenges and are seeking to provide ideas for potential solutions.

Email hccolamn@gmail.com if you would like to walk along your shoreline with a coach from our shoreline advisor program and discuss ideas to slow the flow of runoff into the lake. [Note: We are incorporating Lake Steward concepts too in our practices. If a Hubbard County lake association signs up with MN Lakes & Rivers Advocates for their Lake Steward program, we will be able to help that lake association's lake steward coordinator too.]

We have 3 HC COLA water monitors trained in AIS Detection who will help train families at the family's dock that want to get their youth / family involved in water monitoring. We also have the activity books from RMB too for the families.

Andrea Dutcher, newly certified UMN Extension AIS Detector shared what works for her as she coordinates Belle Taine Lake Assoc shoreline monitoring for early detection, the toolset used, overlapping route end-points, getting the kids involved and much more. AIS Detectors from Ojibway, Big Mantrap, Kabekona and Long attended this helpful discussion!

All are invited to attend the training on Early Detection of AIS Vegetation and Animals taking place at the Long Lake South Access at Hubbard, MN on Wed 8/4 at 10 AM. You will learn to identify aquatic vegetation and AIS, plus sampling with a rake so you'll be prepared to do shoreline monitoring on your lake too.

For Spring - Summer 2022, please plan ahead to engage with our HC COLA Education Team's presenter at your lake association meetings. Sue Schiess, Kabekona Lake is a 15-year UMN Extension Master Gardener. Sue will be able to train your group in the Lawns & Lakes: There is a Connection concepts in a 20 min presentation with 10 min Q&A. We will provide a form so your lakeshore owners can easily sign up for a shoreland advisor coaching visit too. Email hccolamn@gmail.com to check out the schedule for next year! Preserve your lake's water quality with trees / plants!