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Pres. & Secy

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Ken Grob- Potato
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Big Mantrap

(E-team members act as
a steering committee;
the Board is made up of
member lake association
representatives)

Inside this
issue:

President's Letter 2

2

State Budget Affects 2

Crow Wing River Watershed Plan 3

MNCOLA priorities 3

Care for your septic system 3

HCCOLA efforts 4

Hubbard COLA

Volume 1, Issue 1

Spring 2025

Zebra Mussels found in Fish Hook as well as Potato Lake

October, 2024, adult Zebra mussels were confirmed in 3 widely separate areas of Potato Lake, and now in Fishhook Lake. The DNR, due to recent research, will assume that upstream and downstream connections are also contaminated. This would include:

Upstream Connections to be Listed:

- Island
- Eagle

Downstream Connection to be Listed:

- Fish Hook
- Fish Hook River Dam
- Mud
- Upper Twin Lower Twin

Connecting river/creek/streams considered:

- Hay Creek = Island Lk to Potato Lk

- Potato River = Potato Lk to Fishhook Lk
- Fish Hook River = Fishhook Lk to confluence of Shell River
- Shell River = Confluence of Shell River to Upper Twin.

Zebra mussels were found in Hubbard County in Wolf Lake (Beltrami) in 2014. By 2021 they had been found in Steamboat, Long, Garfield, and Benedict lakes. Plantagenet and Leech are also infested. As of 2024, about 4% of Minnesota waters were known to be infested, along with contiguous Areas of Wisconsin and Canada.

Ken Grob, long-standing Potato Lake association member notes that the PVC tube detectors did not show any of the veligers or adults, but the ones found were hard to see, hidden up in nooks and crannies on equipment that was pulled out—so look VERY



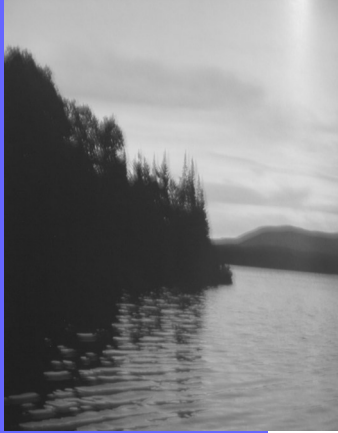
carefully at your equipment when you pull it out. Because the infestation was so widespread, no attempt was made at chemical treatment. The DNR supports the careful experimental control of zebra mussels in situations that will help us evaluate the potential impacts. **The best approach is to prevent infestation.** Early detection is difficult but important as the mussels are capable of reproducing from one year of age; the infantile form is free-floating and microscopic. The anchored small form, veligers, frequently can't be seen but only found by plankton nets or only noted by feel, like sandpaper on the hull. Research at the U. of M is looking at use of e-DNA

Spring Meeting—Mar 27—

The 2025 HCCOLA on-line and in-person meetings will begin with March 27, held 6:30 pm at the Northwoods Bank, Park Rapids. Gina Kemper, new Invasive Species Specialist | Ecological and Water Resources at the Department of Natural Resources will give a brief update on AIS in Hubbard County. Jake Shaunessy from the Hubbard County is speaking about

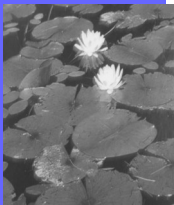
the priority lakes area now that the Crow Wing Watershed Plan has been approved. There is a new map of these priority lakes. **Each HCCOLA Rep will be asked to share one to 2 items when we do a spin around the HCCOLA member lakes in alphabetical order—please share your experiences!**

The meeting is open to the public for the educational update and interested lakeshore owners or supporters are encouraged to join. Many lakes do not have organized lake associations and we can help you start yours if you just ask. Hope to see you! E-mail HCCOLA if you need the link.



Ole was feeling poorly and went to the doctor who told him,,
 " I have some bad news. You're dying and you don't have much time,"
 "How much time have I got?" asked Ole.
 "Ten, " said the doctor.
 "Ten? Ten what, ? Months,?years?," Ole asked.
 "Ten...nine..eight...seven ... Six....."

Our wetlands are the filter and nursery for the life of the lake.



President's Letter

Hope Springs Eternal— Spring seems to have jumped out after a winter of less snow. March weather is getting my lake neighbors out more, with hope of warmer weather.

Hope—we have to hold onto a picture of what a good future could be, particularly in light of discouraging news, such as Potato Lake being found with Zebra Mussels, and the state budget shortfall putting funding for boat inspections at risk. But there is hope, There isn't enough money to inspect every boat, decontaminate every boat, and educate every boat owner . But there are enough concerned, involved citizens who can have an effect. Many lake associations, townships and the HCCOLA have stepped up efforts including (1)money for inspections, (2)education for

boaters, (3)supplying cleaning tools at public landings. (4)Volunteers have been checking their lakes for clarity and turning in water samples for years, and more lake owners are participating in (5)doing surveys for invasive aquatic plants, throwing in rakes from the shore to examine aquatic plants.

There has been a long-standing cooperative effort between lake associations, HCCOLA, Hubbard County , and townships to have trained inspectors at boat landings,. Most recently, HCCOLA and some lake associations have purchased cleaning tools (weedsticks, brushes, tongs, and plug wrenches) to help boat owners at public landings clean, drain, and dry their boats. If your lake doesn't have this, we can help you order the tools and contact the right agency to allow them to be placed. For some lakes,

cleaning units (CD-3 brand) have been placed to help owners clean their boats. Up on shore, many people have taken advantage of the consultation from Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District to evaluate their shoreland vegetation, and a semi-truck load of plants is delivered every May for those shoreland owners who have taken advantage of ordering plants through the Restore the Shore program.

And what is the effect of these efforts? Although there has clearly been more spread, it is less than in some other neighboring states. I am also constantly encouraged by the research being done at our U. of Minnesota AIS Research Center. We have a proud tradition that we care . Hoping the best for you and your family. Sincerely—Jon Dennis—President

State Budget Shortfall Might Affect Boat Inspections/ AIS prevention

Budget shortfalls became predicted for the 2028-9 biennium due to a variety of factors including a new requirement to factor in inflation, and \$7 billion in continuing expenses including tax cuts. The projected shortfall prompted a budget recommendation from Gov. Walz that included reduction and eventual cessation of the \$10 million annual statutory appropriation for AIS prevention. This amount has been unchanged for 10 years and is a fundamental funding source for boat landing inspections. The amount is adjusted annually based on a variety of factors, however Hubbard County's share is about \$239,000. The cascading benefits of county

AIS Prevention Aid are profound:

- AIS Prevention Aid funded grant programs award around \$1.8M annually to 200 local partner's projects leveraging over \$1.2M in additional funding.
- AIS Prevention Aid programs conducted AIS surveys on over 640 lakes and rivers in 2022 resulting in 45 new AIS infestations detected in 35 Counties and reported to MN DNR.
- AIS Prevention Aid supported an average of 883 jobs and leveraged 7305 hours contributed by 538 volunteers.
- Networks involved 285 lake associations, over 40 conservation groups, 250 businesses, 80 schools/ youth organizations and 145 local

governments

- Local planning and implementation efforts have been guided by 35 county AIS task forces and committees which are largely supported by county AIS plans
 - Enforcement by training 112 local officers who enforced AIS laws in nearly 20 counties reaching over 5,600 boaters
- Communications and outreach which educated nearly 39,000 residents and visitors during nearly 190 public events, over 30 counties that taught nearly 13,400 children about AIS prevention and 25 counties posted prevention messages on social media
- Concerned citizens can contact their state legislators. .

Crow Wing Watershed Plan Readied

Beginning in 2023, multiple stakeholders from six counties and the White Earth Nation coalesced in a planning commission to arrive at a comprehensive environmental plan for the Crow Wing River Watershed. Covering 2,000 square miles of mostly forested area, it contains 466 lakes over 10 acres in size, 1,600 river miles, vast forests and wetlands .

Short-Term (10 yr.)Goals :

Implement 27,100 acres of agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Implement 13,400 acres of ground-water protection agricultural BMPs,

and seal 150 wells.

Permanently protect 23,800 acres (i.e. Sustainable Forest Incentive Act [SFIA], easements, and acquisitions).

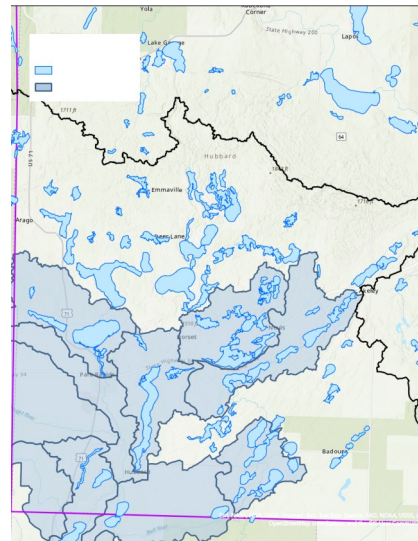
Implement 95,000 acres of forestry management and 500 forest management plans.

Implement two miles of lakeshore/riparian enhancement.

Reduce phosphorus in lakes and protect them from degradation. For individual lake goals, . Replace 10 barriers to fish passage (dams, road crossings, culverts).

Build resiliency into all projects

implemented where possible (cover crops, stormwater management, forest protection).



Crow Wing River Watershed covers from Baxter up to Itasca State Park. Lakes in the blue region are high priority for action.

MNCOLA Priorities

MN Coalition of Lake Association—2024-5

HCCOLA primarily is organized to work for Hubbard County Lakes. Partially due to HCCOLA efforts, MNCOLA was created to organize lake preservation at the state level. MNCOLA seeks individual lake association members. For this year, MNCOLA’s high priorities include: (1) adopting best practices for watercraft users—proposing a 500-foot minimum

from shore as a no wake zone; (2) Enhancing environmental review requirements for wetlands and marginal lands;(3) continued support for the U. of Minn AIS Research Center (MAISRC), including a 3 year watercraft license surcharge for AIS funding, with \$10 to MAISRC, \$10 to lake associations for AIS control , and \$5 to DNR; (4) increase the AIS violation fund-

ing to be at parity for game and fish fines; (5)Modify 2014 AIS prevention aid allocation and increase amount from \$10 million. MNCOLA has been instrumental in initiating watercraft operator license program for increased safety, as well as the “Keep It Clean, MN” law preventing storage or deposit of garbage on lake ice or in waters.

Care and Feeding of Your Septic System

Some hints from the U.of MN

<https://septic.umn.edu/care-and-maintenance>

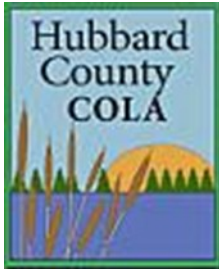
1. “starter is not needed for bacterial action.
2. Additives should not be used
3. Don’t run laundry wastes directly into the drain field

4. Do not use excessive amounts of laundry chemicals
5. Don’t deposit coffee grounds, cooking fats, facial tissues, diapers, cigarette butts and other non-decomposable materials into the system
6. Pump the tank every 1-3 years
7. When cleaning, remove the

manhole cover so sludge doesn’t build up; inspect baffles.

8. Garbage disposals will tend to clog the systems
9. Use low-flow toilets and shower heads
10. Use efficient washers, such as front-loading models.

(And don’t put any chemicals in your system that you don’t want to drink—because your well or your neighbor’s well might pick up those chemicals now or in the future . Ed.)



Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations

E-mail:
HCCOLAMN@gmail.com

Join Us at 2nd Street Stage—June 12, 2025

The Park Rapids Downtown Business Association sponsors free entertainment downtown on Thursday evenings, mid-June to August. We want to draw everyone to come for **6/12/25 Social hour, sponsored by HCCOLA from 5 to 6 pm** (before the band starts at 6 PM) on main street in downtown Park Rapids. Wear your lake association attire! There will be games for all, including finding aquatic invasive species (AIS). We even have an AIS-sniffing canine! Our theme for the evening is

“Eyes on the Water.”



HC COLA'S MISSION

The Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (HC COLA) is a 501(c)3 non-profit whose mission is to:

- **protect** and enhance the quality of our lakes and rivers,
- **preserve** the economic, recreational and natural environmental values of our shorelands and
- **promote** the responsible use of our waters and related habitats.

HCCOLA—United We Can Do More

HCCOLA, through the over 2700 members of its 31 lake associations, and committees can have cumulative effects. Some of the things accomplished in the past year:

- (1) give out \$4,000 in grants to lake associations for a variety of projects
- (2) Coordinate the water quality testing with RMB labs
- (3) Coordinate AIS prevention efforts with the Hubbard County Environmental Services and DNR
- (4) Helps with the Fresh Water Festival each year for schoolchildren
- (5) Pay for billboard ads to fight AIS
- (6) Holds monthly meetings spring through fall with education for members and community
- (7) HCCOLA conducted aquatic vegetation surveys on 3 small lakes without lake associations and educated-lakeshore owners with follow-up letter. Plan to survey 3 additional small lakes in '25.
- (8) Interacted with over 1245 Hubbard County Fair guests in Environmental Education Building in 5 days primary focus was aquatic vegetation ID

CLEAN.DRAIN.DRY.
All Your Toys!
STOP INVASIVE SPECIES
Clean Drain Dry.org

Logos at the bottom include: Wildlife Preserve, EYES on the WATER for HEALTHY LAKES, Hubbard County COLA, HUBBARD COUNTY, and CLEAN DRAIN DRY INITIATIVE.