

HUBBARD COUNTY COALITION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS (HC COLA)

Leadership Committee Report, President's Message, Announcements

February 4, 2016

LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

By Lynn Goodrich

1. **Executive Committee (E-Team)**

- a. We continued to meet over the past 3 months have developed some new ideas and approaches that we hope will serve HC COLA well.
 - i. We are making changes the Board Meeting format to streamline the business portion and encourage greater discussion and participation and to encourage members to share individual Lake Association success stories, find help in solving problems, get answers to questions from our leaders, experts and others.
 - ii. We have reviewed our website hubbardcolamn.org website made some changes. We will continue to update documents as new versions become available. As our primary means of communication with our members and the public it is imperative that make it easy to navigate and find up to date information. It will continue to contain links to other websites with topics of interest to our members. A website is a living resource and it should never become stagnant.
 - iii. Our goals remain the same. We only need to find new ways to achieve them.
 - iv. Develop our financial resources with a goal of establishing a fund to allow us to quickly respond to current and future challenges (AIS, etc.) to our lakes.
- b. Thank you for your suggestions and recommendations on Board Meeting guest presenters. We are taking your recommendations to heart and will try to bring new and interesting speakers to share their expertise with us. As you attend other meetings and hear new speakers, keep HC COLA in mind and pass their contact information along to Sharon Natzel, HC COLA vice president.
- c. There is continuing discussion on how HC COLA, can best interact and influence our state, county and local officials. Developing strong relationships now will help us address the threat of new AIS infestations in Hubbard County and all of Minnesota's waters.
- d. **Getting to know HC COLA lakes:**

Thank you to Rolf Smeby for his interesting presentation on Kabekona Lake and its Lake Association. Kabekona Lake, located on the northeastern corner of Hubbard County, is made up of 230 members, has a strong well funded Foundation and is committed to preserving their great lake.
- d. **HC COLA's mission is to protect and enhance the quality of our lakes and rivers, preserve the economic, recreational and natural environmental values of our shore lands and promote the responsible use of our waters and related habitats. Our mission enhances, promotes and protects the interests of lakeshore property owners, lakes associations, local government, the general public and future generations.**

2. **President's Message**

2015 is in the books and 2016 is underway. As we prepare for HC COLAs first meeting of 2016 we find ourselves on the downside of a rather mild winter. Today we all are looking forward to another "liquid water" season with all the summer visitors, family activities, holiday celebrations and on the water activities like fishing, boating, canoeing, kayaking, water skiing, swimming and a myriad of other fun shore based activities. Unfortunately winter failed to revive our lakes of the challenges that were present last year. So once again we must remain diligent and continue our roles as stewards of the wonderful waters of Hubbard County.

AIS is still present in and spreading to many lake in Minnesota. Hubbard County waters remain

free of infestations of the most damaging of the aquatic invasive plants and animals. Is this due to the actions of our AIS watercraft inspectors, the dedicated team of volunteers that have spent untold hours designing and improving our shielding efforts, riparian landowners, fishermen, boaters and other users of our lakes and rivers being vigilant? Or is it just luck and good fortune? I have to believe that all our efforts are paying off. Does it mean that we be free from infestations forever? I can't believe that, but I know that there is a great deal of study and research by some very intelligent scientists that are working on a solution. Until that happens, we must continue along our present path. Hubbard County is an island of calm in a sea of turmoil. There are infestations in adjacent counties that threaten our beautiful lakes. We must keep these invaders at bay, we must recommit to our mission to protect and enhance the quality of our lakes and rivers, preserve the economic, recreational and natural environmental values of our shore lands and promote the responsible use of our waters and related habitats. HC COLA's mission enhances, promotes and protects the interests of lakeshore property owners, lake associations, local government, the general public and future generations.

2016 will be the "Year of the Watershed" as we explore watersheds, both Major and Minor, and how they effect our individual lakes and their water quality. We must consider the effect of not only our adjacent lakeshore (riparian) but also the surrounding lands and wetlands that compromise the watershed. The influence is dramatic, and small improvements in the quality of the watershed will have great impact on our lake/s. I implore you become knowledgeable and share that knowledge with other Minnesotans.

We are the "Land of 10,000 Lakes!" Let's make sure they are the absolute best they can be and will continue to be for generations to come.

3. **Announcements**

a. We are a community -

I am please to announce that Nancy Gibbs, Lake Association Representative from Peysenske Lake has volunteered and has been appointed HC COLA Secretary. Nancy comes to us with a great amount of experience and skill. She is a valuable addition to the E-Team. I will ask the board to ratify her appointment at the February board meeting.

Larry Roberts, long time HC COLA leader and member of the E-Team, has resigned his position. Outside responsibilities are requiring more of his attention and he finds himself spending more time away from our area. Larry held the position as our communications chair. Communications both internal and external are of great importance to the success of our group. Does this sound like a job you could handle? Give me a call and let's talk.

b. Interested members that are unable to attend our meeting in person on February 4th will have the opportunity to participate via conference call during the meeting. Please let me (Lynn G) know if you would be interested in joining the HC COLA meeting via your phone. I will email instructions to you.

c. Mark your calendar and save the date... attend HC COLA's next meeting the night of **Thursday, March 31, 2016 @ Northwood's Bank Community Room**. Information about the meeting will be available on the hubbardcolamn.org website and via email in March 2016. Look for the meeting announcement in the Park Rapids Enterprise and Northwoods Press in the week prior to the meeting.

d. Lake contact information and newsletters: Please review your Lake Association contact information and provide any updated information for your representative, president, treasurer, AIS coordinator, Restore the Shore coordinator and e-mail coordinator.

4. **Committee reports will return to this report for the March 31, 2016 board meeting.**