

HUBBARD COUNTY COLA

BOARD MEETING MINUTES – February 7, 2013

“COLA is the Leader in Protecting Hubbard County Lakes and Rivers”

www.minnesotawaters.org/group/hccola/welcome

1. **Call to Order:** President Dan Kittilson called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Representatives:

Bad Axe:

Belle Taine: Dick Boehmer

Big Mantrap: Lyle Laske

Big Sand:

Blue:

Boulder: Lynn Berry

Lower Crow Wing:

8th & 9th Crow Wing: Julie Kingsley

10th & 11th Crow Wing:

Duck: John Lundquist

Eagle: Janine Weideman

Emma/Bottle/Stocking:

Fish Hook: Jan Rumpza

Gilmore:

Island South:

Hinds:

Kabekona: Rolf Smeby

Little Sand: Dan Kittilson, Mary Jo Groehler

Long: Sharon Natzel, Larry Roberts

Palmer: Bert Ahern

Peysenske: Jeff Mosner

Plantagenet: Bob Anderson

Portage: Jerry Knoblich

Potato: Kevin Brauer, Chuck Diessner, Bob Berdahl

Spider: John Weber, Mary Adams

Stony:

Tripp: Theora & Lynn Goodrich, Bill Clausen, Chuck Visher

Twin Lakes:

Guests: Julie Kingsley, Hubbard SWCD
Doug Kingsley, Park Rapids DNR Fisheries

2. **Guest Speaker:** Doug Kingsley, Park Rapids DNR Fisheries

3. **Conference call with IU Capstone on Lake Association Sustainability-Burney Fischer, Robert Ramos and Jana McGee**

- a. 20 students involved in project. Video conference 12-12-12 with key COLA leadership. 2 surveys will be conducted: COLA leadership/Lake Association Presidents and selected Lake Associations (6 or 7) and their members
- b. Currently in Stage 1-research and review; final report will be a 12 page summary of research findings
- c. Jana indicated that they will provide updates approximately every 3 weeks: 1/28/13, 2/18/13, 3/4/13, 3/25/13 with a final report early to mid-April. A final conference call is tentatively scheduled for April 22 with final deliverable on 5/1/13.
- d. Burney recommended that a conference call be scheduled during Monday classes after each preliminary report. Classes are held from 3:00 to 5:30 PM CST.
- e. Kevin Brauer, Potato Lake Association President, stated his concern with releasing lake association email lists to the university. Burney indicated that they have an agreed upon process with the university and did not feel that it could be changed. A suggestion was made that lake associations send out a notice in advance of the survey asking members if they wish to opt out of the project. Burney will draft a notice that can be used by the selected lakes and send to Dan.

4. Doug Kingsley-Presentation on Potlatch land conversion to agricultural land and impact on quantity and quality on ground and surface water.

- a. Doug reported that the DNR is concerned with the potential land use conversion as studies have shown that higher agricultural and urban development result in greater deterioration in water quality.
- b. There are approximately 60,000 acres of sand-plain aquifers in Southern Hubbard, Northern Wadena, and portions of Cass and Becker Counties that are good candidates for conversion to agricultural use. Potlatch has sold off or is in process of selling off many of these parcels.
- c. The DNR met with Wadena and Hubbard Counties to discuss the possibility of acquiring some of these lands or, as an alternative, acquire conservation easements with restrictions on use of the land.
- d. Doug also reported on a DNR project requested by the legislature that requires they review all School Trust property. There are approximately 2.5 million acres in Minnesota and 30,000 in Hubbard County. 2012 legislation requires that economic return is the highest priority for State Trust land. The DNR must show that these lands are appropriately generating revenue or they must reimburse the Trust. The DNR will need support/partners to ensure that these sensitive lands are protected. Doug asked for informal support at this time and asked that members talk to their county commissioners.

5. Approval of Minutes from November 1, 2012 meeting: MSP

6. Treasurer's Report: John Weber

- a. Donations are needed from lake associations for the 2013 Children's Freshwater Festival which occurs in early May. The fund is \$800 short toward COLA's \$1200 commitment.
- b. \$1320 has been received for the legal fund; \$735 profit from wild rice sales
- c. **MSP** to transfer general funds to AIS fund to zero out deficit. **MSP** Treasurer's report.

7. 2012-2013 Proposed Budget: MSP

8. Unfinished Business:

- a. Approval of Executive Committee appointment of Sharon Natzel, Education Co-Chair: **MSP**
- b. Approval of COLA Organizational Chart/Vice Presidents: **MSP**
- c. IU Capstone project-any other lake associations that would like to be added to this project contact Dan.

9. New Business:

- a. Wild rice fund raising project-Larry Roberts reported on items for sale and profit to date (refer to Finance Committee report)
- b. COLA AIS Project Fund Brochure-Lynn Goodrich is working on brochure design and will send to COLA Board for approval; printed brochures will be ready for fishing opener.
- c. 2013 Clean Water Fund-Hubbard County Community Partners Fund Grant-Julie Kingsley, SWCD, reported that they have received grant monies of \$100,000 to be used for clean water projects. 2-year grants are available to lake association, neighborhoods and other groups up to \$25,000 with a 25% match requirement.

10. COLA Committee Reports and Announcements (Refer to attached Committee Reports and Announcements document)

- a. **Dan thanked the “Heavenly Seven” group of Kabekona, Tripp, and Peysenske Lake Associations for setting up tonight’s meeting and for the goodies. He also thanked Mary Jo for donating tubs to store our coffee equipment.**
- b. **The “Heavenly Seven” group of Eagle, Stony, and Long Lake Associations are responsible for next meeting.**
- c. Dan reported that we need a Restore the Shore coordinator due to Mary Jo’s resignation from that committee. Theora Goodrich and Jeff Mosner agreed to co-chair.
- d. Dan reported that we need a secretary due to Julie Kingsley’s resignation.
- e. Dan thanked Julie for her years of service as COLA secretary.
- f. Dan reported that Mike Carroll, DNR, commented to him that COLA is making a difference.
- g. **Minnesota COLA-Dan Kittilson, Chuck Diessner, and Ken Grob commented on the reasons Hubbard COLA withdrew from Minnesota COLA, specifically that Hubbard COLA wishes to maintain a positive approach and relationship with our DNR partners.**
- h. Theora Goodrich announced that she would like to represent COLA and enter the Chili Cook-off and will make an “AIS Chili” (A=Awesome; I=Incredible; S=Stupendous) Theora promises there will be no AIS in the chili. The Board stated their support.
- i. **Jerry Knoblich distributed the Lake Water Monitoring Program Registration forms for 2013. Return to Jerry by May 1.**
- j. **AIS Committee-Ken Grob thanked Julie Kingsley and Jeff Bjorkman for their work on the watercraft inspection program. He commented that there is a combined commitment of approximately \$98,000 which will allow 2000 additional hours over last year. Ken praised the county for their contribution of \$35,000 and the city for joining the effort. IMPORTANT DATE: March 12, 2013 Annual Township Meetings-Lake Association should attend to request watercraft inspection financial support.**

11. What’s Happening on Your Lake

- Jan Rumpza reported on the fishing derby held last weekend on Fishhook Lake and the snowmobile races to be held in early March.
- Long Lake Association will participate in the Hubbard Winter Festival.

12. Next Meeting: Thursday April 25, 2013, 6:30p.m. Social gathering, 7:00 p.m. meeting, Northwood’s Bank Community Room.

13. Adjourn Meeting: MSP to adjourn the meeting by President Dan Kittilson.

Respectfully submitted: Janine Weideman, Acting Secretary,

Contact Information

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