

HUBBARD COUNTY COALITION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS (HC COLA)

The Board of Directors Meeting - February 22, 2018; approved 4/26/18

“HC COLA is the Leader in Protecting Hubbard County Lakes and Rivers for this and future generations.”

THANK YOU to the meeting hosts: Long, Tripp, and Portage.

1. **Call to Order:** Pass the microphone introductions. Those present: 27 members present, 1 member on speaker phone, representing 18 lake associations, 3 guests.

Speaker: Denny Ulmer, Fish Hook Lakes and Rivers Association, FHLRA, with overview of FHLRA plans to treat their aquatic vegetation, Curly-Leaf Pondweed.

- A. Background: School Administrator Retired. Currently Assistant Director of the Hubbard County Food Shelf.
- B. FHLRA is working with PLM out of Brainerd. PLM treated Curly-Leaf Pondweed in Portage Lake.
- C. The application process started online with Nicole Kovar, MN DNR Invasive Species Specialist. Currently, FHLRA is waiting for approval of permit to treat.
- D. The DNR will do an area survey. Public awareness is required.
- E. In order to receive a 3M grant, the project needs to be nominated by a 3M employee. Kim Donahue of 3M's Wonewok Conference Center to be the nominee. FHLRA also needs a 5013C fiscal Agent. FHLRA has asked HC COLA to consider being the fiscal agent. When the grant money is issued, HC COLA would receive the check, endorse it, and turn it over to FHLRA.
- F. With extensive knowledge of non-profit grants and grant writing during his school administrator tenure, Denny Ulmer will do all the paperwork.
- G. FHLRA is also checking with the Park Rapids Community Development Corporation (PRCDC), Mike Monsrud, chair, and various other sources.
- H. FHLRA is looking at a two week window for spraying in May. Doug Kingsley, DNR Fisheries, noted that the water temperature needs to be no hotter than 55 degrees to treat.
- I. The Curly-Leaf Pondweed in Fish Hook is found almost entirely by the Portage River inlet to Fish Hook.

2. **Business Meeting:**

- A. **Meeting agenda** approved by consent.
- B. **Discussion** of Treasurer's report and the 2018 budget.
- C. Motion made to **accept the proposed budget for 2018**, seconded, passed. MSP.
- D. **Treasurer's report and Minutes** were approved by consent.

3. **Updates on HC COLA – related activities and plans:**

- A. **Watershed update** – Julie Kingsley, SWCD.
 - a. **Leech Lake watershed, 1 Watershed 1 Plan**, have advisory committee meetings. All are invited. The **next meeting is Friday Mar 16th, 9 am to noon, at the Leech Lake Watershed Foundation in Walker.** **May 10th** there is a meeting for cities and township at the casino in Walker.
 - b. At SWCD, the first Friday of every month, **Free Nitrate testing**. Test needs a half-a-cup of water.
 - c. **SWCD** is now doing **Stewardship Plans for forests**. If you're doing something with land for a Conservation Easement, it needs a Stewardship Plan first.
 - d. **SWCD** is looking at **dissolved oxygen levels** in lakes.
 - e. Last year's **Restore the Shore** trees are for sale in bundles of 25. The 2018 Restore the Shore trees will be available in May.
 - f. The **23rd annual Freshwater Festival is May 16**. 20-30 volunteers are needed. On May 15 individual trees will be packaged so each school student will receive a tree. Veliger testing will be done at the festival.
 - g. **Mississippi Headwaters Watershed** planning and grant application to begin in March. Discussion.

- h. Sharon: Treasurer Steve Hill to write HC COLA check for \$1,200 to SWCD for the Freshwater Festival Donation from HC COLA as approved in the budget.

B. Peter Tuomisto, Water Quality Monitoring and Zebra Mussel Veliger Sampling.

- a. Handout review: **Water Quality Monitoring** is the 3rd Sun/Mon thru Sept. Keep coolers as cold as possible. **Zebra Mussel Veliger (zmv) Sampling** is the 1st and 3rd weekend in July. Deliver July 16, sampling doesn't need to be cold as is preserved with alcohol.
- b. For **All Water Quality Monitoring and ZMV Samplers, pick-up 2018 Water Quality Monitoring kits** with coolers, integrated sampler tubes, Zebra Mussel Veliger water sampling bottles and paperwork. **Wed. May 9th at 6:30 pm at Northwoods Bank, 1200 East First Street, Park Rapids.**
- c. **Cost information:** Cost of **Water Quality Monitoring for the season** is \$220 per lake (worst case). Invoices will be due Fri Sept 14, 2018 to HC COLA Treasurer, PO Box 746, Park Rapids, MN 56470.
- d. **ZMV water sampling RMB Lab** analysis costs are \$180 (worst case) for two preserved samples at \$90/sample.
- e. The water quality monitoring cooler and both preserved ZMV sample bottles to be **delivered to Charlie's Boats & Marine** on Mon July 16th by 11:00 am.
- f. **Cost may be reduced** through HC COLA, depending on **volume discounts, based on number of participating lakes.**
- g. Overall, after testing is completed a report could be submitted to the papers, Park Rapids Enterprise and Northwoods Press, posted on the website by lake names and distributed to Julie Kingsley, SWCD, and Doug Kingsley, DNR Fisheries.

C. Eyes on the Water update – Dan:

- a. For **juvenile zebra mussel veligers**, want to expand number of lakes with samplers.
- b. **Sampling tubes**, reporting more sophisticated, to share with more people.
- c. Irene Weis's **Big Sand** newsletter, featured "Eyes on Water. Join the Army!"

D. Township Annual meeting - Sharon: **Tues, Mar 13th**. Be there to support Water Inspection and Supplemental Hours. Next year Environmental Services want supplemental funding by Jan 31, 2019. Township budgets, for AIS supplemental hour amounts, need to be reflected in their January 2019 budget.

E. AIS Social Marketing – Steve Hill: Review of Social Marketing. **Kick-off meeting: Tues. Mar 6th, 9:00 am, at Chamber of Commerce meeting room.**

F. Stolzenberg Memorial Fund – Dan:

- a. **History:** Gary and Rosa Stolzenberg had property on Island South and 4th Crow Wing. Gary was the HC COLA representative for Restore the Shore, grants to lakes for shoreline restorations.
- b. The **estate gift** to HC COLA is \$54,000. There were no directions from the estate how the money should be used. As HC COLA determined last autumn, it's in our HC COLA account at the Northwest Minnesota Foundation: 25% endowment and 75% spendable.
- c. HC COLA wants to do lasting projects. We've looked at Conservation Easements; they need BIG money. We're looking at being partners with other organizations, as SWCD and their work with the Boy Scout Camp. Per Doug Kingsley, for Conservation Easements you need to monitor the terms of the easement unto perpetuity.
- d. In conjunction with Gary Stolzenberg's love of Restore The Shore, Peter Tuomisto suggested HC COLA sponsor annual tree plantings and the seeding of public lands.

G. AIS Summit III Virtual Tour to be held at Northwoods Bank, Wed Feb 28 from 9:00 – 5 pm and Thurs Mar 1 from 9:00 - noon. Steve Hill and Ken Grob will attend the conference in Mpls for HC COLA; Lynn Goodrich will attend on behalf of MN COLA.

4. Committee Reports and What's Happening on Your Lake:

- A. **Committee Reports** with agenda handout.
- B. **Action Park Rapids** - Sharon: HC COLA's AIS Education Action Park Rapids has a 90 day Implement Plan. **March 8th Community Education session on lakes and rivers.** Other plans: Water invertebrates session with kindergarten – 5th grade and Kinship mentors documentation for good fishing practices.
- C. **Lake happenings:** Al Judson, Big Sand, presented a Big Sand Lake Assoc. motion to require a certificate of decontamination for all watercraft exiting infested waters prior to entering any other waterway. Al sited need for stronger AIS prevention, current protocols not enough inspection hours, decon stations under used, need more better emphasis on decon. Big Sand Board asked HC COLA to present the petition, requiring certification of decon for all boats, at AIS Summit III.
 - 1. **Discussion**
 - 2. **Stewart Larson, Fish Hook**, presented an amendment, instead of a presentation to AIS Summit III, to move the petition to an appropriate committee in HC COLA for further study. Gene Hanson, ESB, seconded. With a standing vote by lakes, the amendment was adopted.
 - 3. **Big Sand motion**, for the petition as amended by vote to go to HC COLA Operating Committee. Opposed none. Little Sand abstained and Big Mantrap on conference call abstained. Motion passed.
- D. **"Save the Date" Fri., June 8 for the U of M AIS Research Center (MIASRC) Regional Update** at M-State in Detroit Lakes that HC COLA and other groups in Becker County, Hubbard County & Ottertail will work together on. There will be morning and afternoon sessions.
 - 1. When we learn more we will want to reach out to our lake shore owners who will be back by then.
 - 2. **Sharon will contact Tera Guettes, Administrator – Pelican River Watershed District**, who is leading the effort and volunteer. It is likely that we will need additional HC COLA volunteers for the event and some money to help fund.
- E. **Todd Township Information Hearing, Thurs. Mar 8 at 7 pm** in the downstairs meeting room at the Hubbard County Law Enforcement Center in Park Rapids, an opportunity to learn of CHS plans for agronomy facility and for public comment.
- F. **Two County Ordinances** move to public hearing phase at the **Hubbard County Commissioners meeting Tues, Mar 6 at 10 am.** The **1st** is Hubbard County's draft buffer ordinance (helps define what happens with violations in our county having to do with the new State Buffer law). The **2nd** is about reviewing the language that restricts watercraft to less than 15 mph between the hour of 6 pm & 9 am on First, Second and Third Crow Wing lakes.

Next Meeting: Thurs. Mar 29, 5:30 pm Coffee & Conversation and 6 pm Business Meeting at Northwoods Bank Community Room with Meeting Hosts: Peysenske, Blue, Boulder.

Nancy Gibbs
 HC COLA Secretary

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