

HUBBARD COUNTY COALITION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS (HC COLA)
Committee Report, President's Message, Events and Announcements
March 31, 2016

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. AIS meeting April 5th 7pm @ Riverside United Methodist Church
 - i. Pastor Chip Nelson - host, Jeff forester (MLR) - speaker
- b. MNCOLA meeting in St Paul - Wednesday, April 6, 2016 10am - 3pm
- c. 2016 State of Water Conference: April 14-15 at Alexandria, MN
- d. HCCOLA Board Meeting - Thursday, April 28, 2016
(Host lakes: Potato, Palmer, 8th & 9th Crow Wing Lakes)
- e. Restore the Shore tree distribution ~ May 1 - TBA
- f. PR Flower & Garden show, April 30 - May 1 PR Armory Hours – TBA
- g. HC COLA Water Testers meeting, May 11, 2106 7pm @ Northwoods Bank
 - i. Short meeting & cooler/sampling tube pickup **REQUIRED ATTENDANCE**
- h. SWCD Children's Fresh Water Festival, May 18 @ BSA Camp Wilderness
- i. HC COLA 3rd annual "Sports Sale", June 16, 17 (Thursday-Friday)
 - i. Hubbard County Fair Grounds - Environmental Building
- j. AIS Summit, Oct. 5-6, St. Cloud
- k. Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference, Oct. 17-19, Lacrosse WI

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

The "liquid water" season has arrived. Well at least here on Tripp Lake. We happily awoke to ICE OUT on March 29th. It was a tie for second earliest ice out on Tripp Lake. The earliest recorded by our neighbor and long time resident was March 23, 2012. Things will get busy around here as we repopulate the lake with docks, boats, kayaks and canoes. Fishing opener is still a way off, but I am sure all of us are anxious to get their feet wet without getting frostbite. Soon we will start to see family and friends that can't handle our Minnesota winter. I know requests for our guest rooms will be flooding in.

2016 is the HC COLA "Year of the Watershed." This year we explore watersheds, both Major and Minor, and how they effect our individual lakes and their water quality. We must consider the effect on our waters of not only our adjacent lakeshore but also the surrounding lands that compromise the watershed. The influence is dramatic, and small improvements in the quality of the watershed will have great impact on our lakes. I encourage you become watershed aware and share that knowledge with other Minnesotans.

Unfortunately our mild winter failed to relieve 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 present in and spreading to many lakes 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 don't believe that, but I know that there is a great deal of study and research being done by some very intelligent scientists that are working on solutions. 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 is to protect our waters and enhance, promote and protect the interests of lakeshore property owners, lake associations, local government, the general public and future generations.

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.

At the February meeting, Mike Van Guilder, President, Tripp Lake Association (TLA), helped us get to know Tripp Lake. The residents formed the TLA to deal with the MN DNR and establish better communications among owners. We hold regular meetings and an annual flotilla or two. It is a small lake that offers its residents (both year round and seasonal) and visitors an ideal setting to enjoy our natural environment by hunting, hiking, boating, fishing and the up north way of life. Tripp located on the southeastern corner of Hubbard County, is made up of 15 members. Tripp has natural populations of Large Mouth Bass, Northern Pike, Black Crappie and pan fish. Thank you Mike for sharing Tripp’s story!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Leadership Committee

By Lynn Goodrich

1. Executive Committee (E-Team)

- a. HC COLA has been asked to take part in the Armory Flower & Garden show at the end of April. We will have a main floor booth and access to 2 classrooms to hold classes on varied topics (AIS, water quality & quantity (surface and subsurface) shoreline restoration, erosion, aquatic plant identification, wildlife, Watersheds (major & minor) and more.
 - b. We were contacted by Pastor Chip Nelson, Pastor at Riverside United Methodist Church and asked to participate at his upcoming AIS informational meeting. Chip is very concerned with the effects that AIS has had on lakes around the United States. He has seen the effects, first hand, and is very impressed with what has been done here in Hubbard County. He feels that it is the responsibility of everyone to protect what has been given to us and that we are all stewards of our waters and lands. We expect this to be an ongoing relationship and to work with him on future initiatives concerning AIS.
 - c. We have made 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. Part of that change was to establish an earlier start time. We now have Coffee & Conversation at 6:00pm and start the meeting at 6:30pm. It is our hope that this will allow time for interesting presentations and discussions and still allow us all to get home earlier.
 - d. We have reviewed our website: hubbardcolamn.org website. Jeff has made some changes and will update other pages over the summer.
 - e. The HC COLA presence on [facebook](#) has been reviewed and updated to encourage more people to view and “Like” us. Thanks to C. C. White and the education team for spearheading this effort. Expanding our use of social media was a primary recommendation from the first HC COLA/Indiana University Capstone report. We encourage you to “Like” us and recommend others to do the same. C. C. will show us all her work at the March 31st meeting.
 - f. The e-team is working with NWMF to help us develop greater financial resources through donations and other means with a goal of establishing a dedicated fund to allow us to quickly respond to future challenges (AIS, etc.) to our lakes.
- 2. 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.**

Civic Service Committee

By Peter Tuomisto

Civic Committee activities for 2016

1. Children's Freshwater Festival at Wilderness Boy Scout Camp near Emmaville - **contributions and volunteers are needed**. Please send checks payable to Hubbard COLA at PO Box 746 Park Rapids, MN 56470 with Children's Freshwater Festival in the memo line. Volunteers should contact Melissa at the SWCD.
2. Restore the Shore orders for 2016 will be coming into the Fairgrounds in early May to be repackaged. Volunteers are needed to facilitate this. The RTS Coordinator is Theora Goodrich.
3. Veliger Water Testing will be done again in July and August. In 2015, Potato, Blue, Eagle, Big Sand, Little Sand, Long, Belle Taine, Kabekona, Fish Hook, Island, Duck, Big Mantrap, Bottle, Boulder, 6th Crow Wing, Plantagenet, 11th Crow Wing, 8th Crow Wing, 3rd Crow Wing, as well as Spider, the Crooked Lakes and Ojibway participated in the testing. No veligers were found. Please let Pete Tuomisto know if your lake will continue testing in 2016 and if your lake would like to participate for the first time in 2016. I will be making blocks available (to hang on the end of docks) at each COLA meeting.
4. Hydro Lab SWCD will again have the Hydro Lab testing for those interested lakes in 2016. This is for monitoring the dissolved oxygen and the water temperature in your lake. Please see Julie Kingsley at SWCD if interested. There will be a charge for SWCD to perform this test. SWCD will also Veliger Sample and Map Vegetation for a fee. Contact SWCD if interested.
5. Water Monitoring Kits will be handed out on **May 11th** at 7:00 p.m. at the Northwoods Bank Community Room. Training will be available if needed. Further information and program registration forms will be sent electronically to lake associations. **Registration Forms will be available at the March and April COLA meetings also.**

Finance Committee / Treasurer

By Steve Hall

1. Five members of our E-team met with Lisa Peterson, our fund manager, from Northwest Minnesota Foundation. Our goal was to gain a better understanding of our funds, the rules about them and how they work for us. It was a good meeting and Lisa was able to answer all of our questions
2. Membership dues are all in with the exception of Stony Lake.

Education Committee

By Sharon Natzel

- 1) The Speaker series for the monthly HC COLA meetings in 2016 will focus primarily on watershed-related topics.
 - a. In March, Julie Kingsley, District Manager, Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District will share the Hubbard County Local Water Plan 2016-2026. We'll learn about major and minor watersheds plus the toolkit that can help us understand the watershed and lake relationship.
 - b. In April, Don Hickman from the Initiative Foundation will be presenting "Refreshing Your Lake/River Management Plan". He helped HC COLA member lake associations in 2003, 2005 and 2010 get started on their LMPs through the Healthy Lakes and Rivers Partnership. Creating and/or updating LMPs was identified as a need in the Capstone Project. Don will also be presenting this topic at the "2016 State of the Water Conference."

- 2) Lake Monitoring activities for Spring may include Recording Sightings of Wildlife, Ice Out Reporting, or Signing Up to be a Loon Watcher, for example. Here is the baseline recap from last Autumn that our HC COLA lakes reported
http://hubbardcolamn.org/uploads/3/4/5/6/34563649/hccola_lake_monitoring_baseline_autumn_recap_2015.pdf

3) 4-H Opportunity – Aquatic Robotics Program / Volunteers

HC COLA eTeam hosted a conference call 3-23-16 with Mari Jo Lohmeier, 4-H Coordinator, and Margo A. Bowerman, Extension Educator (see contact info below) to learn about the 4-H Opportunity for Spring 2016 called Aquatic Robotics (A-R) Program

Goals of the 4-H Aquatic-Robotics (A-R) Program:

A-R program brings together techie kids and outdoorsy kids, who, after construction and usage, will make a public presentation fostering citizenship awareness and public speaking ability and could demo at fair.

2 parts to the A-R Program: secure the equipment & recruit a couple of volunteers who become official 4-H volunteers (currently 70 4-H volunteers working in Hubbard County on a variety of programs).

- A-R Program needs volunteers to guide the kids, to tinker with the project and coordinate meeting places and times. Program is based on the availability of volunteers. Background for volunteers could be backyard tinkerer or someone with an engineering background could be helpful but not a requirement, or an engineer manager / coordinator.
- Construction of a remotely controlled vehicle, ROVE, which has a camera for underwater exploration. The Sea Perch ROVE kit is provided by the U.S. Navy. Mari Jo has some old equipment to inventory that may work.
- HC COLA will mention this opportunity in the Spring Newsletter too. Please don't hesitate to contact Margo or Mari Jo for additional information or clarification or to become a 4-H volunteer for the 4-H Aquatic Robotics Program (A_R) to “Restart” for Hubbard County. After hearing Margo and Mari Jo explain the program Jeff Mosner suggested the ROVE be used for AIS Early Detection.
- Here are a few links to websites suggested by Margo that can provide additional descriptions of the 4-H Aquatic Robotics Program, including photos and videos.

[MN 4-H Aquatic Robotics facebook page](#)

[MN 4-H Aquatic Robotics Program website](#)

[Recent training in Pine County](#)

[Fargo - Moorhead News focus on Clay County Aquatic Robotics](#)

Contact Information for Mari Jo & Margo:

- A. Mari Jo Lohmeier
4-H Program Coordinator for Hubbard County University of MN Extension
218-237-1246
mlohmeie@umn.edu

- Mari Jo's office is the Fair Grounds in Park Rapids across from Environmental Building
- More on Hubbard County 4-H: <http://www3.extension.umn.edu/county/hubbard/4-h>

B. Margo A. Bowerman
 Extension Educator
 University of Minnesota Extension Center for Youth Development
 Regional Office, Crookston
 510 County Road 71, Suite 119
 Crookston, MN 56716
 Office: 218-281-8695
 mbowerma@umn.edu

- 4) Lake Management Planning & our homework for April – Dust Off & Review Your LMP as Don Hickman from the Initiative Foundation will be at our HC COLA Meeting to speak on Refreshing Lake or River Management Plans. Link shows LMP approach several HC COLA lake assoc used: <http://www.shorelandmanagement.org/depth/plan.pdf>

Pipeline Update

By Jeff Mosner (Friends of the Headwaters)

Since this represents the first update for you in 2016 a little “recap” seems in order. (And if what follows seems a bit convoluted, it's because the process IS convoluted.) As you may recall, about year ago, Friends of the Headwaters (FOH) and its legal representative, the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA) initiated an appeal regarding the necessity for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on Enbridge's proposed Sandpiper pipeline. On September 14th 2015, the MN Court of Appeals agreed and ruled that the PUC must conduct an EIS prior to deciding whether to approve a Certificate of Need permit to Enbridge.

In this unanimous decision, the Court concluded that “MEPA requires an environmental impact statement to be completed before a final decision is made to grant or deny a certificate of need.” As a [Mpls StarTribune](#) article pointed out: “The Friends of the Headwaters argued that conducting certificate of need proceedings before completing an environmental impact statement violated the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act. The appeals court agreed.”

Subsequent to this Appeals Court ruling, on October 14th both Enbridge/NDPC and the MN PUC filed a petition requesting the MN Supreme Court review this ruling. The Minnesota Supreme Court denied this petition on Dec. 15.

The Court of Appeals ruling agreed with plaintiffs Friends of the Headwaters, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, and Carlton County Land Stewards that a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required for all major pipeline projects including Enbridge's controversial Sandpiper proposal. The rejection by the Supreme Court means that the Court of Appeals' unanimous decision stands and an EIS will be required for all Enbridge expansions such as Sandpiper.

In late December, the PUC held scheduling hearings for both Sandpiper and Line 3. Based on the Court of Appeals requirement for EIS and the fact that both pipelines are planned by Enbridge to be traveling in the same corridor, the PUC decided a combined EIS will be conducted.

Then on January 11th, 2016, the Commission lifted the stay on the certificate of need docket, rejoined that case with the route permit docket, and referred both dockets back to the administrative law judge for joint

contested case proceedings. The Commission also authorizes the Department to administer a combined EIS process that addresses issues related to both need and routing.

Enbridge challenged that as unreasonable, hoping to shave several months off the timetable if regulators launched the evidentiary process as soon as a *draft* environmental study was completed.

On February 11th FOH, responded to DOC's "Request for Clarification" by requesting the DOC to conduct a scoping process for the Sandpiper EIS consistent with MEPA that allows for fair consideration of all reasonable alternatives, including system alternatives, and under its authority as a Responsible Government Unit (RGU), form an Expert Advisory Panel that includes an expert on diluted bitumen and tribal representatives, among others, who can advise DOC on all significant decisions related to the EIS, including hiring of consultants, the "purpose and need" of the project, and the scoping process.

On March 9th FOH submitted a formal motion to the PUC to create a group of experts to assist in properly scoping the EIS and ensure compliance with law and regulations dealing with environmental review. State law requires RGUs to use "all practicable means and measure, including financial and technical assistance" to protect Minnesota's environment. (Minn.Stat 116D.02)

At a PUC hearing in St Paul on March 24th, Minnesota utility regulators declined to speed up the procedure for reviewing two proposed crude oil pipelines across the state. The commission re-ordered completion of a *final* environmental impact statement before beginning the trial-like regulatory process and public meetings required for both projects. "This is not a minor event in Minnesota. This is significant," said Minnesota Public Utilities Commissioner John Tuma, who opposed changing the timetable. "We are going to be moving a lot of oil through the state — very dangerous. We want to get it right." The PUC deferred other matters brought forth, including whether an expert advisory panel would be used, to the Administrative Law Judge who will preside at public and evidentiary hearings.

Finally, we are notified that Rep. Pat Garofalo has introduced a bill (HF2543) "exempting certain interstate pipelines from the requirement to obtain a certificate of need". This would pertain to applications for new pipelines as well as any currently pending approval before the PUC. A committee hearing on this bill is scheduled at the Capitol on 3/30.

Friends of the Headwaters believes that, IF oil pipelines are needed, they should be located away from Minnesota's most pristine water resources. You can help us by sharing our updates, visiting our website, sharing our posts on social media, liking our Facebook page, attending our fundraisers, and donating money for FOH legal expenses. All of us at FOH thank you for you past support.

Please consider writing to the governor, legislators, and newspapers announcing your emphatic support for a comprehensive EIS and opposition to HF2543 which would circumvent our regulatory process.

I encourage you to visit FOH's website at <http://friendsoftheheadwaters.org/index.html> to donate to this cause, retrieve the latest news, view events, read what local "voices" are saying as well as see what actions you can take to become a part of this effort. Also be sure to "like" FOH's Facebook site at <https://www.facebook.com/savemississippiheadwaters> to get the latest breaking reports.

Additional committee reports will be included, as necessary, to keep you informed on our current activities and efforts.