

HC COLA 8-30-18 Committee Reports:

AIS

1) HC COLA "Eyes on the Water" Survey 2018 - By Dan Kittilson

Call for Action: Watch your email inbox for HC COLA "Eyes on the Water" Survey 2018.

Again this year, Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (HC COLA) will implement our on-line survey to foster our aquatic invasive species (AIS) detection and monitoring actions. Our survey will focus both on invasive animals like Zebra Mussels and invasive plants, such as Starry Stonewort and Eurasian Water Milfoil. We encourage you to join our on-line survey and help us evaluate our "eyes on the water" efforts.

In early September, AIS Citizen Watch volunteers, lake association presidents/ reps and AIS coordinators will be receiving COLA's survey because of their participation/relationship with the HC COLA's AIS Lake monitoring early detection program. You are reminded that if you do not have a special monitoring device (zebra mussel settlement sampler, etc.) on your lake shore, HC COLA's on-line survey can still provide an opportunity for you to inspect your shoreline, your lake shore equipment and search around your lake for AIS. The first "eyes on the water" survey you receive will be considered our early bird edition. This early edition will give lakeshore owners who will be closing their cabin for the season the opportunity to check your equipment and shoreline for AIS and report your findings on HC COLA's on-line survey. Since you will receive the survey link numerous times, permanent residents will want to keep your "eyes on the water" further into the fall season looking for AIS. Thus, you can keep checking your lakeshore for AIS and reply to the survey at a later date.

We further encourage lake association presidents and AIS coordinators to share the survey link with all lake association members and invite their participation in this very important study. The more frequently and more intense AIS monitoring occurs, the more likely a new AIS infestation will be detected. Therefore, to increase our effectiveness for early detection, it is essential for lake associations to expand their "eyes on the water" looking for AIS.

Lake association participation in our survey can also serve as an educational tool to help our lake users learn about AIS Lake Monitoring and understand the role that early detection of AIS can play in helping protect our lakes from the spread of aquatic invasive species.

HC COLA's "Eyes on the Water" initiative has made considerable progress with our lake monitoring program. AIS Citizen Watch Volunteers have increased their participation since 2016, when 68 of 108 people responded to our on-line survey. In 2017, participation in our survey increased to 126 of 142 respondents.

Thank you for your support during our "eyes on the water" campaign. We look forward toward continued growth in COLA's on line survey in 2018.

2) AIS Operating Team met with Nicholas Macklem last week. He will give an update on the Hubbard County AIS Program at our HC COLA 9/27/18 meeting. Please do plan ahead to have your lake association's **supplemental funds payment for watercraft inspection hours for 2019 to HC Environmental Services on or before 1/31/2019.** Work with your townships too to ensure they are aware that their deadline for payment is also 1/31/2019.

HC COLA will host a meeting of all of our lake associations' AIS Coordinators / AIS monitors late autumn to go through the final numbers with Nicholas once he receives data from the MN DNR for Hubbard .

Water Quality Monitoring – Peter Tuomisto

Reminder - If you placed zebra mussel settlement samplers (ZMSS) on the Hubbard County public access docks or DNR docks as part of our HC COLA program / agreement, please be sure to remove them by 9/15/18. Record your results on your calendar so you can respond to the HC COLA survey when it is available. Clean up the ZMSS for next year's analysis.

The final water quality monitoring of the season is Sept 16 -17. Bring the 2-meter tube for cleaning and winter storage on Monday Sept 17 by 11 AM along with your cooler to Charlies Marine. Include any left-over unused RMB supplies in a separate bag too if you ended up with extras.

Education – Sharon Natzel

From our HC COLA Website – Home page:

Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) Showcase is on **9/12/18** in St. Paul. Further details and registration info at www.maisrc.umn.edu

Free Workshop sponsored by MN COLA on Sept 25, 9:30 AM to 3 PM for Lake Assoc members, leaders, and COLA members at the

Why: The workshop is aimed at building additional community capacity by sharing information on local government responsibilities; by self-assessing your lake association's individual, relational, and organizational capacity; and by providing some practical tips for working with your local and state agencies.

Facilitators:

Dr. Amit Pradhananga, Research Associate, University of Minnesota

Dave Rush, Douglas County Land & Resource Management Director

Jeff Forester, Minnesota Lakes & River Advocates

Chris Pence, Board Conservationist, BWSR

Paul Radomski, Lake Ecologist, DNR

Kris Carlson, Decision Support Specialist, DNR

If you're interested please RSVP to paul.radomski@state.mn.us

Early Registration open until 8/15 for Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference – North American Invasive Species Management Assoc Joint Conference **10/15-18/2018** at Mayo Civic Center, Rochester, MN. Registration and other information here: <https://www.umisc.net/>

Also – if you haven't already "Liked" our HC COLA Facebook page – please consider doing so. Plus - Please let us know your lake association's Facebook Page too.

If your lake association has a website, please let us know the path so we can update and include on our website: <http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/hubbard-lake-associations.html>

Membership Team

Please provide Sharon with any updates for your lake associations' President, Treasurer, HC COLA Rep / Alternate Rep plus Water Quality Monitors and AIS Coordinator / Monitors too. Our membership team will update the Master List and get it refreshed on the HC COLA website.

Thank you all!