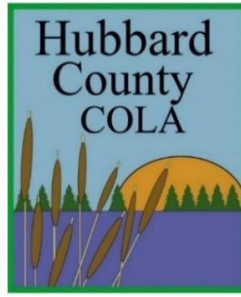


# Hubbard County Coalition Of Lake Associations HC COLA E-Newsletter – Recap of 2023 and Early 2024 Plans!



HC COLA, P. O. Box 746, Park Rapids MN 56470 email: [hccolamn@gmail.com](mailto:hccolamn@gmail.com)  
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**Register** for the 1-hr moderated discussion on these topics:
  - What are the communication techniques used by your lake association (LA)
  - How does your LA gain involvement in social and/or board activities

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIudO-rrTorE9wWzQ\\_Q5oQeXmpwSnyeKrJ-](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIudO-rrTorE9wWzQ_Q5oQeXmpwSnyeKrJ-)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing info to join mtg
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*The clear ice provides a visual treat at the shoreline.*

*Check out the wildlife story and short video on page 4.*

# 1) HC COLA **Recap** Tour of 2023 Accomplishments – Peer with us at the shoreline:

Explore our Recap of HC COLA Accomplishments 2023 by checking out the short tour through snapshots and reading our high level text version:

1. View [Video tour](#) of HC COLA Recap 2023 through snapshots / text in 2-1/2 mins.
2. And/or Access the [PDF file](#) of the same snapshots / text from the video tour above.
3. Read / review the high level [HC COLA Accomplishments of 2023](#) that are illustrated by the snapshots in the video / PDF file above.
4. Our HC COLA Communications Team would enjoy learning your thoughts / preferences on the 3 communication methods used to illustrate these 2023 activities. And - did we miss something? Are there areas that you are interested in helping with in 2024? Email [HCcolaMN@gmail.com](mailto:HCcolaMN@gmail.com) with your perspective....

# 2) “**Lakes Sharing**” Discussion Pilot#2 on Zoom is Thurs, Jan 25, 2024 at 6:30 PM

**Register** for the 1-hr moderated discussion on these topics:

- What are the communication techniques used by your lake association?
- How does your LA gain involvement in social and/or board activities?

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZludO-rrTorE9wWzQ\\_Q5oQeXmpwSnyeKrJ-](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZludO-rrTorE9wWzQ_Q5oQeXmpwSnyeKrJ-)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing info to join mtg

- Note: If you would like to review the all of the Lake Associations' input shared at the Aug & Sept hybrid meetings, please see this link from 10/13/2023 version of notes:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1dBQTsH9sBuJMWR5EvPSJfA36JBJZiKVH>

3) **Wed 1/31/2024 - Supplemental Funding for Watercraft Inspections** due to be received by Aaron Anderson at Hubbard County Environmental Services!!

This Hubbard County website link contains the Lake Association Details for providing your supplemental funding for watercraft inspections for 2024.

[https://www.co.hubbard.mn.us/departments/environmental\\_services/ais/supplemental\\_funding.php](https://www.co.hubbard.mn.us/departments/environmental_services/ais/supplemental_funding.php)

Other pertinent reports are also on the county website under AIS for reference.

4) **Thurs 2/1/2024** Reminder - **“Restore The Shore” Lake Assoc Coordinators** – Your Lake’s Combined **Order & Payment is due** to be received by Thurs 2/1/24 by Cheryl Hilgemann, our HC COLA Overall RTS Coordinator.

On Nov 17, 2023, we reached out to all the “Restore The Shore” Lake Association (LA) Coordinators in email with the order forms and instructions for our pilot this year with the extended timeline. We hope having more time has been quite helpful for your LA members to consider their tree, shrub, seed, and plant kit needs.

We have updated our website with HC COLA’s “Restore The Shore” Program Highlights, including the history of the program, an example communication for the RTS Coordinator to tailor, a link to the 1-hr workshop on “Lawns to Lakes: There is a Connection which helps a lakeshore owner understand reasons and ways to reduce runoff and erosion, plus the detailed processes for this RTS annual program.

<https://www.hubbardcolamn.org/score--restore-your-shore.html>

5) **Thurs 2/29/2024 Hold The Date - “Lakes Sharing”** Discussion Pilot #3 via Zoom is Thurs, Febr 29, 2024 at 6:30 PM on lake monitoring – **wildlife** and more... (We will send out a Zoom link as it gets closer to this date.)

On Dec 18, 2023, the MN DNR provided a [press release](#) on **enhanced protection for turtles**. It explained that MN native turtles face several threats including habitat loss and fragmentation, pollution, and overharvest....

Recently, Mike LeMeir shared their family’s insights with HC COLA on turtle appreciation, providing pictures and a short [video](#) of turtles under the clear ice.

Our family went down to our lake to inspect the ice in early December. The ice was so clear and we ventured out to check the thickness. As we went out, we saw 8 snapping turtles under the ice. They appeared to be resting and not moving. We have gotten accustomed to seeing snapping turtles, and will often see them sunning themselves under the ice or in the shallow water in early spring as we receive a lot of western sunlight.

That evening, we went back down to the lake to admire the stars from the ice. At that time, we counted 20+ snapping turtles under the ice in depths ranging from less than 1 foot of water to about 8 feet of water. Many of the turtles were very active. They moved along the bottom and swam towards deeper water and structured cover. It was fascinating to watch them from such an intimate view. The ice was so clear it seemed as if we had entered their world for a brief moment to be naturalist observers.

The turtles we saw ranged in shell size of approximately 6 inches to 18+ inches. We found ourselves delightfully surprised as it seemed every time the light shone on a new area of lake, there were more turtles. In a few instances, we had to look for several minutes as it seemed more would suddenly appear because they blend in so well with the lake bottom.

Our lake seems to boast a healthy number of snapping turtles as we have regularly seen 2-3 at a time during the summer. We most often see them in the evenings soaking up the last bit of western sunlight. It was thrilling to see so many in one location, and our youngest son was so excited to observe them through the ice.

HC COLA appreciates Mike and his family for helping us think more about the turtles' needs year-round! Here's a DNR guide to help us learn more about MN native turtles: [https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/reptiles\\_amphibians/turtles/index.html](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/reptiles_amphibians/turtles/index.html)



*Photo by Mike LeMier:*

*A Snapping Turtle illuminated under the clear ice at night as it prepares to hibernate on the bottom.*

This family's story above illustrates another reason for us to "[Be Nice to our Ice](#)" as Ron Schara reminds us. Pollution is just one of the threats to turtles based on the DNR [Press Release](#) 12/18/23.

## 6) **Mon 4/15/2024 - HC COLA Charitable Fund Grant Applications Due**

The HC COLA Board of Directors approved, for 2024 only, up to \$8000 for matching grants with the suggested focus area on early detection of AIS and aquatic vegetation surveys for HC COLA member LAs. The limit is \$2000 per LA with the matching \$1 for \$1 still required. We have 3 tools in place to help LAs as they consider applying:

1. The applications for the 2024 HC COLA Charitable Fund Grants will continue to follow the process used since 2019 when the grants began – see link:

<https://www.hubbardcolamn.org/hc-cola-charitable-fund--grant.html>

2. This HCCOLA Grant History Google Drive below contains the reference information from the 4 previous HCCOLA lake association recipients of the grant, both their application and the aquatic vegetation analysis survey results and possibly other helpful info. We are hopeful these examples will help you in completing your grant applications.

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1\\_hmQfhXulVcMjm8KzER8wmHHTAVgHvld?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1_hmQfhXulVcMjm8KzER8wmHHTAVgHvld?usp=sharing)

3. Additionally, as an unbiased coach and recipient of the 2021 HC COLA Charitable Fund grant, Ingrid Bey, Kabekona LA, is willing to help answer questions as you navigate the application process. Email Ingrid at: [belleacres@earthlink.net](mailto:belleacres@earthlink.net)

The HC COLA Board of Directors will be provided recommendations to consider by the HC COLA Charitable Fund Advisory Team at the HC COLA Hybrid Meeting on Thurs April 25th, 2024 at 6:30 PM. The BOD will vote at that meeting. The 2024 Grantees will receive funds in June 2024 and are to be utilized in 2024.

The HC COLA Charitable Fund works in collaboration with the Northwest Minnesota Foundation, a 501(c)(3) regional community charitable foundation.

===# # #===

If you were not able to participation in the optional “Lakes Sharing” on 11-30-23, and want to learn more about aquatic vegetation surveys and early detection of AIS, please check out the video from our **“Lakes Sharing” discussion pilot #1 11-30-23:**

Nicole Kovar, MN DNR Senior AIS Specialist, Northwest Region, presented at our “Lake Sharing” Discussion on Zoom on aquatic vegetation surveys and near-shore monitoring plus Q&A for the first ½ hr. In the last ½ hour, the various lake association volunteers discuss and share info and tips.

<https://hubbardcolamn.org/presentations.html>

7) **2024 HC COLA's Exciting, Engaging Calendar**, at this point in time...

Thurs 1/25/2024 at 6:30 PM "Lakes Sharing" Optional Discussion Pilot #2 on Zoom

Wed 1/31/2024 - Supplemental Funding for Watercraft Inspections due to County

Thurs 2/1/2024 - "Restore The Shore" Orders from LAs RTS Coordinators due to be received by Cheryl Hilgemann, our HC COLA Overall RTS Coordinator

Thurs 2/29/2024 - Hold The Date - "Lakes Sharing" Optional Discussion Pilot #3 on Zoom is Thurs, Febr 29, 2024 at 6:30 PM on lake monitoring – wildlife and more...

Mon 4/15/2024 - HC COLA Charitable Fund Grant Applications Due

Thurs 4/25/2024 - HC COLA Hybrid Meeting at 6:30 PM with in-person at Northwoods Bank, lower level Community Room - - Presenter: Aaron Anderson, Hubbard County Environmental Services, Environmental Specialist will bring us up to date on the details of the 2024 AIS Prevention Program.

HC COLA Business Mtg – recommendations and decisions on Grantees and more....

May – Water Quality Monitoring (WQM) Volunteers - - Dates To Be Determined Yet in partnership with RMB Environmental Laboratories – the WQM Cooler Pickup Date & the WQM Sampling Dates for May thru Sept 2024.

Thurs 5/30/2024 - HC COLA Hybrid Meeting at 6:30 PM with in-person at Northwoods Bank, lower level Community Room - - Presenter: Burney Fischer, Clinical Professor Emeritus at Indiana University – Bloomington in the O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. Burney formerly taught Urban Forest Management and Urban Ecology. Burney is a Big Mantrap Summer Resident.

Burney will share with us: Governing Lakes as Commons: the knowledge challenge.

*Lakes, like the pasture in the Tragedy of the Commons, can be overused and their value destroyed. Lake associations are initiated to address an overuse or other type of problem, but their long-term viability resides on the knowledge bases they develop or can access. The talk/discussion will discuss the knowledge we have, what is developing, and what might be needed to better govern the lake commons.*

Thurs 6/27/2024 - HC COLA Hybrid Meeting at 6:30 PM with in-person at Northwoods Bank, lower level Community Room – Topic is pending



Hold these Afternoons for Rake Toss Tuesday pilots (see details below):

Tuez 7/9/2024 and  
Tuez 7/23/2024 and  
Tuez 8/6/2024

For 2024, we will pilot the 3 dates above for **“Rake Toss Tuesday”**:

This is an opportunity for volunteers that want to learn / practice near-shore monitoring techniques for early detection of AIS, aquatic vegetation identification, and help a lake without a lake association, that isn't included in the Starry Trek plan for 2024.

We will have AIS Detectors, who'll help coach / train too!!

Be a part of the pilot teams for 1 or more Tuez. We'll end these afternoons with a toast to the health of the lake(s) checked that day! Please email [HCcolaMN@gmail.com](mailto:HCcolaMN@gmail.com) with date(s) you would like to help with please.

July 16 through July 21 – Hubbard County Fair – Volunteer to help for 3 hr shifts in the afternoon at the HC COLA Table – email [HCcolaMN@gmail.com](mailto:HCcolaMN@gmail.com) to help pls!

Thurs 7/25/2024 - HC COLA Hybrid Meeting at 6:30 PM with in-person at Northwoods Bank, lower level Community Room – Topic is pending

Thurs 8/29/2024 - HC COLA Hybrid Meeting at 6:30 PM with in-person at Northwoods Bank, lower level Community Room – Annual Mtg with Election

Thurs 9/26/2024 - HC COLA Hybrid Meeting at 6:30 PM with in-person at Northwoods Bank, lower level Community Room – Topic is pending

Thurs 10/24/2024 - HC COLA Hybrid Meeting at 6:30 PM with in-person at Northwoods Bank, lower level Community Room – This is the 4<sup>th</sup> Thurs of Oct for our meeting since Halloween Festivities fall on last Thurs this year.

To keep up with the meeting schedule topics that are pending, here is the link on our HC COLA website for reference: <https://hubbardcolamn.org/meeting-schedule.html>

Also please check out the Collaborating Partners News for key dates below!! Consider subscribing to their newsletters to keep up with their important lake-related info!

## 8 - Information from Collaborators in Protecting Our Lakes & Rivers:

- Hubbard County [Commissioners](#)

**Subscribe** to the [Hubbard County Portal](#) to receive info on meetings for: County Commissioners and the Planning Commission / Board of Adjustment. You do have the ability to **view virtually**.

**Hubbard County Ordinances list, including Shoreland Management:**  
<https://www.co.hubbard.mn.us/government/ordinances.php>

- Hubbard County [Environmental Services](#)
  1. AIS Prevention Program Management
  2. Planning Commission / Board of Adjustment
- Hubbard County [Soil and Water](#) Conservation District (HC SWCD) [News](#) & more
- MNCOLA (Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations) – [Current Waters](#)
- MN Lakes & Rivers Advocates ([MLR](#)): legislative lobbyists & more
- Northern Waters Land Trust [News](#)
- University of MN [AIS Research](#) Center (MAISRC) – [Newsletter](#) & more
- LakeAdmin – some helpful lake related tips and [info](#)



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