

# HUBBARD COUNTY COLA UPDATE

FALL, 2005

## President's Message

Ken Grob

It is hard to believe that we are fast approaching the holidays and the winter season. Many summer residents have left. Normally, a time for COLA activities to slow down, but as I look ahead I see a very busy time as COLA prepares for next summer. One urgent matter that needs attention is completion of the *updated* lake membership lists, which serve as the COLA Newsletter mailing list. To date, nine lake associations (Big Sand, Blue, Lower Crow Wings, Fish Hook, Hinds, Kabekona, Long, Plantagenet, and Stony) have not provided 2005/6 updated mailing/address lists of their membership. This concerns me because, as a result, many interested members will not receive this newsletter. I encourage these lakes to provide the lists so we can effectively communicate with the membership. A second urgent matter is finding volunteers for the COLA Secretary position and Vice-President position. Any member of a lake association that belongs to COLA can fill the positions. They do not have to be filled by COLA representatives. If any lake association member is interested in these positions, please contact me. I need the help!!!!

Beside these urgent items,

there are three major initiatives that will need attention over the next several months.

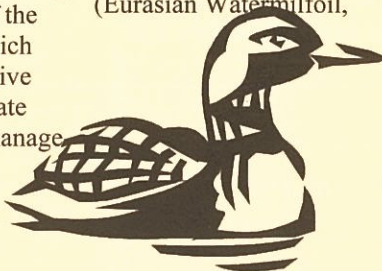
First, the HLRP lake management plans. Six lakes (Bad Axe, Big Mantrap, 8th/9th Crow Wing, Potato, Portage, Long) are working on lake management plans. This will need follow-up and support from COLA.

Second, The North Central Advisory Committee of the Governor's Clean Water Initiative will be completing its work by the end of the year, the output of which will be a comprehensive updated set of Alternate Rules for shoreland management.

The adoption of these new rules will be up to the County Commissioners. Information sessions/education sessions/publications on the alternate rules will be provided to the public in 2006. COLA expects to be a key part of this process. Adoption of all or parts of the new rules will require strong advocacy from all parties concerned about protecting our lakes and rivers and controlling the accelerating development occurring on and around our lakes. I encourage all of you to keep informed on the progress of

this work. I intend to send a separate letter on this topic to all lake association members early in 2006 outlining the plan.

The third major initiative is the COLA start-up of an Invasive Species/Exotics Task Force. Many of the lake management plans have identified this topic as a major concern. At the direction of the COLA board, I am organizing a Committee to pursue actions to prevent the spread of Invasive Species (Eurasian Watermilfoil,



Curly-leaf Pond Weed, etc.) and Exotics (Zebra Mussels, etc.) in Hubbard County. I am in the process of staffing the team and getting input on the objectives and actions that the committee should take. I believe this can be an excellent project for COLA to make a difference.

Finally, I hope all of you had an enjoyable summer. Enjoy Thanksgiving and Happy Holidays.

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

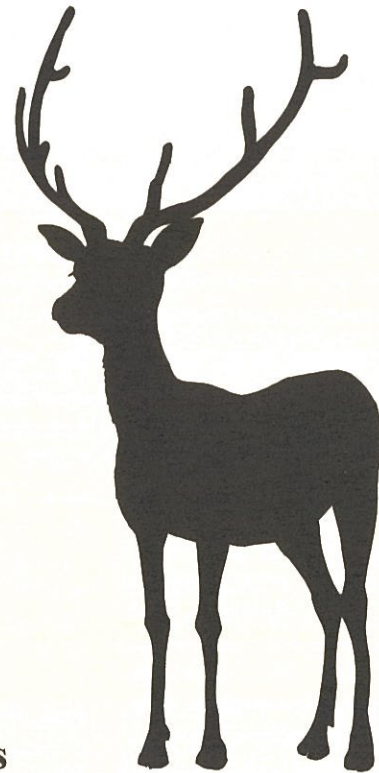
- COLA Secretary, Vice-President sought.
- Updated lake association membership lists requested of COLA representatives.
- Growing number of Hubbard County lake associations develop lake management plans.
- Alternate Rules for shoreland management near completion.
- COLA initiative on Invasive Species and Exotics being initiated.



## Big Sand Lakescaping Project

The Big Sand Lake Lakescaping/ Exotic Species Committee (a Healthy Lakes and Rivers Committee) will be meeting sometime after the first of the year in the Minneapolis area—possibly at the home of our Co-Chairman Barb Kimer—or at some conveniently located Coffee Shop. The gist of the meeting is to be the firming up of plans for our early Spring Lakescaping project. Eleanor Burkett, a U of M Extension Lakescaping Specialist, will be conducting a three part project for our lake: an initial full day's educational seminar on the subject. Then, a couple weeks later, another day spent analyzing and finalizing each person's plans for their own lake-

shore property. Then in June the culmination of the whole project, with an actual planting being done by all the Committee on one volunteer's private lake shore property. This is a huge undertaking, but so important because of the hope that we can 'reach' a large number of Big Sand Lake residents with the 'Natural Shoreline' message.



## Middle Crow Wing Lake Association Happenings

The Middle Crow Wing Lakes Association will be ringing the Salvation Army bells at Pamida on Friday & Saturday, December 2nd and 3rd. This is an annual association event—a good cause, with an excellent excuse to gather after the second day for good food and great fellowship.

*Walleye spawning bed plan  
being put together.*

The DNR is assisting our association with planning for a walleye spawning bed in the Crow Wing River between 6th & 7th Crow Wing Lakes. Hopes are to have a plan completed early in the summer of 2006.

Grant money received from the Initiative Foundation is allocated for more extensive water testing in our lakes and for funding the spawning bed project.

## Portage Lake News

The Portage Lake Improvement Association hosted their visioning session for the HLRP program at the lake in the Gulsvig Picnic Shelter during the afternoon of August 27, 2005. Many very nice doorprizes, all donated by Portage business people and residents, were given away during the meeting. Residents chose three focus areas: water quality, land use and zoning, and exotic/invasive species to concentrate on while working on their draft lake management plan. The three committees have been working hard all fall on their objectives and actions to meet a 90 day timeline

coming up at the end of November.





## MLA, RCM to merge, affiliate tightly with FWS

A joint meeting of the memberships of the Minnesota Lake Association (MLA) and the River Council of Minnesota (RCM) will be held on November 28th at 7:30 p.m. at the Medina Entertainment Center for the purpose of voting on a plan to merge the two organizations. MLA will be the surviving corporation, which will be re-named Minnesota Waters (MN Waters). Assuming a (likely) affirmative vote, the merger will be effective January 1, 2006.

The original hope had been to bring the Freshwater Society (FWS) into the merger as well, but its organization failed to mount a super majority to approve the Plan of Merger. However, it is the intent of the new organization to work closely with the FWS in pursuit of common objectives. A cooperative agreement between Minnesota Waters

and the FWS is being negotiated for a vote by the MN Waters Board of Directors. The new organization will be able to mount a greater body of human and financial resources in pursuit of the protection of the water resources of the

state of Minnesota.

### Become a MN Waters member

We would encourage all recipients of this newsletter to become a MN Waters member and/or encourage their own lake association to take out an association membership in MN Waters or both. The benefits far exceed the meager annual membership dues. Two of the many benefits, namely the quarterly *MLA Reporter* and the monthly *Lake Bulletin* e-mail, provide a wealth of timely information on what is going on within the organization and on state and national legislative initiatives impacting Minnesota lakes and rivers. One can obtain additional information on the organization and its objectives at [www.mnlakes.org](http://www.mnlakes.org).



## Shoreland Standards Update Source

In his President's letter (P.1), Ken Grob encouraged readers to keep informed on the Shoreland Standards Update process currently nearing completion. One very good way to do that is by using the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources website at [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us). This website contains

an incredible wealth of information on the actions of the DNR in protecting and enhancing the health of the state's natural resources, including its water resources. With respect to the shoreland standards update, the user should click on Water at the bottom

of the DNR home page. This will bring up a page with two bodies of information relating to the update process, one entitled North Central Minnesota Lakes Pilot Project, the other entitled Shoreland Standards Update Process. Digestion of the material found here will leave the reader with a good background and understanding of a process certain to have a major impact on our north central Minnesota lakes and the development occurring around them.

*Learn about the Shoreland  
Standards Update Process at  
[www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us)*

## Other Resources

There are a wide variety of resources available to those interested in becoming more informed about Minnesota lakes and rivers, water quality issues, shoreland development standards, other rules and regulations, etc. In addition to the MLA and DNR websites mentioned earlier in this newsletter, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency website at [www.pca.state.mn.us](http://www.pca.state.mn.us) also has a wealth of information on such topics as surface water, ground water, Basins/watersheds, Impaired waters, Streams & Rivers, to name but a few. Such information can be found by going to the website and

clicking on the Water category at the upper left of the page. Readers are also referred to the Rivers Council of Minnesota website at [www.riversmn.org](http://www.riversmn.org) and the Freshwater Society website at [www.freshwater.org](http://www.freshwater.org), each of which contains much valuable information as well as links to yet other organizations and information sources. Presumably Minnesota Waters will ultimately have a website that replaces those of the MLA and the RCM, but for now they are both operative.





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**We're on the web  
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hubbardcola](http://www.mnlakes.org/hubbardcola)**

## Newsletter Input Welcome

This newsletter represents my maiden voyage as "Editor". I hope and intend to become more proficient in the use of publishing software so as to make the publication more visually appealing.

More important, however, is my wish to make the publication genuinely useful and informative to readers. The north central portion of the State of Minnesota is in the midst of a rapidly accelerating development phase which portends the dramatic transformation of the region. Inherent in this transformation will be major impacts on area lakes and rivers, some potentially destructive. As the saying goes "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure", and one of the best preventatives is a concerned body of informed stakeholders willing and able to speak collectively and intelligently to the pow-

ers that be on the range of issues that will arise as the development juggernaut continues to roll.

I welcome the comments of COLA members—and others, for that matter—on how this publication can become a significant catalyst in the creation of the aforementioned body of informed stakeholders. Let me know, either directly or through your lake association COLA representative what you would like to see in forthcoming issues of the newsletter. I will do my best to provide it.

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