

HUBBARD COUNTY COLA MINUTES

August 26, 2010

Hubbard County COLA; Stewards of the Lakes P.O. Box 746. Park Rapids, MN 56470

www.minnesotawaters.org/group/hccola/welcome

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 7:00 P.M. by President Dan Kittilson

√¹ **Round Table Introductions**

√¹ **Representatives:**

Bad Axe: Mary Ann Erpelding

Belle Taine:

Big Mantrap: Linda Johnson, Helen Marsh,

Big Sand: Irene Weis

Blue: Brenda Johnson

Boulder: Steve Hall

Lower Crow Wing:

Middle Crow Wing: Doc Carlson

8th & 9th Crow Wing: Shirley Koltes

10th & 11th Crow Wing:

Duck: Tom Mooney

Eagle: Janine Weideman

Emma/Bottle/Stocking:

Fish Hook: Marvel Haynes

Gilmore: Tom Thielges, Joan Smith

Island South: Gary Stolzenberg

Ham: Arland Waters, Paul Jensen

Hinds:

Kabekona: Richard Aulich

Little Sand: Dan Kittilson

Long: Bill Cowman, John McKinney

Mow:

Palmer: Dan McCory

Peysenske:

Plantagenet:

Portage: Jerry Knoblich

Potato: Ken Grob

Spider: Hillary Stoltz, John Weber,

Don Marg

Stony: Dennis O'Connell

Twin Lakes: Don McIntosh

Guests: Bruce Paakh-MPCA and Mellissa Paakh

Previous Meeting Minutes: MSP July 29, 2010 minutes

Treasurer's Report: John Weber

- Potato, Ham, Bad Axe, Long, Lower Crow Wing, Eagle and Big Sand lakes have contributed to the COLA legal fund. Also 58 individuals within and outside Hubbard County, two lakes outside Hubbard County as well as the Association of Cass County Lakes have contributed to date.
- John Weber has sent out notices to each of the lake associations that membership dues need to be paid.
- Those lakes that have not paid for water testing are Belle Taine and 10 & 11th Crow Wing. Please send a check to John Weber.
- Thank you to Rolf Smeby who donated \$25.00 to the rearing pond so that the shortage will not have to be paid out of COLA's general fund.
- MSP to accept the Treasurer's report

Guest Speaker: Bruce Paakh, Limnologist, MPCA

- Bruce distributed a copy of the report he had done recently entitled “Protecting the quality of Bad Medicine Lake”. He commented that sensitive lakes such as Bad Medicine in Becker County as well as other lakes with low phosphorus levels and great water clarity must be rigorously protected to maintain the water quality condition. “Passive attempts at protection, along with continued development of the shoreland will be insufficient in protecting these lakes.”
- Bruce also stated in his report that “changes to lake water quality occur incrementally and cumulatively over time so as to not be very noticeable but be assured that the process is ongoing and will continue unless action is taken to reverse the trend.”
- Bruce cautioned against comparing lakes as all have own attributes.
- Bruce’s daughter, Mellissa Paakh, gave a brief presentation on her platform during her reign as Miss Northwest Minnesota 2010. She plans to write a booklet for 4th and 5th grade students on protecting our Minnesota lakes and rivers and asked COLA members to contact her with any ideas. Her email is melissapaakh@hotmail.com

Committee Reports:

A. Lakeshore Education & Communications (J. Kingsley/S. Hall):

- Email Coordinator, Presidents and Rep. lists were passed around for changes. Contact Ken Grob with any further changes.
- Submission date for fall newsletter is September 20th.
- **Shoreland Buffer Garden Workshop** sponsored by COLA, MN DNR, Hubbard County Master Gardeners and Hubbard County Extension was held on Aug. 13th and 14th. Ken Grob reported that there were 30 attendees for Friday’s classroom workshop and 15 on Saturday for the on-site planting on Lake Belle Taine.
- Ken distributed to each lake in attendance, a letter of instruction and a mailing list for each lake association to update and return. The packet will be mailed to those lakes not in attendance.

B. Government Liaison – Civic (J. Knoblich):

- **Restore the Shore:** Gary Stolzenberg. The packets are available for distribution to your lake association members. They will need to be back to your lake’s Restore the Shore Coordinator with a check made out to your lake association, including MN sales tax, by Monday, Oct. 4 and the Coordinator needs to turn in the compiled group list to COLA with one group check from your association plus MN sales tax by Tues. Oct. 12, 2010.
- **Water testing:** Jerry Knoblich. September 19/20th is the last water sampling date for 2010.
- **Rearing Ponds:** Gary Stolzenberg. Due to a new DNR funding plan COLA will no longer need to fund the rearing ponds.

- **SWCD Hydrolab:** Long and Blue Lakes are doing Dissolved Oxygen (DO)/Temperature/pH testing this summer.

C. Government Liaison – State/LGU (K. Grob):

- Chuck Deissner has agreed to chair the Government Liaison Committee. The Committee is working to enhance the process for attendance at the county meetings. They tentatively plan to get copies of variance requests a month in advance, categorize based on impact to lakes and then forward the information to lake shore owners so that they are better informed on the issues and provide input to the Board of Adjustment.
- **County meeting sign-up:** sheet was passed around. COLA is in need of increased representation at the County meetings. If you are able to attend please do.
- **Schneeman Cabin PUD on Lower Bottle Lake:** This variance request will be a Board of Adjustment hearing on Monday, September 20th at 9:00 A.M. in the Hubbard County Courthouse basement.
- **State Shoreland Rules Process and new Dock Regulations update:** Governor Pawlenty rejected the dock structure and shoreland rules and sent them back to the DNR.

D. COLA Meeting Attendance & Representation (M. Erpelding):

- The meeting attendance sheet was passed around. 27 out of 30 lakes were represented at the July 29th COLA meeting which is the largest attendance ever.
- **Representative Reference Book updates:** Two books were handed out to new COLA reps and a website reference page updated by Deb Rogers was handed out to all reps. in attendance. Reps. coming off the board should pass on their books to the new rep. from their lake. Anyone needing a new book should contact either Mary Ann Erpelding or Deb Rogers. Mary Ann also asked that anyone that has used binders that are no longer needed to donate them to COLA to use for the reference books.
- **Winter meetings:** The Committee suggested that consideration be given to changing the winter meetings to evenings rather than mornings so that those who work during the day can attend. **Dan Kittilson** will send out an email survey asking for rep input.

E. Invasive Species/Exotics Task Force (K. Grob):

- **Watercraft Inspections for 2010:** the 8/17/10 watercraft inspection report was handed out to all reps
- Ken Grob distributed a draft copy of COLA Lake AIS Coordinator responsibilities. He commented that the program will grow slowly as volunteers are trained and lake inspection teams are formed. The task force will work with the DNR to develop an AIS inspection manual to be modeled after that used by Palmer Lake.
- **Lake Service Provider Training:** will not be done this year due to time constraints. **Ken Grob** will email all COLA members asking them to 1) check

their docks for zebra mussels and 2) ask their dock company questions about their AIS prevention efforts.

- **AIS Conferences:** MN/WI AIS Conference is November 8-10; MN Waters Invasive Plant Control 2010 Forum TBA

Executive Committee:(Dan Kittilson)

- Executive Committee initiatives have focused on Strategy Management, COLA Charitable Fund, Hubbard County Lawsuit and routine COLA tasks.

President's Updates/Announcements:

- **Minnesota Waters Volunteer of the Year:** was awarded to Ken Grob on August 18th. A copy of the evening's program was passed around.
- **HLRP (Healthy Lakes and Rivers Partnership):** The networking dinner for the 7 participant lakes will be held on Sept. 17th at 5PM at St. Joseph's Hospital.
- Dan reported on the August 19th meeting with Beltrami County Lakes and Rivers Association (BCLARA)
- **Quality of Place Award-Northwest Minnesota Foundation:** Hubbard County COLA will receive this award & \$1000 at the Shooting Star Casino on September 17.
- **Dan will attend a roundtable discussion** that will be held on Saturday, Aug. 28th between Ottertail, Douglas, Becker and Hubbard County COLA's at the monthly Ottertail County COLA meeting.
- **3rd Annual Healthy Lakes Legislative Forum:** to be held September 24th at Northern Lights Casino in Walker from 1 to 4 PM. Dan encouraged that a representative from each lake attend.

Special Topics:

- If you have suggestions for future speakers, please contact Dan Kittilson.

Unfinished Business:

1. Hubbard County Lawsuit:

- **Lawsuit summary:** COLA's attorneys are seeking a court order to require the County to answer our questions and comply with our requests
- **Fund Raising Update:** Dan provided an update on number of contributions to date (in Treasurer's Report) and encouraged lake association and individuals contribute to the fund. Letters and emails have been sent to each COLA member.
- **Promote awareness campaign:** with state wide organizations and Friends of COLA.

2. Strategy Management:

- 49 event participants
- **COLA Strategy Map(Dashboard):** draft handout given to all reps.

- Champion for each of 9 strategic committees will develop a plan outlining their activities to help achieve COLA's vision/mission/values.
- **Volunteers are needed** for each of the committees. Dan passed around a sign-up sheet and encouraged members to get involved.

3. DNR Shoreline Habitat Grant Program: Grant monies are still available through next year with a 50% match, please contact Steve Hall at (218) 732-8907.

New Business:

- Bill Cowman gave a short presentation and showed a sample of the proposed marble and granite inlays featuring area lakes to be installed on downtown corners as part of the downtown revitalization. Through a show of hands, COLA reps. gave a positive response to the idea.
- **Vice President Candidate is needed for next year:** This position would then become President the following year.

Initiatives for next four months:

- Champions and committees work on strategic actions
- Continue fund raising for lawsuit
- Investigate North Central Lakes COLA Partnership
- Close out 2010 AIS Grant projects

What's Happening on Your Lake:

- **Lake Association Newsletters:** Please send newsletters to John Hastings for the COLA newsletter
- **Please provide updated contact information for Presidents, representatives and email coordinators if they change for your association. Contact Ken Grob.**
- **Big Mantrap** reported that they completed a vegetation study.
- **Blue Lake** reported on their new website and facebook link.

Next Meeting:

- **Thursday, September 30, 2010, 7:00 p.m.; Social Gathering, 6:30 p.m. at Hubbard County Court House.**

Respectfully Submitted by Janine Weideman/acting secretary

Dan Kittilson: 732-5566; Ken Grob: 732-0364; John Hastings: 732-3260; Julie Kingsley: 652-4878