

HUBBARD COUNTY COLA MINUTES

November 3, 2011

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

www.minnesotawaters.org/group/hccola/welcome

“COLA is the Leader in Protecting Hubbard County Lakes and Rivers”

Call to Order: the meeting was called to order by President Dan Kittilson at 7:00 p.m.

Introductions/other agenda items

Announcements: Donations for goodies and clean up help needed.

Thank you to Theora Goodrich, Ruby Kittilson and Mary Jo Groehler for the treats and coffee!

Welcome to guests and members.

Representatives:

Bad Axe:

Belle Taine: Dick Boehmer

Big Mantrap: Lyle Laske, Helen Marsh

Big Sand:

Blue: Peter Tuomisto

Boulder:

Lower Crow Wing:

Middle Crow Wing: Don Carlson

8th & 9th Crow Wing: Julie Kingsley

10th & 11th Crow Wing:

Duck: Deb Rogers

Eagle: Janine Weideman

Emma/Bottle/Stocking:

Fish Hook:

Gilmore: Tom Thielges

Island South:

Ham: Paul Jensen

Hinds:

Kabekona: Rolf Smeby

Little Sand: Mary Jo Groehler, Dan & Ruby Kittilson

Long: Bill Anderson

Mow:

Palmer: Dan & Betty McCorry

Peysenske: Jeff Sievers,

Plantagenet:

Portage:

Potato: Chuck Diessner, Ken Grob

Spider: Gordon Severtson, John Weber, Everett Miller

Stony:

Tripp: Lynn & Theora Goodrich,

Twin Lakes: Don McIntosh, Chuck Tritz

Guests: Doug Kingsley, MN DNR Fisheries

Approval of Minutes from September 29, 2011 meeting: MSP

Treasurer's Report: John Weber

- Water testing is done for the year. Hines and Plantagenet lakes have **not** paid for their water testing as a result of a billing mix-up. Lake Belle Taine has not paid for their water testing for 2011.
- Budget requests for the next year from each sub committee are to be to Dan by December.
- Dues for each member lake association were due Nov. 1, 2011. Those lake associations that have not paid are: Belle Taine, Hines, Peysenski and South Island. Please send your payment to Hubbard COLA as soon as possible.

- \$75.00 has been generated from the wood routed signs being made and sold with a \$5.00 reimbursement to COLA. Contact Dan Kittilson if you would like to purchase a wood routed sign for your dock. Cost is \$40 for 7 letters & \$5 for each additional letter over 7 letters; \$5.00 goes to COLA and \$5.00 to the lake association. COLA received \$75 from this program in 2011.
- **MSP** to accept the Treasurer's report as reported.

Committee Reports:

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

- a. **Fall Newsletter:** The deadline for articles is November 15, 2011 please send them to John Hastings.
- b. **Need for an Editor:** The search is on for an editor for the newsletter. John Hastings will be the publisher. Contact Dan Kittilson if you are interested in being the COLA newsletter editor.
- c. **Electronic newsletter:** The fall newsletter will be the first all electronic newsletter. It will also be posted on the COLA website and can be posted on each association's website if they have one.
- d. **COLA successes:** The Hubbard County Shoreland guide was printed and distributed, the Partnership with Hubbard County Extension and the Shoreland Expo.
- e. **Send in your lake association newsletters to John Hastings and Dan Kittilson.**

B. Government Liaison – Civic (P. Tuomisto):

- a. **Restore the Shore:** Mary Jo Groehler. 9 Lake Association's have ordered trees and they will be delivered the first week of May, 2012.
- b. **Water Quality monitoring:** Jerry Knoblich. Lake Belle Taine has not paid for their 2011 water testing. Hines and Lake Plantagenet have not paid their water testing costs due to a billing mix-up. Please reimburse to John Weber at the COLA address.
- c. **COLA Successes:** New leaders for different committees have been found, the Hubbard County Shoreland Guide, shoreline trees, good water quality.

C. Government Liaison – State/LGU (C. Diessner):

a. Impact Political Action committee

- i. **State Variance Law has changed:** The DNR is working on a guidance document for the interpretation of the new laws. This committee is waiting for that document to utilize in their work with the Hubbard County commissioners and the Board of Adjustment.
- ii. **COLA Collaborative:** A new group, Water Policy Partnership, has been developed within the collaborative with the County COLA's, MSRPO, MN Waters, WPOA and the Center for Environmental Advocacy.

iii. **Increase Lake association participation at BOA/PC**

meetings: This committee would like to see increased participation from those lake associations that have a variance coming before the board. It is more meaningful to the board to have people living on the lake give their input than just COLA.

- b. **COLA Successes:** making a difference with LGUS's, this is an active committee.

D. **COLA Meeting Attendance & Representation (J. Weideman):**

- a. 19 Lake Association's were represented, with 31 people present at the last meeting.
- b. There were no book updates at this meeting
- c. Updated lists of reps and presidents will be emailed
- d. **Membership lists for lake associations:** The membership lists from Belle Taine, Lower Crow Wing, Hines, Peysenske and South Island Lake are needed along with the COLA dues payment. Please pay John Weber.
- e. **Increase lake association participation at COLA meetings.**
- f. **COLA Successes:** COLA note cards are available, it is a working committee, held a COLA Rep training, and the committee has communication with the associations on lake issues and has hosted a COLA Social at Zorbaz's.

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

- a. **Fish Hook Lake/Hubbard County** has dodged one threat of a boat that was going to be put into Fish Hook Lake that was at Charlie's Marine and Zebra mussels were found inside the motor.

b. **Hubbard County AIS Task Force:**

- i. On Oct. 19, 2011 the Hubbard County Commissioners adopted a resolution to establish a "Hubbard County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Task Force" to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. The resolution establishes that:

√¹ The County's policy is to preserve and enhance the quality of surface waters and to preserve the economic and environmental values of shoreland;

√¹ Aquatic invasive species, especially zebra mussels, are a danger and threat to the vital interest of Hubbard County.

√¹ In order to protect the vital interests of our lakes and rivers, it is critical that the County Board be well informed regarding the AIS threat and be proactive in taking action to prevent the spread of AIS within the County.

Therefore, the Board of Commissioners of Hubbard County Establishes the Hubbard County AIS Task Force which will:

√¹ Update the County Commissioners on the status and threat of AIS in Hubbard County on a regular basis;

- √¹ Develop an AIS Sustainable Prevention and Containment Plan, including but not limited to, early detection and rapid response;
- √¹ Make recommendations to the County Board regarding changes to the AIS Sustainable Prevention and Containment Plan;
- √¹ Make recommendations to the County Board regarding actions to be taken by the County Board consistent with the AIS Sustainable Prevention and Containment Plan in order to prevent the spread of AIS within the County; and
- √¹ Implement educational programs and awareness campaigns for the business community, resorts, fishing organizations, lakeshore owners, county personnel, lake associations, lake service providers and the general public.

The Hubbard County Commissioners appointed Commissioner Kathy Grell to represent the Commissioners on the task force. Other task force members will include COLA and lake association representatives, county personnel and DNR personnel. Additional members will include representatives on behalf of the townships, the business community, the resorts and campground, the local fishing organizations and the lake service providers.

C. Township Association meeting: Dan Kittilson will attend this meeting on November 21, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. at Farden Township to present information about the formation of the new Hubbard County AIS Task Force.

D. Suggestion: For association's that are doing volunteer AIS inspections, COLA should develop a banner that is available stating what is going on. Dan Kittilson will look into this.

E. COLA Successes: Recent successes include 2011 DNR AIS Prevention Grant & the new Hubbard County AIS Task Force.

Executive Committee Report:

- The Hubbard COLA Executive committee Minutes are available on the COLA website at: www.minnesotawaters.org/group/hccola/welcome

President's Updates/Announcements:

- **Lake La Salle:** COLA made a difference in this acquisition.
 - √¹ Doug Kingsley's, MN DNR Fisheries, presentation at COLA meeting on November 4, 2010 – one year ago.
 - √¹ COLA and lake association's give written and verbal support.
 - √¹ Hubbard County Commissioners approve the project on December 1, 2010.
 - √¹ Oct. 7, 2011 – Lake La Salle tour
 - √¹ Lake La Salle transaction closed – October 17, 2011.

Special Topics:

- Future speakers

Unfinished Business:

➤ **COLA Bylaws:**

√¹ Recommendation made by the Executive Committee that a resolution to the COLA Bylaws be made: “ The Executive Committee may act on behalf of the Board of Directors to manage the business and affairs of COLA between the meetings of the Board of Directors, except that the Executive Committee shall not have the authority to amend the Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws, amend the membership dues and fees, remove a member from COLA, fill vacancies in the Board of Directors, amend the budget, or authorize expenditures beyond what is set forth in the approved budget. The Executive Committee may take action only by a majority vote of all of its members.” **MSP.**

√¹ **Bylaws:** The Bylaws have been emailed to each COLA Representative for their reference book.

➤ **Strategy Management Plan meeting:** November 15, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. Park Raids Chamber of Commerce building.

√¹ **COLA clothing:** COLA embroidered clothing is available at Unknown Legends in Dorset, MN.

√¹ **Finance Committee:** Lynn Goodrich, John Weber, Tony Platz, Dennis Winskowski, Paul Jensen & John Hastings.

➤ **Track volunteer time and resources:** Forms have been developed and were passed out the meeting for each Lake association to record their volunteer time on. This information will be used for grant writing, leverage for matching funds and for goal evaluations. Dan Kittilson will email forms to lake associations to track volunteer time and resources. Lake associations will be asked to fill them out and return to Dan.

New Business:

➤ **AIS Legislative Summit:** This summit will be held January 14, 2012 in Detroit Lakes with the Becker COLA and the Pelican Lake Watershed.

√¹ The Executive Committee made a recommendation that Hubbard COLA co-sponsor this summit of \$500.00. **MSP** to co-sponsor this summit by giving \$500.00.

Initiatives For the Next Four Months:

➤ Continue “Executive” Committee initiatives

√¹ Strategy management/COLA’s story

√¹ Impact Political Action (Influence local and state actions)

√¹ Address Multiple Revenue Streams

➤ MN COLA Collaborative

➤ Water Policy group (MNCC, MSRPO, MN Waters, MCEA

➤ Hubbard County AIS Task Force

What’s Happening on Your Lake:

➤ **Big Mantrap Lake:** Lyle Laske reported some preliminary information from their lakes AIS watercraft inspections for the past summer. Their association hired a team from the Leech Lake Band to conduct the inspections. There were 11,002 inspections done, mostly on weekends. 220 – 230 different lakes were represented in boats coming into Big Mantrap Lake. Two Minnetonka boats came in that had vegetation on them and

were asked to clean the boats at a power wash station and both complied. More information will be coming when the report is completed.

- **DNR:** Doug Kingsley, DNR Fisheries, reported on and thanked Hubbard COLA for their help in obtaining the Lake La Salle property. This property will be managed by Itasca State Park. The letters of support made the difference.

He also reported:

- √¹ Edie Everts, assistant manager at Park Rapids Fisheries will be the new Fisheries Manager in Tower, MN.
- √¹ **Lester Lake:** near Kabekona has been purchased by Fisheries and Scientific and Natural Areas. It is a small lake and the DNR was able to make an emergency regulation on the lake for catch and release only on all species of fish. There was a public hearing to convert this temporary regulation to a regular regulation and it passed.
- √¹ **Spider Lake:** Doug will be going back to the Hubbard County Commissioners for an acquisition of some land on Spider Lake on a shallow bay to protect it. Several other land owners within the bay heard about this acquisition and have also offered their land to be added to it.
- √¹ **Straight River:** easements on the Straight River are being worked on.
- √¹ **Walleye stocking:** The quota for walleye was completed this year. Some fish had to be obtained from private contractors to fill the quotas.
- √¹ **Legislative fee increases for the DNR:** Doug reported that all money for Fish and Wildlife comes from license sales, none from the MN general fund. COLA co-sponsored a public input meeting regarding the need for the legislature to raise license fees or create new licenses. The DNR Fisheries and Wildlife can operated into 2012, but may run out of money. The legislature in its new session may not pursue these increases and Doug is asking for lake associations to write to their legislatures in favor of increased fish and wildlife fees.
- Dan Kittilson will contact Sarah Smith at the Park Rapids Enterprise about putting the story on finding zebra mussels within the boat motor that was due to go into Fish Hook Lake back on the Enterprise website without any additional cost.
- **Palmer Lake:** Palmer Lake has a very narrow county boat access and people have been going on other property owners land to turn around. New signs and posts have been place that it is now a “**Back down only**” ramp and the posts prevent people from going onto other property owners land.
- **Little Sand Lake:** Little Sand Lake finished its grant for the publication of the ½ card of AIS information. Their newsletter is out. A water marigold was found in their survey which is an indicator of good water quality. They also raised \$542.00 for AIS for their association by a quilt raffle.
- **Kabekona Lake:** This month 30 - 40 Trumpeter swans have been seen on the lake.
- **Lake Association newsletters:** Please send your lake association newsletters to John Hastings before Nov. 15, to have information included in the COLA newsletter.
- **Please provide updated contact information:** This includes information on your association’s reps, alternate reps, presidents, e-mail coordinators, water samplers, Restore the Shore coordinators, AIS lake coordinators.

Next Meeting:

Thursday Feb. 2, 2012. Site to be announced. 6:30 Social hour, 7:00 regular meeting.

MSP to adjourn meeting at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted Julie Kingsley, COLA Secretary

Contact Information:

Dan Kittilson: drkittilson@msn.com , 732-5566, President

Julie Kingsley: kingsley@unitelc.com, 652-4878, Secretary

John Weber: 652-2535, Treasurer

Steve Hall: steve@shorelinecreations.net, 732-8907, Education & Information

Ken Grob: Grobak@q.com, 732-0364, AIS

John Hastings: johnhastings@live.com, 732-3260, Newsletter

Judy Novak: birdsongbay@unitelc.com, 652-2229, website