

HUBBARD COUNTY COLA

BOARD MEETING MINUTES – October 29, 2015

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

View the Website at: www.hubbardcolamn.org

Write the HCCOLA at: hccolamn@gmail.com

1. The meeting was called to Order by President, Lynn Goodrich at 7:00 p.m.

Representatives:

Bad Axe: Betty Haukebo

Belle Taine: Tom Wenner

Big Mantrap: Burney Fischer, Sue Ryan

Big Sand: Irene Weis, Candy Malm

Blue: Peter Tuomisto

Boulder: Steve Hall

Lower Crow (1-4) Wing:

Middle (5-7) Crow Wing:

8th & 9th Crow Wing: Julie Kingsley

10th & 11th Crow Wing:

Duck: Deb Rogers

Eagle:

Fish Hook: Don and Jan Rumpza

Gilmore: Tom Thielges

Island South:

Ham: Paul Jensen

Hinds:

Kabekona: Rolf Smeby

Little Sand: Dan & Ruby Kittilson, John
Kisser

Long: Sharon Natzel

Palmer: Bert Ahern

Peysenske: John Wilhelm, Nancy Gibbs

Plantagenet: Alan Colliander, Bruce Wilson

Portage:

Potato: Chuck Diessner, Bob Berdahl, Kevin
Brauer

Spider: Hillary Stoltz

Stony: Greg Johnson

Tripp: Lynn & Theora Goodrich

Twin Lakes: Kari Tomperi, Chuck Tritz

Guest: Bryan Klabunde, candidate for MN House 2B Seat

1. After self introduction of all attendees, Lynn welcomed guest Bryan Klabunde to briefly introduce himself and Lynn invited attendees to invite other candidates for public office to attend our future COLA meetings and do the same.
2. The Nifty Nine Hosts for this evening's meeting were thanked for their set-up and treats: Spider, Gilmore and Kabekona. Lynn provided passed around a box of truffles in honor of Halloween. All enjoyed his sweet and thoughtful gesture.
3. Julie Kingsley, representing the Hubbard County Soil & Water District reported on the 20,990 boat inspections done in 2015. Findings: 326 had drain plugs in, 338 had plant material on them, 6 samples were taken from watercraft and sent to lab to check (no faucet snails were detected), 130 decontaminations were performed and 49 were entering from previously being in AIS infested water bodies. Ensuing discussion topics included future availability of car counters for Lake Associations to track traffic at public landings, increases in inspection hours at landings, and how rapid response is key to dealing with AIS treatment. Julie distributed 2015 graphs and 2016 Recommended Hours for Hubbard County Watercraft Inspections. Approximately 100 volunteers have been trained in AIS identification.

4. On November 18th at 9am at Northwoods Bank Meeting Room there will be a meeting with AIS Coordinators, Association Presidents to discuss inspection training and hours for Hubbard County Lakes.
5. Dan Kittilson presented conclusions and recommendations based upon the 2015 Monitoring Actions in Hubbard County. Monitoring activities included, but were not limited to: invasive plants, invertebrates, veligers and adult zebra mussels. 26 of the 38 lakes in Hubbard County participated in monitoring programs and 25 also utilized the cinder blocks and other protocols for detection of AIS. The report concluded that a) early detection can make a real difference, b) our community needs broader lake monitoring efforts, c) communication, reporting and education are crucial elements of our arsenal against AIS and d) resources must be expanded for monitoring our precious lakes and rivers.

True story that had been relayed by Tim Humphrey, a property owner on Cass Lake and AIS Task Force Member was shared with the group. Evidently, a few zebra mussels were detected early this season along the shore they were collected and disposed of in the woods off the lake. This fall upon returning to the lake Mr. Humphrey discovered a vast infestation, causing widespread areas of black colored lake bottom, indicating zebra mussels in shallow areas. Swimming on the shoreline areas that were affected now requires wearing water footwear protection because of glass-like flesh-cutting shards of zebra mussel shells.

Summation of study included importance of having an “army of eyes” on the water, serious expansion of monitoring beyond the lakes that are members of COLA, and referring regularly to the DNR, State of MN and Hubbard County COLA websites regarding reports of AIS.

6. Sharon Natzel continued the Monitoring Report and covered the base lines that have now been established in Hubbard County by years of monitoring efforts. They include: water quality analysis by 29 lake associations, lake levels have been tracked by 26 lakes, ice in/out has been tracked by 22 lakes, Restore the Shore efforts have been implemented by 21 lakes and 18 lakes have formal Lake Management Plans.

Conclusions include: tracking of wildlife and waterfowl can be accomplished both formally and informally, COLA mentors may be required to help lake associations without Management Plans formulate them for their lakes; “Restore the Shore” efforts can maintain and improve water quality in Hubbard County waters.

Recommendations include: training through education and providing knowledgeable speakers regarding watershed monitoring, SWCD groundwater demonstration unit and speakers, classes for the public on the importance of “Restoring the Shore”, and sharing knowledge on tracking wildlife, waterfowl, loons, etc. to raise public awareness of the importance of not causing degradation to our shoreline ecosystems. Julie Kingsley suggested that there may be possible future grants for the superb Lakes and Rivers program series.

7. The next agenda item, approval of the September COLA Board Meeting minutes, included a correction of the Lake Belle Taine representative and the minutes were then accepted and approved.

8. Treasurer's Report was presented and detailed by Steve Hall. A few lake associations have not paid their 2016 dues yet and the deadline remains Nov. 1. There are outstanding payments for water testing as well, and the Treasurer will follow up with the delinquent lake associations. It was moved seconded and passed to accept the report as presented.
9. The Committee Reports were distributed and there were neither questions nor clarifications required. HC COLA encourages all residents to carefully inspect their docks and lifts during season closing activities. Any AIS findings should be reported to SWCD, the DNR, or the HC COLA.
10. Rolf Smeby gave an interesting presentation about Lake Kabekona, which is located in the Northeast corner of Hubbard County. With its 12 mile shoreline and depth down to 133', it has been touted as the 2nd clearest lake in MN. Kabekona is fed by 3 creeks and many springs and has an outlet into Leech Lake. There are 230 members in their Lake Association, and their Foundation has \$100,000+ on deposit. They helped preserve Lester Lake, funded additional 1000 hours of AIS monitoring at their landing and they belong to the Leech Lake Watershed Foundation. Kabekona has active interest in "Forests for the Future" and Conservation Easements to control development on the lake. There is a walleye slot of 18"-26" and limit of possession of 1 walleye over 26". Whitefish and Cisco are favored winter fishing species. Kabekona is a productive lake for fisheries in Hubbard County.
11. It was announced that on Tuesday, November 3rd at 11 AM at the Courthouse County Commissioners Meeting, a public comment session on the new 2015 Local Water Plan. The plan details the current state of our ground and surface waters and proposes an action plan to maintain and improve the same. It is a roadmap for county action. With 89 "minor" watersheds in Hubbard County and 3 major watersheds, which include the Crow Wing, Leech and Mississippi Headwaters, Hubbard County issues of importance to COLA and our County residents should include upgrading deficiencies in existing septic systems, establishment of forest easements and concerns for our lake and water quality. It was recommended that the importance of these serious concerns of the constituents of Hubbard County should be shared on Tuesday with our elected Commissioners.
12. Thursday, February 4th at 6:30pm will be the next COLA Board Meeting. This is NOT the usual last Thursday of the Month meeting schedule. This meeting will allow a forum for sharing ideas and problems on our lakes with other COLA members.
13. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Hillary Stoltz