

## HUBBARD COUNTY COLA

### Board Meeting Minutes

October 27, 2016

Website: [www.hubbardcolamn.org](http://www.hubbardcolamn.org)

***"Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations is the Leader  
in Protecting Hubbard County Lakes and Rivers for this and future generations!"***

**Thank you for tonight's meeting hosts: Spider, Gilmore, and Kabekona.**

1. **Call to Order** at 6:30 pm by President, Sharon Natzel. Pass-the-microphone introductions of lake association presidents, representatives, and guests:

**Representatives:**

**Bad Axe:** Kaye Molin

**Belle Taine:** Tom Wenner

**Big Mantrap:** Burney Fischer, Barb Fischer, Lyle Laske,  
Jim Nemzek

**Big Sand:** Irene Weis

**Blue:** Peter Tuomisto

**Boulder:**

**Lower (1-4) Crow Wing:** Jennifer Pidde

**Middle (5-7) CrowWing:** Cheryl Hilgemann, Jeff Hilgemann

**8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Crow Wing:** Julie Kingsley

**10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Crow Wing:** Kim Bowen, Big John Bowen,  
Mark Peterson

**Duck:** Deb Rogers

**Eagle-Island:** Janine Weideman, Jerry Grudem,  
Jan Braun

**Fish Hook:** Jan Rumpza

**Gilmore:**

**Ham:**

**Hinds:** Steve Hill

**Kabekona:**

**Little Sand:** Dan Kittilson

**Long:** Monika Wilkins, Carolynne White, Sharon Natzel

**Palmer:** Janet Ahern

**Peysenske:** Jeff Mosner, John Wilhelm, Nancy Gibbs

**Plantagenet:** Alan Colliander

**Portage:** Jerry Knoblich

**Potato:** Ken Grob, Bob Berdahl, Chuck Diessner

**Spider:** Hillary Stoltz

**Stony:** Mike Glynn, Greg Johnson

**Tripp:** Theora Goodrich, Lynn Goodrich,  
Mike Van Guilder

**Twin Lakes:** Kari Tomperi, Chuck Tritz

**Guests:** Doug Kingsley, DNR Fisheries; Julie Kingsley, HC SWCD; Bill DonCarlos, AIS Program Coordinator; Nicole Kovar, MN DNR AIS; Dan Stacey, Hubbard County Commissioner; Mark Peterson, Candidate for District 4 County Commissioner; Sue Tomte, Pipeline Rep. Line 3 Replacement; and Shannon Geisen, Park Rapids Enterprise.

- 2i. **Speaker Introduction** – Sharon Natzel:

**Nicole Kovar, Invasive Species Specialist, MN DNR,** Starry Stonewort in Big Turtle Lake: identification, response strategy, and aggressive treatment.

**Introduction:** There are four lakes in the area which have the aquatic invasive species, Starry Stonewort, in their waters: Red Lake, Cass Lake, Moose Lake and Big Turtle Lake.

**Outline:** Background, Initial Discovery, Rapid Response Strategy, Partnerships – roles and responsibilities, Treatment Plan, Challenges, and Future Actions.

**A. Background:**

**Biology:** Starry Stonewort, *Nitellopsis Obtusa*, is a native to Europe and Asia. It's a large grass-like form of algae of the characeae family. It is dioecious, only the male SSW is present in the United States, therefore no seeds are produced.

**Identification:** SSW has branchlets of 5-8 whorls, each with 1-2 long bract cells, the appearance of the branchlet being forked. When pulled from the water SSW holds its shape. SSW has white, star-shaped bulbils, other algae have different bulbils shapes.

**Means of Spread:** Unintentional transfer of bulbils and/or fragments are its means of spread. SSW clones itself off bulbils.

**Impact:** Dense mats are at the water surface which interferes with recreational activity. SSW may displace native vegetation. It may have the potential to impact fishing habitat, but this hasn't been researched enough.

**History:** SSW was first found in the St. Lawrence River in 1978, although a dried plant was found as a museum specimen from 1974. SSW has been in Michigan for over a decade. It been in Wisconsin since 2014 and was found in Minnesota in 2015.

**Big Turtle Lake:** Big Turtle Lake is north of Bemidji. SSW was found in back water; it's not in sandy areas yet. Turtle Lake has an excellent emergent native vegetation on a chain of lakes: Little Turtle Lake, Turtle Lake, and Movil Lake. Turtle Lake has one public access for the three lakes. Turtle Lake drains into the Turtle River which flows to Cass Lake.

- B. Initial Discovery:** The initial Discovery of SSW was made on August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 by the Beltrami County staff and reported to the MN DNR. Verification was received from Dr. Ken Karol of the New York Botanical Garden that same day. This discovery was 185 miles north from the first known SSW Minnesota infestation in Lake Koronis. Early Detection Programs is vital. It's important to use inspectors and get all lake associations and inspectors on board.
- C. Response:** On August 8<sup>th</sup> there was a lake wide search finding an infected .4 acres by the access. Partners in clean-up were identified. Inspection hours were increased to staff, 7 days a week including decontamination. Treatment options were researched. August 15<sup>th</sup> a public meeting was held by the Turtle River Watershed Association, TRWA. An aggressive response and approach was favored, being the access was heavily used and Turtle Lake was a popular fishing lake. SSW inspections would continue around the county.
- D. Partnerships:** The partners were Kohl's Resort, Beltrami County, MN DNR and Turtle River Watershed Association. The contractors were PLM, Lake and Land Management Corp. and Aquatic Respiration Service.com.
- Roles and Responsibilities:** MN DNR lead on funding and staff to implement the project, inspectors. Beltrami County lead on inspectors, disposal site, continued SSW inspections, continued education and outreach. Turtle River Watershed Association and members were a valuable connection to the members of the watershed, continued education and outreach, avenue to bring stakeholders together, to increase public support for the project. Kohl's Resort was key in the closure of the public access to prevent spread of SSW in Turtle to other water bodies.
- Response Continued:** Access closure was discussed, options pursued. August 18<sup>th</sup> containment barriers were first installed around the bulk of the biomass. A more extensive survey of the area was needed to determine the boundary. August 25<sup>th</sup>, the boating lane and dock were removed. August 26<sup>th</sup>, a .75 acre treatment plot was enclosed. August 26<sup>th</sup>, the access was officially closed after a temporary lease was signed by Kohl's Resort for temporary public use of their private access.
- E. Treatment Plan:** To contain the infestation in the known area. Remove as much biomass and sediment as possible (removal of settled bulbils). Check DASH & Aqua Vac harvester options. Dewater on-site and dispose of spoil off-site in approved location. Follow up with copper sulfate treatment. Monitor results post treatment, pre-treatment sampling points established.
- Suction Harvesting:** Bids requested/received, contract was granted to Aquatic Restoration Service to Aqua Vac the .75 acre treatment plot. Dewatering bags had to be ordered and shipped. August 27<sup>th</sup>, contractor mobilized and pre-containment meeting held. August 28<sup>th</sup>, suction harvesting commenced, expected 3-5 days to complete, 8" water, 2-3' of muck with 2-3' of water on the edges. September 5<sup>th</sup>, suction harvesting completed, equipment experienced mechanical difficulties. Equipment decontaminated before leaving site. September 6<sup>th</sup>, copper sulfate applied by PLM. September 9<sup>th</sup>, silt curtain removed and access reopened.
- Adaptive Treatment Plan:** September 9<sup>th</sup>, post treatment monitoring conducted. Approximately 90% reduction in biomass and some bulbils remain (visual estimation). Suction harvesting limitations near shore



and in shallow area left SSW. Those areas are still contained and evacuation bids are being considered. September 29<sup>th</sup>, additional copper treatment with Komeen/flumoxazin combo to potentially impact remaining bulbils.

**Post Treatment Actions:** Disposal site is an inactive Beltrami County gravel pit. September 27<sup>th</sup>, dewatering bag and contents hauled to disposal site. 405 estimated tons of sediment and plant matter removed. Silt curtains moved to off-site location for decontamination.

- F. Challenges:** Past research on SSW is limited. Much is unknown about this species. Suction harvesting is costly and best be used in combination with other treatment methods.  
Limitations, not a complete removal of the SSW biomass. The Aqua Vac to .75 acres of Turtle Lake cost \$42,000. The Komeen/flumoxazin cocktail cost \$1,400.  
Chemical application have different effects in different systems on different specimens. Much is unknown about the efficacy of different chemical formulations on SSW or the bulbils.
- G. Future Actions:** Determine need and timing of additional chemical applications. Monitor regrowth of SSW. Monitor native plant reestablishment. Continue SSW inspections in other waters. Collaborate with MAISRC, Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Research Center, and other partners on research projects to expand our knowledge of SSW and their bulbils. Red Lake, Cass Lake, Moose Lake (Region 1=R1), Lake Winnibigoshish (R2), Lake Koronis, Mud Lake, Rice Lake, W Sylvia (R3).
- H. Updates:** October 10<sup>th</sup>, post Komeen/flumioxozin application monitoring concluded. No apparent physical effect, discoloration or damage, observed. October 24<sup>th</sup>, shoreline areas are to be excavated to remove biomass remaining as a result of Aqua Vac limitations. The debris moved to dump site.

**2ii. Speaker Introduction – Sharon Natzel:**

**Bill DonCarlos, AIS Program Coordinator,** HC AIS Program Update. The complete data is not available from the state. They don't have the all of the 2016 data.

- A.** From 5/13/16 – 10/16/16 there were just under 23,000 inspections. 2,000 more than 2015.

\*More entering boats than exiting: 12,783, 55.77% entering; 10,136, 44.23% exiting.

\*Entering and exiting from infested water, more than 2015: 1,393, 10.90%.

\*Out of state boaters, number about the same as last year: 1,886, 14.75%.

\*Number of decontaminations: 116, 0.91%.

\*Number of decontaminations from infested water: 62, 53.45%.

**B. Summary of Results:**

\*Boats entering with drain plugs; 1.5% lower this year than last year.

\*Boats with plants, water, or mud: 0.75% lower this year.

\*Entering from infested waters: slightly higher this year.

\*Entering from out-of-state is nearly identical to last year.

\*Decontaminations, decons, are slightly lower this year: 2015, 130 decons; 2016, 116 decons.

\*The percentage of decontaminations from infested waters is up 15.76%.

- C. 2017 Program Planning:** The program will continue trying to improve upon our current program.

The main areas improvement will be: More education programs and public outreach, Higher quality of inspections, and Better relations with recreationists. The AIS Coordinator strongly encourages input from the stakeholders...as, Lake inspectors, HC COLA members, Lake Association members, SWCD, DNR, etc.

**D. 2017 Budget:**

The budget for State Allocated Hours is \$150,984. This translates to 8,170 hours, which is lower than last year.

Due to this reduction in hours, more time is needed to allocate the funding. The timeline is dependent on the state inspection data.

\*Key Factors lead to this reduction in state funded inspection hours:

- Creation of AIS Coordinator position.
- Money set aside for Rapid Response in case of an infestation.
- The need to increase inspector wages in order to become more competitive and to promote a higher quality of inspection.
- Additional training of employees in order to promote a more positive and effective public interaction.

\*8,170 hours, a safe baseline that is guaranteed throughout the year.

\*Funding timeline is broken into 2 payment from state, which are received at different times.

\*If there is excess money at the end of this season, we may use it for extra inspections.

\*It's important to note that the county is very supportive of our program and the county levee of \$35,000 is still in place.

E. **2016** has been the year of transition logistically.

**2017** will be the year of transition financially.

F. **Contact information:** AIS Coordinator, Bill DonCarlos, Hubbard County Government Center, 301 Court Ave., Park Rapids. Phone: (218) 732-2376. Email: [bdoncarlos@co.hubbard.mn.us](mailto:bdoncarlos@co.hubbard.mn.us).

G. Meeting to learn funding data is November 17<sup>th</sup>, 9:00, Northwoods Bank Community Room.

H. **Supplemental Inspection Hours Deadlines:**

*Lake Associations -*

\***Verbal** funding commitment lake association is **due January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017**.

\***Payment** from lake association for is **due March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017**.

*Townships -*

\***Payment deadline** for townships for is **April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017**.

2iii. **Speaker Introduction – Sharon Natzel:**

**Bob Berdahl - Rapid Response Plan:**

\* In the past 6 months we've had two different presentation at HC COLA board meetings on rapid response. One on Zebra Mussels in Christmas Lake, and tonight on Starry Stonewort in Turtle Lake. The State is getting better at doing Rapid Response.

\* Bob's been working for two years on a Rapid Response Plan and it's about done, noting the focus and conversation is shifting to Early Detection and Rapid Response. "Early Detection is a big deal and lakes need an AIS Team in place."

\* How do we make a Rapid Response Plan for Hubbard County with our partners involved: the DNR, the County and the AIS Program under the County, and Volunteers. We need all partners and the community involved in a plan. We need to plan for different scenarios, for the kind of infestation, the kind of lake or chain of lakes, what nutrients are involved.

\* SWCD did great to get a plan started. Rapid Response needs the County involved. Lots of conversation, as how to keep lakes clean, didn't happen years ago. We need action planning during the next 6 months and we can't do it until all the stakeholders are involved.

\* When the Rapid Response Plan is given to the Commissioners, then the plan will be discussed.

3. **Break:** During the break, Sharon encouraged members to view the HC COLA and AIS presentation tri-fold board in the back which Dan Kittilson created and displayed at the AIS Summit II in St. Cloud in early October.

4. **Schedule Dates 2017** for the Board Meetings and the Executive Meetings will be on the HCCOLA website homepage. The focus for 2017 will be on the Governor's Year of Water Action, which is on the website, as are the Water Action topics per month. With the COLA board meeting schedule February through October, we won't use all the topics. The Education Committee will be busy securing topic speakers.



5. **HC COLA Web Survey Responses** - Dan Kittilson:

\*There are 29 lake associations and 38 lakes. There survey has been sent 4-5 times. 22 lakes have participated, as has 1 non-member lake association, Pickerel Lake. 7 lakes haven't responded. The response per lake have been from 1 to 11, with some lakes participating more than others. 11 people on Long Lake responded. Of the 100 lake monitors, 52 have responded. 108 people received the survey.

\*\*One of the questions on the survey asked which side of the lake is being monitored. We want monitors to monitor all side of the lake, also, looking at equipment in and out of the lake and looking at aquatic life and plants. Of those who responded by side: East 18, North 17, South 16, West 11.

\*\*\***Early detection is critical. Early detection. Early detection. Early detection.** These are your lakes. We need more detections.

6. **Restore The Shore**, Theora Goodrich: 5-6 Coordinator forms have been received with checks. I need forms immediately and will give you my address. The deadline to receive the forms is Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, so time is short. The pick-up of trees, shrubs, etc. from SWCD is early May.

7. **Consent Agenda** - Sharon: Are there any questions or suggestions regarding the Minutes. If none, the Minutes are approved. Treasurer's report...with brief explanation from Sharon, who filled-in for the treasurer, with no questions or suggestions, the Treasurer's report was approved.

8. **Committee Reports:**

A. **AIS** – Ken Grob:

\* At the November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting Bill Don Carlos, HC AIS Coordinator, will be able to identify the allocation of hours monitoring hours for 2017, the targets and supplemental hours for the lake associations. Lake Associations should be thinking about trying to fund the same amount of supplemental hours as last year. 40% of inspections are paid for by the Lake Associations and Townships.

\*\* Ken has attended 3 conference/workshops: Minnesota Research Center for AIS, MAISRC; AIS Summit II, and UMISC. [The Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center, MAISRC, part of the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota, is located in Falcon Heights, west northwest of the State Fair Grounds.] MAISRC is the core research group on aquatic invasive species for all the United States now. There researchers are looking for the AIS 'silver bullet'. They are identifying relationships, pathways and DNA, which is getting traction, going along smoothly, and progressing quickly. We used to think of Lake Minnetonka was the starting point. Now the researchers have learned the Mississippi River carries more AIS than Lake Minnetonka. Information from the conferences will be in the Fall Newsletter.

\*\*\* Starry Stonewort, SSW, is more than a Minnesota issue. Multiple group across the the United States are trying to get a 'handle' on SSW.

\*\*\*\* There's more information on early detection treatment now. Early detection is critical.

\*\*\*\*\* Sharon: Nicole Kovar, Invasive Species Specialist, MNDNR, brought up a 'meandering search', as Lake Belle Taine has done. The Fall Newsletter will have information about this and how to do it.

B. **Education/Membership**– Sharon Natzel:

Check the website for the board meeting attendance records and the identification of AIS.

C. **Water Quality Monitoring** – Sharon Natzel:

\*The estimate on a 20 year Water Testing report from the RMB Lab is \$1200 per lake. There is a County Wide report available for \$6,600. Julie Kingsley, SWCD, is looking at ways to acquire funds.

\*\* Sharon relayed Portage COLA rep, Jerry Knoblich, findings. Jerry is helping Julie Kingsley and Sharon acquire a 20-year-report. Jerry noted from previous 5, 10, and 15 year lab reports that the first 5 year report showed Portage was declining, the next 10 year report showed Portage holding its own, and the next 15 year report showed Portage improving.

D. **Updates:** none.

9. **What's Happening On Your Lake?** Lynn Goodrich, "We have pulled our boats out of the lake today." Then he asked, if others had their boats still in the water? With many responding yes, he said, I will give a gift card to the person who last pulls their boat from the lake, with a time-date picture taken. Humorously he added, "I want to see boats frozen in the lake."

10. **Nifty 9 Lake Report – Spider Lake, Hillary Stoltz, Spider Lake COLA Representative:**

\*Hillary Stoltz has been the Spider Lake COLA representative for 6 years. She says, "The job of being COLA rep is a labor of love for me."

\*\*Hillary – The lake association membership for the first 4 years was 60 some members, for the last 2 years, 92 members. Spider Lake has lost a lot of members in years gone by. When I first started there were only 125 residents on the lake.

\*\*\* Spider Lake is known as a great crappie lake, until all the big crappies were fished out. Hopefully, they're coming back. According to the DNR website the fish species in Spider are: crappies, bass, sunfish, perch, and walleye, noting a walleye would be good to see. The spring clarity in Spider was 30'; it's 20' now and getting clearer again. Per the DNR website, the average water clarity is 24.8', with a 3' fluctuation from the lowest to the highest. With such a fluctuation, residents are working to restore shorelines.

\*\*\*\*The increase in membership is due to encouragement of lake president, an attorney. A few years ago there was a 30% tax increase lakeshore footage. With the attorney's help we learned the increase was due to several large lakeshore homes that were sold about the same time on the lake. Lakeshore taxes went from \$600 to \$850 per linear foot of lakeshore. The lake association president appealed on behalf of the lakeshore owners for a reduction. After meeting with the Commissioners the tax was lowered by \$50, from \$850 to \$800.

\*\*\*\*\*The lake area is 569.52 acres with 13.77 acres of shoreline. The maximum depth is 96', some electronic fishing equipment have registered 99'. 70% of the lake is shallow and less than 15' deep.

\*\*\*\*\*Hillary closed her PowerPoint presentation with "Thank you to COLA for care and assistance in keeping Spider Lake free of AIS and helping our lake association in their efforts to be stewards of Spider Lake.

11. **Events and Announcements – Sharon Natzel:**

\* **November 8<sup>th</sup>**, remember to vote.

\*\* **November 16<sup>th</sup>**, HC COLA E-Team meeting at the Chamber from **9:00 until noon**.

\*\*\***November 17<sup>th</sup>, 9 am**, Northwoods Bank Community Room, AIS Watercraft Inspection on Recap and Plan with Bill DonCarlos and Ken Grob.

\*\*\***November 17<sup>th</sup>, 6-7:30 pm**, Without cost, 3 COLA representatives may attend the November 17<sup>th</sup> presentation by Willow Sweeney, "Living Above the Line: How Our Thinking Governs Our Experience", at the Park Rapids High School Auditorium. The presentation is sponsored by the Park Rapids Chamber of Commerce. As COLA is a member of the Chamber, three complimentary seats are available to COLA.

\*\*\*\* **February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017**, the next HC COLA Board Meeting, **6 pm** refreshments and conversation, meeting starts at **6:30 pm**, Northwoods Bank Community room. Host lakes are: Long and Peysenske.

**Adjournment:** motion made by Lynn Goodrich, seconded by Jerry Knoblich, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.