

Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (HC COLA)

Minutes of The Board of Director's Hybrid Meeting, Thursday 6/30/2022, 6:30 PM – Approved 7-28-2022

“HC COLA is the Leader in Protecting Hubbard County Lakes and Rivers” www.hubbardcolamn.org

Present: We had 48 attendees with 18 in-person and 1 guest at Calvary Lutheran Church plus 31 registered on Zoom. We had 19 member lake associations attending. Sharon Natzel, President, presiding.

1. 6:30 pm - **Leif G. Olmanson - speaker- U. of M.- Minnesota Lake Browser – Remote Sensing of Water Resources**; PhD, Research Associate, Dept of Forest Resources, UMN. Leif explained how the water quality data collected by Hubbard County COLA volunteers for their lake associations is used in combination with satellite data to extract lake water quality data for all lakes in Minnesota. Plus specifically, what is available for Hubbard County lakes through the Minnesota Lake Browser: <https://lakes.rs.umn.edu/>

Note: Leif's presentation to HC COLA on 6-30-2022 was recorded and is now available on the HC COLA website here: <https://www.hubbardcolamn.org/presentations.html>

- Newer satellite data (Sentinel 2 & 3– European Space Agency satellites) allows daily (when clear imagery is available) lake assessment; uses newer and more sensitive satellite data, allowing analysis down to the pixel level, in addition to older LANDSAT 8 satellite data and newer Landsat 9. Last posted data is from 2021.
 - Correlated with on-ground assessment (>30,000 Secchi disk measurements and >12,000 chlorophyll readings are currently used.). Minnesota has had one of the best lake monitoring efforts in the US, and is frequently better than other international efforts. Minnesota Supercomputer Center processes data, correcting for atmospheric factors (smoke, clouds, etc.) Allows measurement of three factors affecting water clarity:
 - i. Phytoplankton (chlorophyll)
 - ii. Suspended solids
 - iii. CDOM-(colored dissolved organic matter) - the exact implications of this measure is not fully known. (Water surface temperature can also be determined by satellite sensors)
- a. Steve Henry from RMB Labs was present and discussed the possibility of retrospectively spectrophotometrically analyzing samples for CDOM
 - b. Note that increase in clarity can be due to invasion of Zebra mussels.
 - c. **Trends:**
 - i. **Northern Lakes region has highest clarity, worsens as we get into more prairie, farming areas.**
 - ii. **Seasonally, clarity worsens from Spring to August**
 - iii. **Between 2005-20- 13.8% of lakes had significantly improved clarity, a doubling of the clarity index (TSI-Trophic State Index) which means improvement by 10 TSI units. (18% by 5-10 TSI)**
 - iv. **5.7% had clarity worsening by 10 TSI (7.9% by 5-10 TSI)**
 - a. **Worsening water clarity is occurring more in the western and southern agricultural areas**
 - b. **This appears to be due to increased algae blooms, which is due to cropland run-off**
 - v. **Machine learning (“Random Forest”- artificial intelligence program) shows:**
 - a. **More cropland is associated with decreased water quality**
 - b. **Shallow lakes show this more**
 - c. **Tree cover improves water quality (>50% tree cover)**
 - d. **Development worsens water quality**
2. Business meeting - Called to order 7:30 pm by President Sharon Natzel
 - a. Consent Agenda on the 5/26/2022 minutes transcribed by Little Sand Lake Area Association - MaJearna Hallstrom; sent out 5-30-2022 for review and again with agenda for convenience – approved by consent.
 - b. **Treasurer's Report** by Keith Minkel - viewed on screen – Moved to Accept: Bob Wolf. Seconded: Peter Tuomisto. Approved unanimously.
3. **Donation** - The E-Team has reviewed the MN COLA information on the **UMN St. Anthony Falls Propulsion Lab Phase II Research Plan**. This will allow evaluation of wakes (for all types of boats) on the lakes. In July 2020, HC

COLA contributed \$1000 to Phase I research. This would come out of the general fund. The E-team recommends that we again contribute \$1000 for the Phase II research.

- a. Motion: Ken Grob – pointed out Phase I report <https://conservancy.umn.edu/handle/11299/226190> implied that the information favored increasing the distance of boats from shore.
- b. Second - Tom Harmon; no further discussion.
 - i. Vote: all for, none opposed
 - ii. Check for \$1,000 will be sent out to the UMN SAFL Healthy Waters Initiative Fund #23587

Note: Here is link to the UMN St. Anthony Falls Lab full summary of both the Phase I and now Phase II research plan, budget and schedule on the Healthy Waters Initiative Website: [Healthy Waters Initiative \(google.com\)](#)

4. **RMB Environmental Labs Lakes Monitoring Costs**; expect that 2023 costs for testing will go up; perhaps 10%? It is still a good deal.
5. **Presidential succession** - Sharon Natzel has been president for [6 years](#). There is currently no vice-president or president-elect. Discussed the Blue Lake Association model for coaching a new HC COLA president with “interim vice-president” role. Plus a VP will be identified.

Peter- Blue Lake - discussed model: President-elect is a vice-president, then the following year, the Past president is an “interim vice-president, who coaches the current president.

 - Sharon would continue to keep her other duties as lead of the Education team, team member on AIS Operating Team, and others
 - The position of president would involve organizing board meetings & duties of President – see section 6.4 of the HC COLA [bylaws](#)
 - HC COLA bylaws state the positions are 2-year terms
 - The Aug 25th HC COLA Annual Mtg is when the transition occurs.
 - Keith Minkel pointed out that these roles could be filled by other volunteers within our HC COLA member lake associations; the roles do not need to be filled by the HC COLA Representatives
 - Sharon will send out another copy of letter asking for volunteers
6. **Other Announcements / Opportunities / Committee Reports**
 - Welcomed New HC COLA Representatives:

Bridgett Cook, Duck Lake Association - commented that the oil pipeline came close to their lake

Tom Van Bruggen, Big Sand Lake Association

Dave Fastenow, for Eagle-Island Lake Association. He is Loon Liaison, WQM & AIS on Eagle
 - On Zoom: Welcome to new HC COLA Reps for Bad Axe Lake Assoc: Beth Haukebo and Angie Haukebo
 - Dave Fastenow asked “what is HC COLA doing as far as contact with local tackle sellers to get them to sell non-lead tackle?”
 - Sharon explained educational visits were made to the 3 local live-bait shops prior to the May 2022 mtg which focused on “Get The Lead Out” program (GTLO). Was able to purchase lead-free tackle at all 3 shops; asked for help to find it on the racks. Displayed personal collection from 3 shops at May mtg.
 - Sharon explained that during visits in 2021 for corporate chain stores, the local staff explained that corporate staff determines what tackle is stocked.
 - In our May 2022 HC COLA meeting, the MPCA speaker explained that they are doing outreach and educating corporate buyers on lead-free tackle opportunities.
 - Jake Shaughnessy, Water Quality Resource Technician reports that the Hubbard County Soil and Conservation District (SWCD) has received their “Get The Lead Out” Lead Tackle Collection Box and will have lead-free samples in exchange for lead tackle.

Note: Following the May 2022 meeting, hand-delivered copies of the new MPCA lead-free tackle [rebate](#) program to our lakes area tackle dealers. Explained we will again feature the lead tackle exchange program with lead-free samples at the fair, like we did in 2021. (visited these sites 2 x in 2021; bait bag and GTLO each visit.)

- As part of the Mantrap Chain of Lakes grant available through the HC SWCD, several Spider Lake lakeshore owners hosted site visits on 6/23 by Jake and Libby and also allowed HC COLA's Shoreland Advisors to attend and learn more on water quality and fisheries protection. Their May presentation is available on our HC COLA website: <https://www.hubbardcolamn.org/presentations.html>
- Our HC COLA Column Communications Team members Craig Bihrlle, Potato Lake HC COLA Rep and Sharon met with Shannon Geisen, Editor, Park Rapids Enterprise. Our updated publication schedule will be the 2nd Saturday of the month in the Outdoor News.
- Peter Tuomisto- Blue Lake - notes that Sharon is volunteering a couple times to take the **water quality samples to RMB labs** - it is a paid task for volunteer mileage and is 5x /summer - 37 coolers in total. **Volunteers are needed to take this over**; Peter will be happy to accompany someone the first couple times.
 Next trip is in a couple weeks July 18
 Enclosed truck bed or enclosed trailer needed
 Takes Monday till about 2 pm
Petertuomisto@gmail.com
- Enjoy the "HC COLA accomplishments for 2021" with special thanks to Blue Lake Association's HC COLA Rep, Steve Stromme https://www.hubbardcolamn.org/uploads/3/4/5/6/34563649/hubbard_county_col_a_accomplishments_2021_v2.pdf

Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (HC COLA) Accomplishments 2021

HC COLA, a 501c3 formed in 1988, currently represents 43 lakes with 31 lake associations composed of 2,660 members. An all-volunteer organization, its mission is to protect and enhance the quality of our lakes and rivers, preserve the economic, recreational and natural environmental values of our shorelands, and promote the responsible use of our waters and related habitats.

2021 Accomplishments

- Coordination & cooler shuttle service: 37 lakes participated in water quality monitoring, 19 lakes sampled for zebra mussel veligers and 6 lakes analyzed for spiny water fleas
- Provided written comment on the Hubbard County Environmental Services Planning Commission and County Commissioners on Short Term Rental considerations for the Hubbard County Shoreland Management Ordinance during the 2-phased approval process
- Shared & promoted member lake association newsletters plus state-level organization's news
- Encouraged participation in the MN DNR's 2020 boating survey
- Supported the University of Minnesota's Wave Monitoring Network Program
- Shared and promoted the Gull Lake Association's successful Lake Steward program
- Provided complimentary AIS prevention posters to lake associations
- Partnered with Hubbard County Environmental Services on the "Pro Angler" billboard and distributed the printed bait bags to Hubbard County live bait dealers for HC Env Svcs
- Provided posters related to AIS prevention, placed in Park Rapids Pioneer Park kiosk, Discover Guide, Residents Guide, Downtown Business Assoc website & Chamber website
- Shared and promoted the AIS Detectors Core Course
- Funded the HC COLA Charitable Fund Grant
- Promoted the "Let's Go Fishing" program
- Hosted a presentation by member Burney Fischer on "Exploring How Lake Associations Think about their Lakes and the Shared Responsibility to Sustain Them"
- Collected and shared data from the Lake Change Worksheet (see above)

- Shared information on Garfield Lake's participation in the proposed MN DNR's Quality Sunfish Initiative
- Hosted a presentation by Meg Duhr, Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) on the AIS Explorer Tool
- Encouraged participation in the 2021 Volunteer LoonWatcher Survey
- Participated in the Hubbard County Fair for 4 days, sharing information on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's "Get the Lead Out" program and HC COLA programs
- Coordinated Hubbard County's Starry Trek to discover Starry Stonewort & other AIS
- Hosted a presentation by Peter Jacobson and Dan Seward, "Forests and Fish, The Critical Connection!"
- Hosted a presentation by Rob Rabasco, MN DNR Coordinator for the Minnesota Loon Restoration Program (MLRP); 18 member Lake Associations identified Loon Liaisons
- Continued to support & promote the HC COLA Shoreland Advisors (SA) program. Nine active SA's. Consulted with 11 lakeshore owners & provided presentation to HC Master Gardeners
- Coordinated 12 lake association's participation in the Restore-The-Shore Program in partnership with the Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District (HC SWCD)
- Awarded \$100 gift to Hubbard County / Cass County Steamboat Lake Association after they applied for and received their official documentation as a lake association from the State of MN

Adjourned at 8:20 pm.

The next HC COLA Hybrid Meeting is Thurs 7/28/2022 at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Jon Dennis, Spider Lake Association Representative